



Third Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

33 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Hon. Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Q.C., Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	IND
DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Hon. Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, Hon. John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 31 May, 1984.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: 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 Housing.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, I am pleased to inform the House that the corporation has finalized plans to construct a new drive-in claims centre in the City of Winnipeg.

The new centre, which will be located at 1103 Pacific Avenue, just west of McPhillips Street, will serve primarily the north central area of the city and is expected to process about 20,000 claims per year.

As many members know, the corporation currently operates four other drive-in claims centres in various sections of Winnipeg. Although these centres have served the public well during the past several years, studies conducted by the corporation indicate that two of the centres, namely, those at 125 King Edward Street and at 445 King Street, have been handling an inordinately high number of claims for some time.

Sir, construction of the new centre will enable MPIC staff to provide more efficient service to the public, not just in the immediate vicinity, but also those areas being served by existing centres.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of the new centre, including land, is estimated at \$2.4 million. Construction is expected to start in September, 1984, and should be completed by early 1985. Stechesen Katz Architects of Winnipeg have been awarded the contract for design of the building and tenders for construction will be called in the near future.

I am pleased to inform the House that 13 new jobs will be created at the centre, with the remainder of the full-time staff of about 50 being transferred from existing locations.

Mr. Speaker, since its formation nearly 13 years ago, the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation has demonstrated its ability to provide prompt and efficient service to the public. The addition of this new claims centre to its province-wide claims network offers further evidence of MPIC's commitment to meeting the insurance needs of Manitobans.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we thank the Minister for this announcement, although it's not one of the more earth-shattering ones that we have

heard in the House from time to time, nevertheless it's a welcome announcement and the construction will undoubtedly provide some stimulus to the economy and will provide some jobs during construction, and undoubtedly will provide additional service to the clients and the claimants to the MPIC.

There's no question, Mr. Speaker, that the corporation, since its formation, has been serving the insurance needs of the public, but I would hasten to add to the Minister that according to some of the phone calls and complaints that I am getting, there is still room for a little improvement in their public relations and a little more human feeling in dealing with some of their claimants. But it's a welcome announcement that the Claims Centre is being expanded to provide fast and efficient service to those that are using the service.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER introduced Bill No. 9, an Act to amend The Liquor Control Act; and Bill No. 10, an Act to amend The Family Maintenance Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of members to the gallery where we have the Minister of Labour for the Government of Tanzania, the Honourable D.N. Mwakawago, who is a guest of the Honourable Minister of Labour.

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

In the loge to my right is a Member of Parliament, the Member for Selkirk-Interlake, Mr. Sargeant.

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

Also in the gallery there are 27 students of Grade 5 standing from the Daerwood School. The students are under the direction of Miss Kulpak and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable First Minister.

There are 21 students of Grade 6 standing from the Lagimodiere School under the direction of Mrs. Dumontier, and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

There are 20 students of Grades 6 to 9 standing from the Riverside School under the direction of Miss Penner. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

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

SPEAKER'S RULING

MR. SPEAKER: Also, before Oral Questions, I have a statement for the House.

On Tuesday, May 30th, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert stood in his place to raise a point of order. A subsidiary ruling was disposed of by the House, on appeal, but the main point remains. It was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert in good faith and deserves to be dealt with in the same manner.

Although the objections raised by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert were phrased in terms of Committee proceedings, it is clear from his remarks, and the fact that he interrupted the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that he was concerned with the propriety of proceeding with the Concurrence Motion.

Our Rule 64(3) makes it clear that questions of order in the Committee should be dealt with by the Chairman, and points of order regarding the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole should not be dealt with in the House.

Therefore, the only procedures which could be before the House were the Report of the Committee of the Whole and the Concurrence Motion.

In reporting to the House, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reported that progress had been made, and asked leave to sit again, a statement that he reaffirmed from his place shortly after.

It was this procedure of reporting progress, rather than the concluding action of reporting the adoption of a report, followed by a Motion of Concurrence, that was being questioned by some members.

The accepted procedure is that when the House refers a matter to a committee, the committee adopts a final report, with or without amendments, and returns it to the House for its disposition. Whether this procedure applies to the Rules and must be followed is a matter of question. There is no specific rule, and our Rule 1.(2) says, "In all cases for which provision is not made in the Rules or by sessional or other orders, the precedents and practices of the House shall be followed and, in cases for which provision is not made in the Rules, and for which there is no precedent or practice of the House, usages and customs of the House of Commons of Canada, as in force of July 12, 1955, shall be followed so far as they are applicable to the Assembly."

In checking the precedents, I found that in 1983, the Reports of Rules Committee were reported from the Committee of the Whole and followed by a Concurrence Motion.

On the previous occasion, in 1981, the Committee of the Whole reported, with amendment, followed by a Concurrence Motion.

In 1980, a Rules change was handled in the same manner, as happened in 1979, 1976, 1973, 1972, which is as far back as I went. There is a slight difference in 1977, when there was no apparent referral to the Committee of the Whole.

In every case, however, concurrence was moved after the Committee of the Whole had reported, although it must be noted that from 1980-83, the Concurrence Motion referred to the Rules Committee Report, and not the Committee of the Whole Report.

Thus, in the absence of a specific Rule, the instances mentioned above do constitute a practice of the House. Indeed, it would be strange if it were not so, for that is the reasonable way to proceed logically to a satisfactory disposition. However, the Concurrence Motion now before the House is in itself in order, the necessary notice having been given, and it refers to

the report of the Rules Committee, not the Committee of the Whole.

By moving concurrence in the Rules Report without the Committee of the Whole having first concluded its deliberations and reporting the Rules Report, the somewhat unorthodox actions of the Government House Leader could amount to a discourtesy of the House. Such actions surely would not enhance confidence and trust between the members of both sides.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Horse Racing Commission - Chairman

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Small Business. It follows upon a report of the so-called shake-up of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that the chairman and vice-chairman have been replaced on that commission. My question to the Minister is, what were the reasons for their replacement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Business Development.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that there has been no change to date, although there are discussions under way with respect to making some changes. Those will likely occur within the next several days.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister indicate whether or not he is intending to replace the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission?

HON. S. USKIW: I think that I did answer that question a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, when I said that within several days there will be a statement made on the question of the operation of the commission and the industry itself.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this would then be the second replacement of a Chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission within a matter of two years, can the Minister indicate whether there are some serious considerations and difficulties with respect to the operation of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission and/or the Assiniboia Downs?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think it's obvious . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. S. USKIW: . . . to many people . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The preamble is hypothetical but the question is valid.

The Honourable Minister of Business Development.

HON. S. USKIW: Sorry, I didn't get the comment. Oh, I see.

Assiniboia Downs - sale of

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister or his department considering facilitating the sale of the race-track to a non-profit corporation at the present time?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that there is a keen interest on the part of the present owner to dispose of the asset in question. If that were the case, then of course, we would be prepared to participate in whatever transaction might be productive and beneficial to society as a whole. At the moment, I'm not aware of any keen interest on the part of the present owner.

Horse Racing Commission - Chairman

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Premier.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance has recently replaced the Chairman of the McKenzie Seeds Board of Directors, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Tourism and Small Business is considering replacing the Chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission . . .

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have made no announcement about replacing anyone. I said a statement with respect to the Horse Racing Commission will be made in about a week's time. The member cannot then follow and suggest that I've already concurred that there is going to be a change.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in that case, may I ask the Minister of Small Business and Tourism whether or not he is considering replacing the current Chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, there are many things that are being considered at the present time with respect to the operations of the race-track, the regulatory function and indeed the industry questions as a whole. Within about a week we'll be able to give a statement to the House.

A MEMBER: The present chairman can plan his holidays, though.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Small Business and Tourism may be considering replacement of the Chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance has recently replaced . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . the Chairman of the board of McKenzie Seeds, will the Acting Premier be recommending to her colleague, the Minister of

Education, that the Chairman of the Board of Brandon University be replaced in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question is out of order.

Licensed Practical Nurses

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister of Health. A few days ago in this Chamber I asked him whether there was any explanation for the concern that was being expressed in Flin Flon, generally, over the status and the fate of licensed practical nurses in the Flin Flon General Hospital and the Flin Flon Health Care System. The Minister was going to investigate to see what kind of representations he had received in the mail or had been made to his office on that subject. The question arose out of a lengthy series of letters and petitions that had come to the opposition, Sir, expressing concern for the future of the LPN in Flin Flon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did just that, I checked the office and I have received quite a number of letters; I have received some from the Health Sciences Centre and other hospitals. As soon as it was brought to my attention, I wrote - especially the Health Sciences Centre - and asked them to please wait until the O'Sullivan Report would come in for the role of nurses, especially the LPNs. That's as far as I can go, the boards are responsible in each hospital, and it would be interference at this time if I did any more than that. So I hope that, with co-operation, something can be done.

MR. L. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister's knowledge, has the Board or the Administration of the Flin Flon General Hospital indicated to its staff that they're going to phase licensed practical nurses out of the system?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is being checked by the Commission at this time at my request.

MR. L. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister advise the House as to where he, himself, would stand with respect to that kind of a policy or that kind of an issue?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, when this was first brought to the attention of this House - I think it was during the last Session - I made it quite clear that I sympathized with the plight of the LPN. That was the initial and main reason why we set up the O'Sullivan Commission. I don't want to elaborate too much, I think that would be wrong when you set up a committee if I know all the answers before the committee, I think that would be wrong.

Livestock, loss of, due to storm

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. Cabinet has met since I last questioned the Minister about the government's position as to whether or not they would be paying compensation for livestock loss during the storm. Can the Minister indicate to the House now whether or not the government has made a decision with respect to that matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. A. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be generous enough to share that decision with us and with the people of Manitoba?

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I'll be making an announcement in due course.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated two days ago certain municipalities that were under consideration for compensation. There are quite a number of municipalities, including some in my constituency and in the constituency of my colleague, the Member for Arthur, and my colleague, the Member for Minnedosa, as well, where there were extensive losses in those municipalities during the storm and they're not included in the list that the Minister gave us two days ago.

Can he tell us whether or not he is simply telling people within those municipalities and telling those local governments that they should not bother to make any application to the government?

HON. A. ADAM: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not telling those municipalities any such thing. I might add that when an announcement is made in regard to the assistance for municipalities that were in the brunt of the storm, it will be because there's a legitimate reason for providing that assistance and not because of questions raised by the opposition of the House.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Government Services. People who have suffered livestock losses in that storm consider their requests to be legitimate, and I think the Minister should recognize some urgency. I'll ask him if he doesn't recognize some urgency in making a decision one way or the other because livestock that were lost a number of weeks ago, of course, are in a situation where the evidence of the losses is rapidly deteriorating. Sir, and if they're going to be able to substantiate their claims, it will be necessary for the Minister to make a decision.

Does he not acknowledge that there is some necessity to make an announcement one way or the other so that people will know what is the intention of this government?

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I have announced on a number of occasions, that we have invited those

individuals and municipalities that have had damages caused by the ferocity of the storm at the end of April to write to me, write to the Manitoba Disaster Board, or to their municipality contact or municipality, and make their claims known so that we will know that the claims or damages may have occurred and those claims will all be dealt with on their merits, Mr. Speaker.

The Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board is quite competent to deal with all those claims. There may be areas that were not mentioned in answer to a question earlier during the week, there may be municipalities that may have sustained some damages and individuals in those areas, we will be looking at those damages as well. We understand there may have been unique situations in those other municipalities that I have not identified and we will certainly be compassionate and look at all individual claims as we have in the past.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister. Does the Minister now know whether or not the government will be paying compensation to people for livestock lost during the storm?

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I indicated I'd be making an announcement in due course. I can add that I'll be making the announcement soon if that will satisfy the member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for EMO, and I'd like to provide the Minister with a copy of a press release August 12, 1983. This press release is entitled, "Manitoba emergency plan gets approval." I will quote for the Minister one quotation from the former Minister, Mr. Plohman: "It is more broad-ranging in scope than the former one and can be applied to virtually any type of peace time emergency or disaster."

Given that the former Minister made that statement in a press release August 12th, describing the new Emergency Assistance Plan, would the Minister of Government Services please indicate to the House, and to the people involved in claim damage requests, whether the ice storm falls under the type of emergency which would allow claims to be made and paid by the government, so that they don't waste their efforts applying and not receiving anything from this government?

HON. R. PENNER: They're already told that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, he hasn't.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, he has.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader on a point of order.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the question is repetitive. It is the same question which has already been asked in three or four different ways by the Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside to the same point.

MR. H. ENNS: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I'm well aware that a Minister doesn't have to answer or respond to any particular question he's being asked but, Sir, the point of order that the Government House Leader raises is not valid. We've been asking this question; we've just not been getting the answers.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Whether an answer is satisfactory to the question that has been given is irrelevant to the asking of the questions. Members might wish to check with Beauchesne 357 171.(c) which says that a question should not "multiply, with slight variations, a similar question on the same point," and there has been a certain similarity in questions.

The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister responsible for EMO; will he now simply put out a press release outlining the types of damages eligible for compensation circulated to the various papers in the area involved in the ice storm so that the individuals, municipalities and towns can know for what damages they may make compensation claims?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. A. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said on many occasions that the storm that occurred at the end of April was unique, one that we were not really familiar with. The past experience has been primarily with flooding and fire hazards and so on, and we had to look at the types of claims that were coming forward, the amounts of claims that were coming forward, and to try and review what type of guidelines we would apply to that particular kind of situation. I will be making an announcement, not because the member is asking the question, but because I will be making an announcement, in due course, very soon and then they will know whether there will be assistance or not.

Children's Aid Society - adoption policy

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community Services with respect to the decision of the Interim Board of the Winnipeg Children's Aid Society not to allow foster parents to adopt a three-and-a-half-year-old child who has been with them since she was nine days old.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the sworn testimony reported on in the news reports yesterday by the foster mother to the effect that the aunt had visited the girl only three times, didn't hold her niece and didn't show much interest, and the child didn't appear to recognize her aunt during these visits, would the Minister now reconsider her decision not to intervene in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert, in his preamble, identified

specifically that the matter about which he raises a question is currently at the trial stage, before the court.

I would submit, Sir, the matter is sub judice and should not be the subject matter of a question before this House.

MR. G. MERCIER: To the same point, Mr. Speaker. I am asking the Minister to intervene in the decision of the board. Surely this is a matter within the administrative competence of the Minister. Just because there is a matter relating to it that is before the courts, I don't think members of this House should be precluded from asking a Minister to involve herself in a decision of a board under her jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Beauchesne is quite clear that members should not ask questions about matters which are before the courts. The first responsibility lies with the questioner and, secondly, with the Minister.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, let me ask this question of the Minister then. In view of the testimony that the girl has special needs and should not leave her home, and to the testimony by her foster mother that she has never been away from them for half an hour in her life, would the Minister, like other Ministers, now consider replacing the members of the Interim Board of the Children's Aid Society for incompetence?

MR. SPEAKER: If the matter is before the courts it is improper for the honourable member to ask questions on the matter.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question to the Honourable Government House Leader.

I simply ask him, there are upwards to eight or nine Treasury Bench members absent during the question period today; it hardly makes it possible for the kind of information-seeking questions to be asked by the opposition. Would he undertake to get better attendance of his colleagues at question period?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The presence or absence of members of this House should not be commented on by other members.

Franco-Manitoban Society - buildings

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Cultural Affairs.

The Franco-Manitoban Society is planning new lavish headquarters, Maison Franco-Manitobaine, that may cost as much as \$13 million. Has he been approached for a contribution?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, given that there are plans, as well, for a new major French provincial library being

discussed, at a time when the Legislative Library is suffering cutbacks and the Winnipeg Library system is also suffering cutbacks, has the Minister been contacted for a contribution to that project?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: There has been discussions with respect to the libraries in the City of Winnipeg and libraries in other parts of the province that serve the French-speaking population and those discussions will be ongoing with the City of Winnipeg and with other affected groups and library boards.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Minister to repeat the portion; I did not understand whether he said that he was also discussing the matter with the French-speaking community.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I indicated that there has been discussions with respect to the needs of the French-speaking population of Manitoba in regard to libraries. Those discussions have taken place with the City of Winnipeg Library Advisory Board, have taken place with organizations, such as the St. Boniface Historical Society, the SFM, and from communities outside of the City of Winnipeg that have provided some of the needs for library services for the French-speaking population in Manitoba; those discussions are continuing.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd also then ask the Minister whether, in his discussions and his priorities, whether he will give consideration, first and foremost, to the existing systems which are suffering cutbacks before he will consider an expansion of either the existing system or new systems.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question is argumentative and makes representation to the Minister.

Livestock, loss of, due to storm

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Government Services. In view of his answers to my colleagues today in what would appear to be a positive decision on supplying of support, or the providing of support for those people who have lost livestock, Mr. Speaker, if the answer to the fact that there is going to be no support, then is it correct that he would not want to mislead those producers and have them continue to fill out claims, as he's suggesting, if there's no support? The answer to the support would have to be yes. If he would clarify that I think it would be most helpful to those people who are asked to fill out forms.

Is he asking them to fill out forms because there is a program, or because there isn't a program?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question was hypothetical and it also repeats a similar question to others asked in this House.

Rendering plant replacement

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Environment. Several days ago he committed to the farmers of western Manitoba that they would not be left without a rendering plant in the Western Region of the province when the Burns plant closes.

What has he done to this point to assure the people that they'll have a place to dispose of their animals, or the by-products of some of these smaller killing plants?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Part of that indicates, Mr. Speaker, that the member is referring to "if Burns closes," which is something at this point in time that we don't know. But if it does close I agree with the member across that it would then present a problem for actually quite a few people in the western part of Manitoba, one, therefore, which we are discussing with people in that area of Manitoba in case that eventuality were to come about upon us, but at this point in time we have not resolved that particular issue. But, hopefully, if that should happen we will, through the ongoing discussions that we have initiated at this point in time, be able to come up with some form of solution.

Flyer Industries Limited

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could add further to a question posed yesterday by the Member for Sturgeon Creek, at which time I wasn't sure whether he was referring to mufflers or resonators. It turns out it has to do with both. The member was referring to some undue noise from transit buses coming from Flyer and it turns out that there are a certain number of buses which were supplied to the Transit System which were originally intended to go to Chicago and the buses going to Chicago do not require a muffler, but are accepted with a resonator which does, in effect, produce a great deal more noise.

But in order to meet the City of Winnipeg needs in the immediate term, some of these buses were supplied to the City of Winnipeg and do produce more noise, but are being modified in accordance with the practices of the City of Winnipeg.

So I hope that solves the member's problem.

Burns Plant closure

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary either to the Minister of the Environment or to the Minister of Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, Burns and Company have made the announcement that the Burns Plant will be closing on August 9th or 10th of this year. Do they have new information that would indicate otherwise, that it's not going to close as of August 10th?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't have any further new information.

Horse Racing Commission - Annual Report

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Small Business and Tourism. In view of the fact that The Manitoba Horse Racing Commission Act requires the Commission to report annually to the Minister within three months of the end of the fiscal year; and in view of the fact that the fiscal year ended December 31, 1983, has the Minister yet received the Annual Report of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Business Development.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain whether it has been received or not, I have not gone through it to date.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that it is required not only that the Annual Report be submitted to the Minister within three months, but that it be tabled immediately thereafter in the House when we're in Session, would the Minister undertake to look into that and table the report as soon as possible?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, as I recall it, I did raise that question with them and I think we're in keeping with the rule of law, if you like, or requirement, but I will check into that further.

McKenzie Seeds

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General advise the House whether or not the RCMP investigation surrounding McKenzie Seeds and former senior officers there, whether or not that investigation has been concluded?

HON. R. PENNER: No, Mr. Speaker, it hasn't, as I advised the House when a similar question was addressed to me some weeks ago, it was anticipated that the report would be received by me from the RCMP some time in the early part of June. When last I met with senior officials of the RCMP, I was advised that the investigation was on schedule and expectation for that delivery date was still realistic.

MHRC - directors' positions

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for MHRC. Could the Minister advise if it is the general practice of MHRC to bulletin directors' positions before they are filled internally within MHRC, and externally?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, the policy of MHRC is to follow the same procedure that is followed by any other department within government. If there's a specific position that the member is interested in I would like to hear about it.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister undertake to review this matter with MHRC and advise the House whether or not a Director's position has been filled recently without any bulletining?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: I am presuming that the Member for St. Norbert is referring to an ADM's position or a director's position. I'll certainly check that out.

Peguis Indian Reserve

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Attorney-General. Has the Attorney-General received an RCMP report on the burning of the bridge at the Peguis Indian Reserve?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: I have received a notification from the Director of Prosecutions, in fact this morning, that he has received a preliminary report from the RCMP, and I presume that the Director of Prosecutions is analyzing that report at this time.

Driver licence suspensions - parking tickets

MR. D. ORCHARD: A further question to the Attorney-General on a different matter. Last year I believe we passed amendments to The Summary Conviction Act allowing for licence suspension for failure to pay parking violations, could the Attorney-General indicate how many drivers' licences would be suspended for failure to pay parking violations in the City of Winnipeg if the law was enforced, as was anticipated.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase it?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Attorney-General, following his meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Winnipeg, as to whether he has an estimate as to the number of drivers who the city would have their licence suspended for failure to pay parking tickets.

HON. R. PENNER: I suppose the question is still hypothetical. However, I am not able to answer it, in any event. The question is one properly addressed to the Minister of Highways and Transportation, in whose shop the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is lodged. I can simply say, because I think this is the information essentially that the member wishes and is entitled to, that there is a problem, that is, the discretionary

provision in The Summary Convictions Act permits the Registrar to suspend or not to suspend, and naturally we would want to assist the City of Winnipeg in every way we can to enforce the provisions of The Summary Convictions Act which are offended against by offending drivers, whether it be moving offence or parking, nevertheless, its a statutory offence and we want to do our bit to assist.

There are clearly problems that have been identified and are being considered. I anticipate that in a meeting with the officials of the City of Winnipeg, political representatives of the City of Winnipeg, on June 11th this matter will be discussed and we will be jointly seeking a solution; at the moment I don't have one. If the member still wants numbers we will be pleased to provide him with those numbers insofar as they're susceptible of being extracted, but that information will come from the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Farmers - assistance to

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, some time ago the opposition raised their concerns about the taxation of farm dwellings because of incomes received from surface rights leases. Can the Minister of Municipal Affairs now confirm that the returns received by farmers who are receiving surface rights payments for the use of the land for mineral or oil development will not be used, or considered off-farm income, but will be considered as an income from the farm and will not place those dwellings in a taxable position? Is the policy now that that income will not be considered off-farm income?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I first answered that question in the affirmative on April 12th; I answered it again during my Estimates in the affirmative; and I concur that it will be considered as farm income for purposes of obtaining the exemption for farm residences, as has been the case for some time, and as I advised the House several times previously, nothing has changed.

Superior Coach Manufacturing - Morris

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was last week I took as notice some questions from the Member for Morris regarding the government, in particular my department's involvement with respect to Superior Coach Manufacturing Limited (Canada). I can report that there has been ongoing discussions and involvement from staff of the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to this company for the past while. The most recent involvement has been in discussions on May 15th, and then subsequent to the day the member raised the questions on May 25th.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister. Can he indicate whether his department has requested of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation that they become involved in the bonding problem that that particular company is now experiencing?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'm not aware of any discussion with respect to that and the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. I was informed that there was some request of government assistance with respect to a Processing Remissions Order Bond problem, but that request for assistance was withdrawn by the company's auditors subsequent to them asking for assistance.

Day care centres

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Some days ago I was asked a question about the impact on day care centres of the new regulations that put in a requirement for natural light, and I was asked to identify how many centres might have to close if they did not comply with this regulation.

Mr. Speaker, there was an amendment in 9584, to the licencing regulations which were established in October 1983. The original regulation required that all types of day care centres, whether full or part-time, or school-age centres, should provide natural light; but the amendment removes the requirement for part-time centres and school-age centres because the children are only there a few hours each day.

Now the natural light requirement does remain in effect for full-time centres because children are there for over 9 to 10 hours per day. There will be exceptions, however, where renovations cannot readily be made. There are only two full-time day care centres which do not comply now with this regulation - the College Co-op Day Care Centre in Fort Garry, and the Crestview Park Day Nursery in Assiniboia. These centres have until October, 1986 to see whether renovations can be made or relocation.

There are also grants available from them to assist in upgrading to meet the regulations, and if neither possibility of relocation or renovation is practical we would consider an exemption for those particular centres.

Payroll tax

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Some days ago he indicated that his department was not prepared to hasten refunds to people who have refunds due under their exemptions for the payroll tax, but he indicated that he would give consideration to paying interest on those refunds when they're made at the end of the year. Can he advise the House and the public whether he has made that decision now?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: No, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has not yet had an opportunity to review that.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Health, 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.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. ORDER PLEASE.

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 River East in the Chair for the Department of Health; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply shall be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health.

As is customary, we shall begin with the opening statement from the Honourable Minister responsible for the department.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the outset, permit me, Mr. Chairman, to say that it is indeed a pleasure for me to present the 1984-85 Estimates of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, my first Estimates as a Minister and only the second Estimates of this as a department.

The department has the responsibility for ensuring that the quality of the indoor and outdoor environment is conducive to healthy and enjoyable living and working conditions.

Departmental activities serve all citizens in all regions of Manitoba, and are directed toward ensuring that there is adequate legislation, regulation and subsequent enforcement to maintain and improve the natural and workplace environment. These regulatory and enforcement activities are supported by research. As the departmental name indicates, there are two key areas of activity in which the department is engaged. They are environment management and workplace safety and health.

I will address environmental management issues first. One of the principal areas that the department has been engaged in and will continue to be engaged in relates to the area of dangerous goods. The department is embarking upon an integrated approach to the management and control of dangerous goods, including handling, transportation, storage, disposal and labelling.

This approach is to be implemented in the workplace, on the road systems, at the point of manufacture and at disposal sites. This includes a new Dangerous Goods Handling Act and Transportation Act which I expect to introduce during this Session.

Another key area the department is engaged in on the environmental side is the Mosquito Control Program. In 1983-84, municipalities were given assistance for mapping and larviciding programs through the provincial Jobs Fund, and this program will continue in 1984-85 as a departmentally-financed program.

In 1983-84, an extensive monitoring program was mounted while the Western Equine Encephalitis was an issue. Associated with the W.E.E. Program, a monitoring steering committee and an interdepartmental review committee were formed. The recommendations of these two groups will formulate the basis on which the 1984 and any future programs of this nature will be carried out.

Radiation in well water in the Lac du Bonnet area also received much attention in 1983-84. Extensive investigation of radio-active contamination of well water was carried out. The department will continue to monitor this area and provide information to those residents of Manitoba affected by radio-active water.

The establishment and operation of a health and environmental review committee to deal with issues and co-ordinate programs which overlap the Department of Environment and Workplace, Safety and Health and the environment of health will continue.

The department has integrated an effective emergency response service within the department between Workplace Safety and Health and Environment which effectively and efficiently uses the resources from both sides of the department.

With respect to the issue of mercury in fish, the province is embarking on a long-term program of education and monitoring with regard to mercury in fish in recreational fishing areas of the province. To that effect, the pamphlet which some of you may have already seen, is in the process of being distributed where fishing licences are normally obtained. The province is also continuing its participation in the Canada-Manitoba Mercury Agreement to address the question of mercury in fish on the Churchill River Diversion System.

Acid rain is an important environmental area in which the department will continue to have involvement. The province co-operates both with its sister western provinces and with the national efforts to develop an effective acid rain strategy. Ongoing activities within the province include defining areas sensitive to acid rain, monitoring precipitation and monitoring ecosystems.

With respect to water quality, the department continues to work co-operatively with local government and Canada to develop and implement solutions to Red River quality problems through and downstream of Winnipeg.

The department remains involved in the ongoing concern of lead in soil within the City of Winnipeg. Having identified and addressed the problem of lead in the soils of the boulevards and playgrounds in the Weston area, the province will continue its surveillance program in Winnipeg and other centres to be assured that no similar problems exist.

The department will continue to focus its efforts on the protection of the water quality of Shoal Lake so that the City of Winnipeg and the residents of Shoal Lake will continue to enjoy safe drinking water. These efforts include negotiations between the four parties toward assured long-term protection of Shoal Lake and technical assistance to local residents to solve sewage and solid-waste problems.

In discussing areas of environmental importance to the province, it is important that the activities of the Clean Environment Commission also be addressed.

In 1983-84, the commission was involved in the review of many projects which impact on the Manitoba Environment. In the coming year, the commission again expects to be extremely active in a number of projects including the continuation of hearings with respect to the province's Hazardous and Special Waste Management Program. Such public hearings by the Clean Environment Commission are consistent with the department's commitment to extensive public consultation with all interested parties regarding new government initiatives. A series of hearings are planned with respect to the province's water quality objectives; a review of a proposal concerning the alteration or replacement of the City of Winnipeg sludge beds; a continuation of public hearings which began in 1983-84 in connection with the City of Brandon sewage treatment facilities and I expect in many other areas.

The second key program area with the Department of the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health is the Workplace Safety and Health Division. Functioning under The Workplace Safety and Health Act, the division's goal is to make Manitoba workplaces safe and healthy. As a result of amendments recently passed under Bill 87, there will be increased emphasis placed on the individual workplace. Specifically addressing the passage of Bill 87, there are three key areas of amendment provided in that bill. These are:

1. Strengthening the right to refuse dangerous work without fear of discrimination;
2. The creation of mandatory safety and health committees or representatives in the workplace;
3. Two days of paid mandatory educational leave annually for safety and health committee members and representatives to allow them to become more knowledgeable with respect to safety and health issues.

The thrust initiated through Bill 87 will reduce the costs of Workers Compensation in the long term. The ultimate goal of the department is the prevention of occupational illness and injury. In addition, the Workplace Safety and Health Division is currently undertaking a number of other related projects including the revisions and implementation of various regulations and programs.

Two other areas of the department bear mention: The Worker Advisor Office and the Community Relations Branch . . .

MR. A. DRIEDGER: We were just deciding whether you had any support at all. You've got a little bit drummed up now.

HON. G. LECUYER: There was a caucus meeting there taking place with the Member for Emerson —

(Interjection) — well, Al, I thought that's what you were on that side for.

As most of you will recall, we officially commenced operation of the Worker Advisor Office on September 17, 1982.

In addition to advocating for injured workers, the Worker Advisor Program has been providing educational seminars to workers and employers.

The Community Relations Branch of the department has planned the establishment of a new departmental resource centre for 1984-85. This centre will allow greater access for the general public to both Environment and Workplace Safety and Health related material.

The Community Relations Branch will be coordinating the second phase of the Workplace Safety and Health Public Education Program. As most of you will recall, the first phase of this program was initiated in fiscal year 1983-84, and I am advised that this program was extremely well-received by the public-at-large.

It should be noted that there have been several organizational changes in this new department to integrate related government programs.

With the establishment of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health as a new department, Dr. Thomas Owen was appointed Deputy Minister, effective September of 1983.

As well, effective April 1, 1984, the Planning, Research and Evaluation Branch was created to provide centralized support service to the department.

Also effective April 1, 1984, the Mines Safety and Health Inspection Branch was transferred to this department from the Department of Energy and Mines. This transfer, as most of you will recall, had been proposed and discussed for a number of years by unions, companies and the government as well as having been mentioned or referenced in the Wright Report. As a result of considerable study, the transfer has now been made. The mines inspectors will continue to enforce regulations under The Mines Act now in existence. I also anticipate that the draft of the proposed new regulations and relevant sections of The Mines Act will be adopted under The Workplace Safety and Health Act.

A final item of organizational change within the department relates to the transfer of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods unit from the Department of Highways, effective April 1, 1984. Through discussion between the two departments, it was agreed that it would be of substantial benefit to the province to have all areas relating to dangerous goods or hazardous materials housed in one department. Given the focus regarding hazardous and special waste, it was determined that the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health would be the most appropriate place for that unit to be located.

I wish to touch on staff redeployment within the department. Due to the resource limitations and focussing on certain key program areas such as hazardous waste, it was necessary to internally redeploy a significant number of staff. In total, some 35 positions were affected. The department is making progress in effecting these changes, but we expect these changes to have minimal impact on staff and limited service implications. The significant point regarding structure

of the department that I wish to highlight is the "flatness" of its management structure. The department functions with all directors reporting directly to the Deputy Minister.

This, Mr. Chairman, concludes my introductory remarks, but in closing, I would like to publicly thank my staff for their support, dedication and hard work in assisting me not only to achieve our goal of making this a successfully integrated and efficient department, but also for the professionalism with which they have addressed their efforts for the benefit of all Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

In accordance with the procedure of practice in this Committee of Supply, the Chairperson is now calling upon the main opposition critic if he so desires, to give his reply to the Minister's opening statement.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not the intention of myself as the chief critic or the Member for Gladstone as deputy critic, or any of the other members to try and take away any of the advice and the intelligence that will be emanating from the Honourable Minister as we proceed through his Estimates. It's not our intention to show the public and to everybody who comes to listen to these meetings how much we know about the department, but to find out whether the Minister knows what his department's about, and there'll be many many questions concerning that.

I was kind of hoping that the Honourable Minister would give an organizational chart as he did make some reference about the redeployment but I would hope that if there was an organizational chart available that it could be distributed before we get too much further into the Estimates.

I just wanted the Honourable Minister to be aware also about how we as opposition seem to feel that the Department of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health is of great importance, possibly more so than the Honourable Minister's colleagues who seem to be dwindling in. We do have a great interest in this particular department because it is to the safety and health of all of the people of the Province of Manitoba.

I would just like to make a comment that I am very very pleased that the people that are here - there are three members . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: No reference to the absence or presence of members, please.

MR. A. KOVNATS: If I can, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a remark that there are three constituents of my area, Niakwa, here and I'm quite pleased to see that, in effect.

We will be touching on a lot of items and it's going to get down to a pretty serious discussions before too long. It starts off in a very nice manner but I think there are going to be some points of contention that will lead to some pretty heated debate, I think, as we progress. We're going to be touching on the environment in the City of Winnipeg, the spraying of cankerworms, the spraying for mosquitoes, things of that nature. We're going to talk about the impact on the environment of some of the chemical fertilizers and pesticides. We are

going to be talking about development in areas where drinking water comes to the City of Winnipeg. We want some assurance at that point that the quality of that drinking water is not going to be less than it is today. We want some assurance that the regulations covering the Environment and Workplace Safety isn't going to be discouraging the development of new businesses coming into the Province of Manitoba.

We want some assurance that the rendering plants around the province, even though they will be regulated, will be able to look after the contaminated animals that rendering plants have had to look after in the past and will in the future, and whether the government is making any commitment to assist these rendering plants to keep the contaminated animals out of the environment.

We are going to ask questions on whether the Honourable Minister has proceeded in advance or is waiting for things to develop, whether he has got his crew together and they are doing any kind of environmental studies to ensure that companies like Alcan will be coming to the province; whether they will be doing environmental studies on the shipping of electrical power from Manitoba to the United States; whether agreements have been made, and what type of environmental protection has taken place - things of that nature, Mr. Chairman.

We are going to want to find out whether there are any regulations on some of the containers that are seen along the highway, the plastic containers, the disposable bottles, things of that nature which affect the environment. We are really going to go through this department from the very top to the very bottom.

The Minister's opening remarks were well-received. I see where the department was started under the previous Minister, and this is the first time that the Minister has come into committee with this department. I think that the previous Minister had it well-organized. I am not about to condemn what he has done. I'm going to want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether he has made changes from what the previous Minister had set up his department.

I know that there was half a Minister's Salary in the last year's Estimates; this year, there is a full Minister's Salary. I know that the previous Minister set up a full-time Deputy Minister at that time, even though there wasn't really that much required to start up with, but it has developed into a full-time job.

I think that the Honourable Minister has mentioned a Dr. Thomas Owen who is the Deputy Minister of this department. We'll be looking forward to having him assist the Honourable Minister in answering some of the questions as we proceed.

I think, getting a little closer to home, that we will be asking some questions on the odours that arise out of some of the locations around the province. Inasmuch as some of these odours emanate right from the Honourable Minister's constituency - I think the Honourable Minister would be aware of that - and whether anything is being done to lessen those odours.

There are many many things, Mr. Chairman, but I don't want to prolong the debate. I'm not looking to show the Honourable Minister how much I know about his department, I think that we will be asking the Honourable Minister to show us how much he knows about his department.

There was some discussion concerning the radiation in well water. I knew of some of that, it was just too

much of a passing remark. I want to find out now where this radiation comes from, whether it's from dumping radioactive materials around the province, which I thought was forbidden to do so. But I think the Honourable Minister is going to have to give us some answers on that. He mentioned about an emergency response service - I was going to ask the Honourable Minister when we get down to it whether this service will be replacing the Emergency Measures Organization. We'll be asking some questions on mercury in fish and the pollution in the water and things of that involvement. The Honourable Minister keeps mentioning the involvement of the department and the department will be monitoring. It seems that these are terms that seem to cover an awful lot of things but I want more from the Minister than just telling me that his department is involved and that his department is monitoring. I want something more concrete than that from the Honourable Minister.

I think with those remarks, I'm prepared to proceed with the Estimates line-by-line, Mr. Chairman. Before we do proceed I think that, rather than on a line-by-line and if you will recall last year, on the Department of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health, the environmental part of it seemed to be lumped in together. Now I'm not going to say that we're going to jump from one to the other to the other, but I think that, without an organizational chart, it's going to be a little bit difficult for us to just proceed line-by-line, so in fact we might have to revert back to something that we might have missed in the first or second resolution. I think that with that type of an agreement, we're not out to embarrass the Minister, but if we can we will, but these things will happen.

I think that concludes my remarks and we're about to proceed. Oh, one other thing, just before we proceed. I'm not trying to take up all the time because I have an arrangement with the Minister that we're going to proceed as quickly as possible. We're not trying to prolong debate, but I would hope that the Honourable Chairman would allow us to go through line-by-line without really hurrying it to the degree that some others have been hurried, because it's the Honourable Minister's first Estimates and it's the honourable critic's first Estimates in this department also. So let's proceed slowly and surely.

A MEMBER: Way to go, Abe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we do, the Chair extends a cordial invitation to the members of the departmental staff of Environment Workplace Safety and Health to kindly take their respective places.

Mr. Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: While the staff is coming forward, maybe I can allude to one or two comments made by the official critic, especially in relation to how we will proceed and, having discussed this with him, I believe that what we want to do is deal with all of item 1 as one unit. Then, as the member has indicated, I agree that we can, when dealing with Environment, move back and forth. I have no problem with that and, following that, we would probably cover the Clean Environment Commission, then the Environment Council. From there

go to Workplace Safety and Health and again move anywhere you want in that direction and end up with the Worker Advisor, at which time, if that agreeable we would also have staff of the Workers Compensation Board present to help me in answering questions that might be related to that particular aspect of the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed we are deferring Item No. 1.(a) Minister's Salary, and so we shall, and I understood this is the consensus of the committee, I shall be calling all of 1, except 1.(a), so that the questioning can widen up according to the main critic and the Minister. At this point in time, after I have called all this item, the Minister will introduce some member of his staff.

So let me call Item 1.(b)(1) Administration and Finance, Executive Support, Salaries; Item 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; Item 1.(c)(1) Planning, Research and Evaluation, Salaries; Item 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures; Item 1.(d)(1) Community Relations, Salaries; Item 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures; Item 1.(e)(1) Financial and Administrative Services, Salaries; Item 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I give the opportunity to the members to ask questions, I would like to introduce the Deputy Minister, Dr. Tom Owen who, as I indicated in my opening remarks, is with the department since September 1983; Mr. Wolf Boehm, who's the administrator of the department. We have also with us Carl Orcutt, who is the Director in the Environmental Control Section, and Norm Brandon, who's the Director in the Environmental Management Section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, I think the former Minister should be introduced also, inasmuch as I had just given some credit to the former Minister in . . . Well, he's not there anymore and it's just like at a funeral service - you speak highly of him after he's gone.

I think that it was set up well and I have no qualms about telling the Minister that I think that he did a fairly good job previously. It wasn't perfect, but it was good enough to get started and it was a difficult job in getting started because there were a lot of staff that were redeployed from other departments to bring into this Environmental department. I think that it's going to be a very difficult year even now that it has been set up for the Minister because what we are going to do as we proceed in line-by-line, and we're talking about Executive Support staff and Salaries and Other Expenditures.

Executive Support staff - I would like to know who the Executive Support staffs are? How many are there? There's \$232,500 of Executive Support staff. There was an increase of about \$16,000 from the previous year. On Other Expenditures, they are down over previous years, so it looks like the staff are looking after the pencils and the paper clips and things of that nature. Can the Honourable Minister advise us as to who the Executive Support staff are and where they have come from, if he could do so?

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the benefit of the member, there is no change in the number of executive staff in '84-85 as compared to '83-84. Including the Minister in there, we have a total of 8 SMYs - well, not including the Minister - we have 8 SMYs and the increase indicated from . . .

A MEMBER: Did you say eight?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes. Increase of funding is actually quite minimal, \$17,000, due to the addition of one new secretary position authorized during 1983-84, but for which salary funds were not provided at the time.

As well the adjustment reflects a reduction in pay periods between '83-84 and '84-85 from 27 to 26 and provides for staff merit increments and contracts salary adjustments. In terms of positions, there is the Deputy Minister, the secretary to the Minister, the assistant secretary to the Minister, the Executive Assistant to the Minister, a Special Assistant to the Minister, the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Minister, secretary to the Deputy Minister and the assistant secretary to the Deputy Minister, which is a vacant position for the time being.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Honourable Minister advise whether this Executive Support staff all came about from the previous Minister hiring this Executive Support staff and from what departments were they obtained? I think mainly the top ones - not to belittle the secretaries - but I'm really talking about the Deputy Minister and people of that nature. What is their background really, is what I want to know?

HON. G. LECUYER: The staff as I indicated first of all with the Deputy Minister, was hired in September of 1983 as a result of a competition. The Deputy Minister comes from Toronto and he was a private consultant; the chairperson is also of the Ontario Society for Environmental Management; therefore he has expertise in the area for which he has been hired. His area of specialization includes socio-economic analysis, community impact, public policy and survey research.

In 1974 he served as president of his own private consulting firm, the Owen Consulting Group, which specialized primarily in the public sector, consultation for federal, provincial and local regional governments. He served from 1976 until he was hired as an Associate Professor of the Institute of Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto. He has a Ph.D. and a Master of Philosophy in Public Administration from Syracuse University and a Masters in Communications from Syracuse University.

As I indicated a while ago, he was hired through a national competition and that's about all I can add on that.

The secretaries and the assistants to the Minister were hired by myself as a new Minister in the department and the staff of the Deputy Minister likewise hired by the Deputy Minister.

The secretaries in question had experience in the department prior to being . . .

MR. A. KOVNATS: I'm not that worried about the secretaries. That satisfies me.

Thank you to the Minister. Is there other than the Deputy Minister, Mr. Owen, and the secretaries who come under the Executive Support staff, of the eight SMYs?

HON. G. LECUYER: I'm not sure that I understand the question of the member. I've gone through the list and there are no others beyond that list.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Fine. Other Expenditures - what do these items include? And you don't have to get down to paper clips.

HON. G. LECUYER: As the member will notice, there's an actual decrease in that and the decrease is due in the reduction in the travel budget.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Is most of the \$41,000 in travel expenses?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, the breakdown is \$8,000 in Transportation; Communication \$8,000; Supplies and Services, \$20,000; and Other Operating Expenses of \$5,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does this department have a Communications Branch like some others do, or who does your press release work?

HON. G. LECUYER: We do have - and that comes under Community Relations, under (d) - and I can proceed to that immediately if you want, under that section. But as I indicated, we could deal with all of Section 1. under any order and I can proceed to answer that.

There are, in actual fact, five SMYs in the Community Relations Branch, where you see Salaries projected for '84-85 of \$164,500 and that represents an increase of one. Therefore increased salary funding for one new secretarial position of \$16,000 and that accounts for the major difference in comparison to last year.

The Operational Budget is an increase of \$5.5 thousand which accounts for increase costs of office supplies and printing.

MRS. C. OLESON: How many people are actually involved in distributing the communications work, the press release type work?

HON. G. LECUYER: There's one person involved in the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: In what area, Mr. Chairman, will we be dealing with Shoal Lake?

HON. G. LECUYER: Under Environment. The question of Shoal Lake will come under Item No. 2. Environment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more questions on this item?
1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass; 1.(c)(1)—pass.
1.(c)(2) - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: We're talking about Item 1.(c) Planning, Research and Evaluation, Salaries of \$220,000.00. This is a big jump; we're talking about an additional \$60,000 in increase. I would like to know how many SMYs have been increased or have the SMYs remained the same and substantial increases in salary for services rendered. I just want to know why there was a \$60,000 increase and, more important, why there is \$100,000 increase in Other Expenditures.

HON. G. LECUYER: Okay, even the Chairman of the Treasury Board is echoing your sentiments here. In the Planning, Research and Evaluation Branch there is projected for 1984-85, six SMY's, as compared to five in 1983-84. As I indicated previously to the members, this is a department which is a very young department, having come together only a year ago, a department therefore which is still basically in formation.

The increased salary funding is to accommodate planning programs under this disposition which represents half of that increase, and the remaining is attributable to staff merit increments and contract salary adjustments.

I want to add, at this point in time, that through a national competition, the Director of this section has recently been hired and is coming on staff officially as of tomorrow, but is already here today.

The operating expenditures are essentially attributable to the establishment of the new branch, as I indicated. Although the staff were essentially transferred from other portions of the department, it is now constituted as a unit to provide service of consultation, resources, research resources, to the whole of the department as a unit.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Would the Honourable Minister introduce his new Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation?

HON. G. LECUYER: The new Director of the division, and I would like to ask him to come up. His name is Dr. Nick Poushinsky who has a B.A. Degree in Sociology from the University of Guelph, Master of Arts and Sociology from the University of Guelph, and a Doctor of Philosophy and Sociology, the University of York.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Dr. Poushinsky?

HON. G. LECUYER: Dr. Poushinsky.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I wouldn't mind Dr. Poushinsky . . .

HON. G. LECUYER: That's not the one standing up.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I don't want any misunderstanding, if he is going to be paid for today because you said that he starts tomorrow, it's not at my insistence that he is sitting up here, Mr. Chairman.

HON. G. LECUYER: I am sure that, Mr. Chairman, having been given official recognition today and having been asked to come forward by the member of the opposition, I'll have a hard time trying to explain to him that he doesn't get paid for today.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think on Planning, Research and Evaluation, I am going to want to ask some questions

on what plans this department have got for the future, things of that nature; but can the Honourable Minister advise where Dr. Poushinsky has worked in the past? You know, what is his background, and what does he do in the province?

HON. G. LECUYER: I was about to carry on with that, having indicated part of his pedigree and his academic training. He has held an academic post at Dalhousie University, the University of Victoria and Rutgers University. He has written a book and numerous academic articles dealing with social and environmental issues. He has been Senior Economist in the B.C. Government responsible for a wide range of strategic planning and socioeconomic impact assessment activities. He sat on the Provincial Metal Mines Steering Committee in British Columbia; he was principal and Senior Socio-economic Scientist at IECB Consultants Ltd., and he founded his own consulting firm, Poushinsky Consultants and, as I indicated before, he has been hired through a national competition.

MR. A. KOVNATS: We'll be returning to what are the plans of this department at a later date. I think, at this time, we're really just talking about the staff and Other Expenditures. I think that there is a time . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the member wants to ask a question under this item, it will be under this item, I suppose.

HON. G. LECUYER: I can answer that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister intimated his desire . . .

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think what I'll try to do is keep it in the right proportion, and what his plans are for this department at this time, I think it would come under . . . there's another place that I thought that it would probably come under.

HON. G. LECUYER: It comes under 1.(d).

MR. A. KOVNATS: It does come under 1.(d)?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes.

MR. A. KOVNATS: All right, that's the next step up.

HON. G. LECUYER: It comes under 1.(c). I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c).

MR. A. KOVNATS: What are the plans of this department for the future?

HON. G. LECUYER: The objectives of the department in the Planning, Research and Evaluation area, in terms of policy, is to include the development of policy options on recommendations in response to senior management requests in the whole of the department, the identified needs of the various divisional sections.

In terms of strategy planning, in the long term, we are talking here of developing a five-year plan which would identify as well the needs for legislation,

regulation and program requirements. In terms of operational planning, we want to increase specific programs planning, and develop a two-year ahead plan. We want to include the co-ordination of all departmental legislation and regulation development and review to be consistent with the needs identified through the planning and operational activities of the whole of the department.

We would like to program a review and evaluation, effectiveness of the department in order to be able to provide the justification and the rationale for the activities and the projects that we carry on during the duration of our plan which, as I stated, should be for a two-year duration.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The Honourable Minister wanted to add something?

HON. G. LECUYER: I just was going to ask whether the member wanted me to go on into the specific details of all of the planning, or the legislative development, or the regulations, whether he wanted me to go into details of those.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Not really, you know, I'm not really, Mr. Chairman, trying to prolong the debate. I think that will probably come out somewhere along the line, but what I wanted to find out is whether there has been any involvement with this part of the Planning, Research and Evaluation in the new Alcan plant; whether there is any evaluation or planning or any input that this department is making when it comes to encouraging Alcan and the environmental problems in that area.

In addition, has this department got any input in the Hydro lines that are going to go from Manitoba into northern United States when and if we do supply them with electrical power? Has this department done any investigation on the environment concerning the transferring of electrical power to hydrogen power to fertilizer, things of that nature. What are the future plans? Is it something that we're just going to sit on or are we going to wait for something to happen before we do anything? Can the Honourable Minister advise? I'm sorry I mentioned Alcan, I meant Alcoa.

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, I assumed as much. There have been discussions and of course I cannot for the benefit of the member - he shouldn't put all of those in the same basket - we were talking about a power line to the States or Alcoa, we're talking about things that have been in very different stages of development. As far as the power line, of course, there have been numerous discussions involving our department and there are well-established lines of communication. There is what is called the Interdepartment Program Planning Board which addresses this issue. Before the line can be approved, it will be subject to an environmental impact assessment review, and the same would have to be true as far as Alcoa.

Alcoa, of course, is something that hasn't, at this point in time, proceeded to be at any substantial degree of involvement, that having come on board or on stream just very recently. It will obviously also have to undergo an environmental impact assessment review.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I'm not trying to make political points at this point, except that I've just got to mention

that if there hasn't been an environmental study on the Alcoa, there just can't be any kind of an agreement to proceed until such time as there is an environmental study and I think enough is said on that. That's a different something, so let's push that over to the side.

What about the environmental impact on the United States? Have we got any kind of an agreement with them because they are having some problems - and I'm not going to ask you to solve those problems, Mr. Minister, I know that it's somewhere else - but it does fit in with our whole picture here. What are our people doing to encourage those people who are against the lines going through the United States to allow us to do so, so that we can supply them with power?

HON. G. LECUYER: As far as I understand, Mr. Chairman, the corridor itself has been approved in North Dakota up to the border. The point of meeting at the border, and if you're referring specifically to the Mandan line is something that's still in contention. There is still, as far as I understand it, not complete approval with regard to the corridor in South Dakota, but I expect there are ongoing discussions at that level.

The department as a member of the Interdepartment Planning Board, of course, has been closely involved and discussions have taken place and are ongoing with, in particular, the State of North Dakota to resolve the meeting point at the boundary.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I'd like to ask the Minister, did we give away any of our protection to get this type of an arrangement, did we give away any of our right to demand clean environment particularly from acid rain or any other thing that the United States might care to willingly or unwillingly ship to us here in Canada?

HON. G. LECUYER: The answer to that if you want a brief answer is, no. As I said to the member awhile ago as well there would have to be an environment assessment review of the line before it receives final approval.

Obviously as well, Mr. Chairman, the supplying of hydro-electricity in various parts of the United States, of course, will mean that the use in the United States of the production of thermal energy burning coal and causing acid rain would be thereby reduced through the use of hydro-electricity.

MR. A. KOVNATS: It's a good selling point. Tell the Minister to use it for when he's selling them electrical power.

I think that's about all I was going to say on . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1) . . .

MR. A. KOVNATS: Just a minute. As I had mentioned to the Chairman before I really didn't want to proceed that quickly. We will sort of advise when we're finished with the item. Go ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2)—pass.
1.(d)(1) - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Community Relations, I would think that this is the department that speaks with all the

different municipalities concerning community relations, with those different municipalities concerning disposal areas that are contaminated, where drinking water has been contaminated, where different areas have received some contamination, and we're getting down to monitoring and involvement again - those beautiful words. Can the Honourable Minister just extend on the report that he made on the Legislature about the different areas that have been monitored and where there is a level of some danger, and whether there is some that just have to be monitored?

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that in response to a comment or question from the Member for Gladstone awhile ago when I was referring to the staff of the Community Relations section of the department, this is strictly staff to provide, first of all, communication between the various sections of the department, also to communicate with the public in terms of media awareness or inform them of issues that have an environmental impact for both the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health Division in the area of news release or publications of the department on request, whether it be through the school programs or through the public as a whole. It's to improve the presence of the awareness of the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health issues in Manitoba as a whole and to keep the population informed of the issues relevant to the department and provide materials from the department on request.

There's one more point that I wanted to add to that. The Community Relations Division section also provides the library function for the department which is used by both divisions of the department. It is also open to the general public where we invite the member to, eventually, visit the Library section of the department, which has indeed a very extensive array of materials in both the environmental and workplace safety and health section which could provide detailed and technical information in a wide area of all issues related with environment and workplace safety and health.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Honourable Minister advise where we can discuss the contaminated well water at Portage?

HON. G. LECUYER: That's all under Environment.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Under Environment. That would be under No. 2., Environmental Management, or Clean Environment Commission, No. 3.?

HON. G. LECUYER: Either (a) or (b), Control Services or Management. As I indicated before, I am not averse to members going from one or the other at will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(d)(1) - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: No, one other question. When it talks about news releases, and the Honourable Minister had just mentioned it, do these news releases come directly from his office, or do they go through the First Minister's office? Because I am led to believe from a statement that the First Minister made, all news releases come through his own office. Do they come through

the Honourable Minister's Department, or do they come through the First Minister's Department?

HON. G. LECUYER: The news releases - the member, for instance, I can refer to specific examples he may have seen and he already alluded to the fact that he was going to refer to that just a few seconds ago, for instance, in regard to the landfill report or statement that was made in the House last week in relation to that. A news release in that regard would have had initial and substantial input from that staff in the Community Relations section, would have been approved by the Minister of the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Agriculture puts out extended information bulletins, and I noticed there was one on herbicides and changes in herbicides. Does this department liaison with the Department of Agriculture in monitoring this sort of thing, in sending out information to update people on changes in chemical and herbicide use, or is this a duplication of services?

HON. G. LECUYER: The staff within the department, or I should say the department, relates to many other departments. That varies, of course, with the issues, but you're quite correct, the environmental division relates in matters of disasters, or having to do with spills in the environment would relate to other departments.

In the particular area questioned by the member, there is an interdepartmental committee which involves Agriculture, and the department is a member of that committee, for instance. That particular committee would deal with such things as pesticides as they might affect cattle, etc.

MRS. C. OLESON: So I could assume then probably that the information on these things would flow to the Agriculture Department from your department, and they would dispense it in their agricultural bulletins to be sure that farmers were aware of changes within the chemicals and pesticides and herbicides that they are using. So probably the information is gathered in your department and dispensed by them, is that correct?

HON. G. LECUYER: First of all, I would like to point out for the member that the registration of pesticides itself is a federal issue from the Federal Department of Agriculture. Yes, there are ongoing meetings of that committee which involves both Agriculture and, I believe, other departments as well. Natural Resources, for instance, would be another of the departments that are part of that committee where, yes, discussions if they are related to chemicals or environmental impacts of certain chemicals or pesticides where Agriculture might be dependent or rely upon the expertise within the department and then would afterwards, yes, provide information that would be derived from our participation on that committee through its own department, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the reconciliation statement for the

Minister's Department, there is the transfer of function from Highways and Transportation which, I understand, is the transportation of dangerous goods section. Where might one pose questions to the Minister on the relocation of that function?

HON. G. LECUYER: That also would come under Environmental, No. 2.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Environmental Management?

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

MR. A. KOVNATS: Mr. Chairman, Financial and Administration Services, what does this encompass? It's .5 million; is it necessary?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, the Financial and Administrative Services of the department provide the effective administrative support services for the whole of the department, the operating programs of the department. If the member wants me to go through the lists of the functions, for instance, I can do so. They are quite extensive as any and all departments do require these.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Again, I don't want to prolong the debate, Gerry, but if I could get a detailed copy of it so I have got it for my records, I would appreciate it.

HON. G. LECUYER: Sure, we will provide that for the member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.
As agreed upon between the critic and the Minister, I'll call all the items under 2.

2.(a)(1) Environmental Management, Environmental Control Services: Salaries; 2.(a)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(b)(1) Environmental Management Services: Salaries; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(c)(1) Canada-Manitoba Mercury Agreement: Salaries; 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I think on the first part of it, the Environmental Control Services, Salaries and Other Expenditures, I think that this is where the Honourable Minister has suggested that we pose the questions on the wells that are contaminated at Portage, the radiation problems that we might have around areas where there is radioactive stuff that is buried.

I would believe that's where the radiation comes from, but I think that if the Honourable Minister can advise how and when we find out where these radioactive areas are? Is it because of areas where there has been radioactive materials buried. It's something like the medical profession where you bury your mistakes, is this the cause of some of these radioactive problems?

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question of radioactivity in wells is not one related to southwestern Manitoba, but southeastern Manitoba; there are two different kinds of contaminations here. We are talking about radioactivity. We are talking about

the extensive testing that has been done, primarily in the Lac du Bonnet area and in the course of the monitoring of the radio-activity which cover the parameters of a five kilometre radius of the Atomic Energy Research Laboratory in Pinawa, it was discovered that radiation levels in ground water in some locations exceeded the screening levels that are recommended as guidelines for Canadian drinking water.

Tests were conducted within, as I stated, a five kilometre radius of the underground research laboratory, which is not developed at this point yet. The starting was announced in the weekend papers. The tests were conducted to determine the cause of this radiation and to determine if there were any health implications; and it was determined that the radiation problem is a natural occurring one related to the geology of that particular area. As well, there were several wells in the area where the water was not suitable as a permanent drinking source. Thirdly, that the problem may be fairly widespread in the whole of the Canadian Shield; and fourthly, that the surface waters that were tested showed that it was not contaminated. Finally also there is so far no pattern whereby we can predict where it will be safe and where it would not be.

So we have undertaken to respond in this issue by first of all identifying safe public water supplies for the local people to draw drinking water from. Secondly, to design and execute a rational monitoring system of testing to define as much as possible the full extent and the nature of the problem and through that we shall carry on further testing.

We are also involved in the question of investigating ways whereby we can mitigate the problem such as a filter system which would enable the filtering out of the radio-active particles; and fourthly, we will continue to inform and advise the local residents of the water situation in their area.

We are co-operating with other jurisdictions to assemble data and also to advice concerning the whole question of radio-activity in drinking water and more specifically, in addressing a system whereby we could filter out the radio-active substances.

But to come back and to conclude on that particular remark, when I say that from all observations and testing so far, the only thing that can be said is that the radio-activity seems to be naturally occurring and has no definite pattern and we will continue to test upon request.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I didn't have much concern before I came in here today, Mr. Minister, but I do now, concerning this natural radio-activity that is appearing in drinking water. It seems to be widespread or at least the Honourable Minister said it could be widespread. How do we know where to test next for radio-active drinking water? And can the Honourable Minister assure me that this radio-active contamination was not human-produced and buried by anybody in the past into areas that have now turned into contaminated areas, other than just in a particular burial area? Has there every been radio-active material buried in Manitoba?

HON. G. LECUYER: To that, Mr. Chairman, I can reply definitely, no. The characteristics of the radio-active

water could be . . . and the basis and the reason why this testing was carried out was for the very reason that there had been in that particular area because of the fact that the Atomic Energy of Canada is located in Pinawa, there had been some fears and lobby on the part of local residents who opposed the project of constructing an underground research laboratory that the environmental division and the AECL wanted testing done so that we could determine, prior to the development of that underground research laboratory, whether there was radio-activity in the water or not; and it's in doing this testing to establish what the contents of the water was, that we discovered the radio-activity.

I would venture to say, Mr. Chairman, that if we were to conduct or to extend the testing over probably the whole of the Canadian Shield we would find similar occurrences. That will occur in the water as a result of the normal process of the radio-active substances being diluted in the water; as well we would find in areas where there are particular concentrations of given metal, we would find higher levels of that metal diluted into the water.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the honourable Minister advise whether the cost of keeping a vigilant eye on the contaminated area that is being transferred back to - obviously it seems that it was in the Pinawa area - Canadian Atomic Energy Commission - is that the proper name? Are they being charged back for the costs of this monitoring?

HON. G. LECUYER: The monitoring for radiation in the water?

MR. A. KOVNATS: No.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, this is part of a departmental program and obviously because the testing has proven that the dissolved radiation in water is naturally occurring, there would be also no grounds to proceed by recovering such costs from the AECL.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I understand. I would hope that the same courtesy is being extended to the municipalities, particularly Portage la Prairie. I think the honourable member who represents Portage la Prairie is here because there was a contaminated area at Portage la Prairie that I have not yet found out who is going to bear the costs of the trading-off of these areas where there are contaminated areas in the different municipalities. Who bears the cost of changing and trying to correct a contaminated area in a municipality?

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I want to repeat for the members that the water tests clearly proved in the Lac du Bonnet area that the source of radiation that is dissolved in the water is naturally-occurring radium. There are not very many ground water supplies that are based in the Canadian Shield because it means obviously to drill a well for water right in the rock formation.

Now, I want to make it clear that when we're talking about Portage la Prairie, we're not talking about naturally occurring contaminants. These are

contaminants which were determined to be present on the basis, as I've indicated before, of a cost-shared program between the province and the Federal Government to conduct this monitoring analysis, but it is there because the municipalities themselves have used these particular areas as landfill sites so they're not naturally occurring contaminants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder, Mr. Minister, if you could tell me just when you first started to investigate the possibility of contamination surrounding the dump at Portage la Prairie. When did you get the first indication that we did have a problem there?

HON. G. LECUYER: The exact details I'll try to give to the member as much as I can recall. I believe this started in June of 1983 when the first phase of this program began, wherein the landfill sites of Manitoba were, through this first phase of the study, were identified and 760 waste-disposal sites in the province were identified, of which 22 were selected for further investigation because of the very possibility of environmental implications which were known to be there, or were thought to be there. Of those 22, Portage happened to be one. The second part of this study was carried on, that is, the firm which was contracted to conduct detailed tests in the landfill area in order to determine the extent, for instance, of the gases emanating from that landfill, to determine the contents or the contaminants in the presence of the water in the area, as well.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate just what type of gases is the problem in the area. Is it methane or what is it? What is it created from?

HON. G. LECUYER: The gases found very frequently in these landfill sites, of course, is the methane gas, but that is not the problem that is being experienced currently in the Portage area. For one thing, this is still an active landfill site and, therefore, there are no buildings located on the site or immediate adjacent to it where this would be a problem.

The problem there, of course, as you probably saw in the release, was one of contaminants in the water and, specifically, arsenic.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, the number of wells that have been proven to be contaminated, is this limited to the one well site or is there possibly others?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, there was only one well where there were contaminants above the normally acceptable level for drinking purposes that was currently being used for human consumption. On the date that I actually made the announcement in the House of the results of this second phase of the landfill studies, I indicated then, on that very same day, samples were being taken of some 35 wells in that area and we will, therefore, have these samples analyzed. I think that we, I believe, will be taking samples; I'm not sure if it's

in July or August, but some time in the summer as well.

MR. L. HYDE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I take it then that the Minister and his department will be following this up to try to eliminate any further contaminations of wells supplying water for the area around Portage.

My question which, I think, can be the concern of the City of Portage la Prairie is that who is going to bear this cost of relocating this large disposal area? Presently it has got to be a regular mountain there and it's building by the day. I just wonder what is going to happen, who is going to be faced with the total cost of it?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, the question of providing means of disposing of municipal waste is, as the member fully knows, a municipal responsibility; has always been and is a responsibility in all municipalities. I might add, whether this particular landfill site, even if it were to present no contaminants or problems in that regard, there is a fact in the municipality and the department, in discussions with that municipality, the municipality is aware that the site was pretty well used to its maximum degree now, at any rate, and there would be necessity to look at alternatives in the near future. Therefore, perhaps this is simply going to force the municipality to proceed to look for alternatives a little bit sooner than they might have otherwise proceeded to do so.

I also want to advise the member that we will, obviously, continue to meet with members of the municipality to help them in any possible way we can with technical assistance in seeking an alternative site.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour now is 4:30 post meridian. The Chairperson is interrupting the proceedings of this Committee for Private Members' Hour. We shall be coming back to this Committee at around 8:00 p.m.

The House having decided to dispense with Private Members' Hour, this committee will resume immediately despite the fact that it is not yet 8:00 p.m.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Mr. Chairman, it seemed to me that you did say around 8:00 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Around.

MR. A. KOVNATS: This is completely acceptable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the wisdom of that statement.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, without knowing it. Well, I tried to correct it, but I shouldn't have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we all realize the importance of our government to either continue to investigate the possible contamination of our sources of water, whether it be Portage la Prairie or Winnipeg or Virden or wherever, I'd like to comment on the fact that our R.M. of Portage la Prairie corrected a nasty situation that developed north of Portage in an area that served the Delta Beach, that's what it did.

There was a well there that served the community and people found it quite handy there to just drop all their garbage as they filled their water buckets.

It got to a point where the municipality moved in on it and they've cleaned the site up and moved the disposal area possibly 5 or 10 miles down the road and it seems to be proving there quite well.

Now, Mr. Chairman, to go back to Portage and their problem. What is the recommendation from the department as to the new type, if there would be a change, what type of disposing of our garbage will they recommend?

HON. G. LECUYER: You're referring to the recommendations in the study report obviously and the recommendation in the report as an alternative, is to start using new landfill sites - establish a new landfill site.

MR. L. HYDE: To establish a new landfill-type of disposal and that will be the most economical system? Or is there another possible solution to it?

HON. G. LECUYER: Well, Mr. Chairman, obviously landfill is not the only method of disposing of waste materials. Probably you're quite right in saying that at least initially it's the most economical. There is technology available to resort to other methods, specifically incineration, which requires the purchase or building of an incinerator capable of doing the job.

Some experimental projects are carried on in this regard and I suppose it would be right to say in many parts of Canada, in fact right here in Manitoba - I stand to be corrected on this - but I understand that there are pilot projects where waste substances are burned to heat buildings and that is especially true in Scandinavian countries. So the technology there is to dispose of waste materials in other ways. On the other hand, even then I would still require some landfill site to dispose of the ashes resulting from such an operation.

So at this particular point in time in Manitoba, when we're talking about a waste management program, we're far from being there. The alternative recommended is probably the one that the municipality of Portage la Prairie will want to look at and that is, of establishing an alternative landfill site.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, it's getting to be a problem, whether it be in Portage la Prairie or in the R.M. of Portage or where it is, to acquire the land that is needed for these. Nobody wants these dumps established. Let's face it. They don't want them established around their communities and it's going to be a problem. I would suggest that when the time comes for the city to have to make that move, where are they going to find a suitable location that will serve their needs for years to come?

Right in our own municipality of the R.M. of Portage la Prairie, we need an additional disposal area southwest in the R.M., at the southwest corner and nobody will give up the land. Nobody wants it and it's going to be a problem. I don't care where they head, they're going to run into that same problem. Nobody wants a disposal dump on their doorstep.

HON. G. LECUYER: I have no doubt in my mind that nobody wants a dump site in his backyard. I don't know

specifically whether the municipality of Portage la Prairie has made provisions for future landfill sites and whether they have acquired land in past years which could be used for that. At the moment, I don't have that kind of information. If the member tells me that they don't, I will accept that and I accept the fact that it's a difficult problem to solve, but it is to serve the needs and the requirements of the people of the R.M., therefore they will have to, through discussions, arrive at that solution within the municipality just like all the other municipalities have to come up with that solution as well.

I, personally, feel that in years to come we will be using other methods of disposing of waste materials besides landfill. I believe that landfill sites are not the end-all answer; they resolve our problems for today but they also present problems in the future. The very example of that is what we know of the landfill site today which was being used many years ago. But the municipality here of Portage la Prairie has, through discussion with the staff from the Environmental Division, been encouraged for, I would say, probably the last 10 years - and the member I believe would be aware of that - there had been discussions started many years ago to start seeking and establishing a new landfill site.

MR. L. HYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm quite aware that the city knew they were being faced with a relocation at some time.

I have one more question, but I don't know whether you'd want to deal with it at this time. I wanted to speak on the disposal of chemical tins and possibly you don't want to deal with it now.

HON. G. LECUYER: Sure.

MR. L. HYDE: That's fine then. The R.M. of Portage la Prairie have established a dump that they are using considerable miles away - it's in the northeast corner of our municipality - and I know very well that it's very inconvenient to a big part of the municipality to see that the chemical tins are disposed at that particular site for the simple reason that it is, I would venture to say, 20 to 30 miles from a good part of the agricultural part of the municipality. That provincial road is not in good shape, as has been suggested to me, and I know for a fact that it isn't.

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if there is a possible chance of establishing suitable disposal areas to serve the needs. I realize these tins must be dealt with because they are a hazard to our health and to all, but I'm quite sure there are probably many thousands of tins that are not being disposed of to the proper area today and it's going to lead to a big problem in the future. We surely need something else, some method to handle this, whether they have a unit for crushing them and disposing them and recycling them or what, I don't know, but it is something that I think we're going to have to deal with.

HON. G. LECUYER: The question of disposing of chemical containers is becoming increasingly a problem to Manitoba inasmuch as chemicals are very much a part of the farming operations today. It is estimated,

for instance, that presently 500,000 pesticide containers are discarded annually in Manitoba. Most of these, 60 percent of these, are 20-litre metal containers. If disposed of unrinsed - in fact, it is suggested that they be rinsed three times - they probably contain a residue of some 50 millilitres to 250 millilitres of chemical. So therefore, when you multiply that by the number of containers, and it's expensive material, there is in itself a loss to the farming operation.

Now we've had as a pilot project started - did it start in 1983 or '82? - starting in 1982 in south-central Manitoba during the summer to collect and to remove the residue from these containers, and to then crush these containers, the residue collected having been carted to Gimli where it was stored until it could be, on a once-a-year basis through contract, disposed of. In fact, as a result of last year's operation - it seems to me I had somewhere the details in terms of the total amount of residue - yes, I believe approximately 29 municipal corporations participated in the program last year, and the Manitoba Agricultural Chemical Container Disposal Committee has been formed to try and refine our operation.

This year, we will carry on with the project. There were approximately 150,000 cans crushed from 68 collection sites in 1983. Of this total, 63 percent of these containers were recycled through scrap dealers once the residue had been removed and the cans had been washed. Sixty-six 205-litre drums of residue were picked up by the Environmental Management Division along with a number of smaller containers which came from various other sources. These, as I indicated, were carried to Gimli where they were stored until disposed of this spring.

We are carrying on with a similar program in 1984, and we expect that there will be an increase from 1982-83; it has increased and we expect that it will increase again in terms of municipal co-operation in this regard, and in terms of the number of containers that will be collected and, I suppose as well, in terms of the amount of residue that will be collected.

The department has been in discussion with the Department of Agriculture and, as well, we have discussed with the chemical organizations, the municipal organizations, the farm organizations have started discussions to see if we cannot develop a program whereby we would eventually have a self-finance system of disposing of these containers. We, as I say, are expecting that we will get some feedback and some suggestions, whether it is through a surcharge on these containers, or whatever other method, we don't know, but this is the type of discussion we have initiated with them and that we will have ongoing with these various groups.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Chairman, we're not through with this, we have a question. I would take it from what the Minister has said that the big problem is of the disposing of that residue in the tins or plastic containers or whatever they are. Is that the biggest problem that you're faced with today? I don't imagine there is any problem with the disposing of the actual metal, there is a demand for it, I would take, but I suppose the big problem lies in the residue.

HON. G. LECUYER: There are two problems associated with that, first of all, that of the container itself which,

in order to make it viable we have to have sufficient co-operation, which we have had increasingly in terms of the number of the containers collected to make it viable as a scrap substance. In that regard, increasingly they are moving toward plastic containers; that will present a new problem.

Of course, there is the other problem of removing the residue from these containers and then disposing of the residue. So there are, of course, as I indicate, two very distinct problems with that operation.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina state his point of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, there are other questions on this topic. If the Minister of Government Services has questions on it, that's fine, but maybe the Minister might want to dispose of this chemical container because I want to come back afterwards and ask a few more questions on it. So it's a matter of convenience to the committee if the Minister wants to finish with a topic or return to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Government Services.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I was going to refer to the problem raised by the Member for Portage in regard to waste disposal in the Portage area, but I can come back to that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: No, no, go ahead. I just didn't want to switch to another topic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.
Mr. Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: If I could, Mr. Chairman, suggest then if the Minister of Government Services would agree, I would prefer that we would continue dealing with that particular question and then move on to the next question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the Minister of Government Services going to talk about disposal problems?

HON. A. ADAM: I'm going to provide information on waste disposal that was raised by the Member for Portage; landfill sites, that's what I was going to talk about. I'm quite amenable to wait, before we leave this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think that the Honourable Minister of Government Services has every bit as much right to provide services here and to provide us with information if he so feels and then when he's finished, I think that the former Honourable Minister of the Environment can also add to the discussion. I think there's been some sort of an agreement between the Minister of Environment and our group now to proceed as quickly as possible.

I think if the information that is going to be provided is of truly important information, then I can't see any reason at all for not allowing the Minister to proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, I have no disagreement with the Member for Niakwa, but the Minister of Government Services has indicated that he wanted to move on to another area. The information he wants to provide is in another area and he has agreed to wait 'til we finish this particular question and then he'll come back to that one if that is agreeable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable?
The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister, what's the analysis on the residue? It's my understanding, and the reason I pose the question is that I triple rinse my cans so that anything that's left in there, I think, would be as close to water as you could get; but there is a problem with the disposal sites in that they're all outdoors and if you throw your cans in there and it's probably a month, maybe two months, before the crushing unit comes along and, in the meantime, if we've had any rain, any of the cans that are sitting upright, rainwater comes in and that's probably the most of your, I shouldn't say, but I suggest that may be a major portion of your residue that's in there. What has been the analysis on the residue that you've collected? Has it been substantial chemical content?

HON. G. LECUYER: The Member for Pembina is obviously an exemplary farmer and in that regard he is doing what should be done to these containers, in that triple rinsing would leave, in essence, a diluted - I wouldn't care to speculate on the percentage, but it would be a very very minimal percentage - chemical residue.

The residue that has been collected, depending where it has been collected and what has been done to it before, in some cases they are rinsing it once and throwing that back into the as part of the chemical in the tank; in other instances, they don't rinse it at all; and some cases they rinse it three times. The tests made show that the residue is anywhere from 10 percent to 90 percent pure residue.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That does indeed present a problem. The point I was making is that if in the majority of cases the containers were rinsed, but yet I suppose the groups that are there disposing of the cans, they can't make a judgment as to whether that's just rainwater so they're going to collect it all. Whatever's in the cans, I assume, is going to be collected. The point I was making is that with outdoor storage, quite often that would be as close to rainwater as you can get, but you're indicating differently and so that does present a problem for disposal, no doubt.

HON. G. LECUYER: The member raises a point that is valid - I'm glad that is being raised - for those containers that are stored outdoors. Perhaps they

should be stored on a slant or stored with some coverage of some kind so that they will not accumulate additional contents through rainwater.

Through the discussions that I've had with some of the chemical producers, as well, I have asked them and we have received their full co-operation in providing additional labelling to the rinsing process. As well, they tell me that every time they meet farming organizations, farming groups, they now make it a point of advising them of the necessity to triple wash these containers to prevent the contaminants to the environment. Also because, from the economical standpoint, it makes sense, because they're just wasting some of the residue they've paid good money for.

MR. D. ORCHARD: There is a - I don't know how large - trend, but no doubt there's a trend to plastic containers; can the plastic containers be burned at a disposal site?

HON. G. LECUYER: From what I am given to understand, Mr. Chairman, plastic containers would have to be burned through an incinerator, otherwise the heat generated is not sufficient to, in actuality, cause the residue material to break down.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That leads to the next question then. The Minister is indicating that he's looking at a self-financing program for chemical can or chemical container disposal. Should that require a deposit or a surcharge per can that the farmer's going to pick up to cover the cost of disposal? Which disposal is more economical, the metal can or the plastic can which must be disposed through incineration? The reason I ask that question is that it might make sense, if the farmer's got to pay a higher cost, say, for incineration, maybe the suppliers might curtail the switch over to plastic containers and stay with metal, if there's going to be a cost to the farmer, to the consumer of the product.

HON. G. LECUYER: I guess we'll have to say to that, for the Member for Pembina, I don't have these answers yet and I think these are valid points that are being raised and points that will have to be taken into consideration when searching for solutions to determine how best to dispose of these containers. The cost factor, I'm sure, will have to be kept in mind, and what kind of a system is going to be implemented, I think it's too early at this time to say.

As I indicated before, we are in the early stages of discussion in this regard. Whether it's a surcharge imposed to the farmer or a deposit, as such, required of the farmer, whether it's required of the industry, either way it will be turned back to the farmer. Now how is it recovered? I guess it would be pure speculation here at this point, but I want to indicate for the member that we're in the early stages of such discussions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Just as a concluding remark. I appreciate the Minister studying this, but I think that would be a valid piece of information that the industry, the supplying industry and the farming industry would really need to know whether the plastic was more expensive to dispose of in an environmentally safe way

versus the metal, because there's no doubt that the plastic container is very convenient. It's a nice container to handle, much nicer to handle than the 20-litre pail. But if there's economics involved, I think the farm community might want to voice their opinion as to which direction they'd like the chemical industry to go.

HON. G. LECUYER: I thank the member for the last suggestion and I'm sure that the members of the committee will take that into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we are done with this line of questioning on that topic, I want to recognize now the Minister of Government Services.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I'll be brief. I want to follow up on the concerns raised by the Member for Portage in problems that the City of Portage will be facing insofar as waste disposal. I think the answer lies in recycling. I think that that is the direction that we will have to develop. The reason why I wanted to make a few comments is that a couple of years ago when I was responsible for the Department of Co-operative Development, information came across my desk from the Province of Ontario, where a co-operative had started a recycling of garbage. It was quite successful in the operation; it did not survive financially.

It was a group of farmers who started a co-op and people were bringing in waste and they were processing it. I don't know what the process was but I know that it was an eight-day cycle, that I recall. And by the time they were through with the cycle, it came out as beautiful loam that they sold back to farmers at \$20 a ton.

I was going to take it upon myself to go down and see that plant when it was operating, but unfortunately it did not survive. But that technology, I believe is there. I think that we will have to move in that direction. There may still be some information in the files somewhere in the Department of Co-operative Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair thanks the Minister. The Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Yes, I'd just like follow up the Minister for Government Service's comments with a couple of comments backing that up and also raising some concerns of where we already have problems in certain dump sites, that the first thing we're going to look at is finding alternative dump sites. I think once you've already proven that trying to dump something into a pit or make a mountain out of it, as they have in Portage la Prairie, you're trying to patch up one problem using the same technology that got you into the trouble in the first place.

Until we, as a society, change our attitudes a little bit toward throwing things away and recognize that - as they say in gold mining - there's gold in them there hills. Well, there's value in that there garbage too. We've got to start looking at recycling and I think that we should start at source separation and start looking at some pilots.

Last year in the fall when I went on my own to Finland and Sweden, this is one of the areas that I was investigating. I went to visit what I believe is the largest incinerating plant in the world in the City of . . . and

they are heating 40 percent of a city of 400,000 people from their garbage. They expressed some concerns that when you're burning garbage and it's not separated and everything goes in together, you don't know what the heck is coming out of the stack. The only thing they're able to monitor is the fly ash, but as far as other chemicals that are created when you are burning - because heat and various chemicals and especially plastics when they're mixed in together - you don't know what you're producing there.

The idea of just setting up and incinerating, instead of incinerating once it has already been separated; once you have biodegradable materials, they can be incinerated and not cause great problems other than fly ash which can be controlled to the environment. So we then have a potential as we're looking at in the City of Winnipeg of converting the old coal fire generating station, the steam plant, over to burning garbage. But I'm a bit concerned that if we just start burning garbage and toss all the garbage in together without some kind of primary separation, we may be causing problems for people downstream of the smokestack.

On a positive note, I'd certainly like to agree with the Member for Pembina in his concern over the pesticide containers moving from metal to plastic, because then we've got two problems. We've got a problem first off with residue that's left inside, plus the problem with the plastic because we don't know how in the heck to get rid of plastic shed. Plastics are one thing that generally do not break down, stick around for a long time and I think in the future, they are going to be the biggest problem that we have in our dump sites.

So anything we can do as a government working alongside the farmers and also the industry itself, to try and retard the movement from metal to plastic containers and get it going in the other direction so that all the pesticides are sold in containers which at least can be recycled once they're cleaned out. You can't do that with the plastics, at least with present technology. Maybe in time we'll be able to address that, but until we can address it, I don't think that we should be moving toward or allowing to move toward more plastics in that area.

I'll just close with this commentary, that I am very pleased to inform the committee, and the Minister is already aware of this, that there are two groups actively working now toward developing recycling projects, one in Brandon which has two students under the Careerstart Program this summer, and under the auspices of the Conserver Action Group in Brandon is doing attitudinal surveys and looking at the practicality of recycling, collecting garbage, separating and separating hopefully at the home location by the consumers themselves, and looking at the feasibility in Brandon toward possibly setting up or seeing what the attitude of the population there is and see if we could start a pilot project in that city.

Also there's a group called RARE here in Winnipeg that is currently developing proposals for a recycling council which would be comprised of people from industry, the consumer groups and the producers of the garbage and the government as well.

I certainly give my encouragement to those groups and to the work they are undertaking, because I feel that the work these volunteer organizations are starting

may well lead to Manitoba being at the forefront in recycling in Canada.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 2.(a)(1) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to deal with Shoal Lake, if I may. The Shoal Lake Environmental Assessment Panel is now holding a 60-day review. They are accepting written briefs from government agencies and anyone else that would like to send them in. What I'd like to know from the Minister is what is the provincial position with regard to the proposed cottage development on Shoal Lake?

HON. G. LECUYER: The provincial position has been stated and restated a number of times in recent days. I want to restate it again, and if necessary I will go into some details, but essentially, when the member asked yesterday in the House, which I thought was rather repetitious and eventually did not stand up to make a further comment; when the member asked, is the province going to support Winnipeg's position, after I had stated a number of times our commitment to the quality of the drinking water for the City of Winnipeg.

I cannot say that we will make a brief that will support the position of the City of Winnipeg per se in every detail. What I will say and commit ourselves to is the same commitment as we've committed ourselves to before to the drinking water of the City of Winnipeg. We will make a presentation to the FEARO hearings and I think it would be presumptuous to say today - I'm not even sure at this point whether we will act as an intervenor or simply there to make a presentation - there will be discussions on that before we reach that point, but there is one thing for sure we will not drop our commitment to the quality of the drinking water to the City of Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, that's all very fine that you've got a commitment to the drinking water of the City of Winnipeg. You said yesterday in question period that you plan to guarantee and stand behind the quality of the water. Well those are motherhood statements unless you can come up with something that's going to back that up. What I would like to know is, what exactly is the province's stand?

If the City of Winnipeg is going to be presenting a brief opposing the road plus the cottage development which indicates that there is going to be more than that. We're talking about 350 cottages; we're talking about possibly condos on there, a trailer park, stores, garages, there's a lot of development and that brings a lot of people, a lot of motorboat activity onto the lake.

What I want to know is just where the province is going to be standing? Are they going to be behind the City of Winnipeg, or are they going to be somewhere else? In other words, are you with them, or are you agin' them?

HON. G. LECUYER: In the end the member is saying, are you with or are you against the City of Winnipeg.

The member is lumping it all together, waste disposal, cottage development, road access, and they're not all the same issue.

Whether we're talking about a solution which involves cottage development or no cottage development, then that affects road access and that affects waste disposal, so as I say, we would have to see also what is the position of Winnipeg in that regard. But I have to say to the member that there are ongoing negotiations. We've said that before. There is another meeting that is taking place next week.

If the member is asking me, what is going to be the detail of our presentation at these hearings, I'm not about to answer that question. If the member is saying, are you agreeing to road access, we have not done that in the past. We have indicated that we will, as not the lead level in these negotiations because, after all, we are talking about the Indian Reserve No. 40 which comes under federal jurisdictions and we're talking about the source of water for the City of Winnipeg. Therefore, the way I see it, the lead parties into these negotiations are the three that I have just mentioned.

We have indicated all along that we will act in a supportive way and co-operate with these other levels of government in resolving this issue - and when I say this issue there are many issues in that one issue - to the satisfaction or to the guarantee of the quality of water for the City of Winnipeg.

This issue goes way back, and I have the records here. If the member insists, I will go into some of these records and indicate what was the position of the previous administration in this regard, and will also outline through some of the correspondence between the parties involved in very specific and detailed terms, the position of the province in standing behind the guarantee that I have repeated a number of times, which is the protection of the quality of the water for the City of Winnipeg.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the Minister in favour or not in favour of the cottage development?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, I think that the member is, all of a sudden, going to a different topic. If the cottage development were to be shown through the hearings to be to the satisfaction of the City of Winnipeg - and I want to indicate to the member that there is on record in a meeting that occurred on February 5, 1979, an agreement by the province, by the City of Winnipeg to cottage development provided certain conditions were met - and if the City of Winnipeg were to say the cottage development, we are satisfied that based on certain conditions, based on the fact that a certain stretch of the beachline is not going to be developed, with that kind of guarantee and the satisfaction of all parties involved through the hearings, that kind of development is another question.

What kind of development are we referring to? That is a matter to be again determined and at this point in time it is not clearly established in these negotiations that have been taking place. Specifically, what is the development?

If the City of Winnipeg were to indicate in the long term that they can live with a certain development and in their estimation, not put in danger the quality of the

water for the City of Winnipeg, why would we say that we disagree when we've said in the first instance that what we want is the protection of the quality of the water?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time being 5:30, we are interrupting the proceedings of this committee. We shall return at around, on or before 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Health. Does the Minister have an opening statement?

The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 1984-85 Spending Estimates for the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. As Minister responsible for Sport, I would also present Estimates for our sports programs and we'll certainly be discussing, and I'll be ready to answer any questions on the Lotteries and the changes that are made.

It is my intention, at this time, to provide only a very brief summary of our plans for this fiscal year. Later, when we debate the Estimates, I will provide a more detailed explanation on the programs and organizations for which I am responsible as we go along.

I certainly would not want to miss this opportunity, of course, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate all the staff, I think we have an excellent staff. I certainly can't start naming everybody in the department, but starting with the Deputy Minister, Mr. Edwards, and with the department proper, the three ADM's who work very closely with him - Mr. Frank Maynard, Dr. Wilt, and Mr. Don McLean; and also Don Stone, the Director of Sports; and at the Commission there is Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. DeCock who are the two Associate Executive Directors and we work very closely as a team.

Mr. Ross Ramsey also is a new . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. There are a large number of private conversations being engaged in by members. I would appreciate it if they could pay more attention to the Minister.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was saying that Mr. Ramsey is a recent appointment to the Executive Director of the Alcoholic Foundation also and he's working very well.

I think, all in all, that we had a very successful year and we're looking forward to another one. This is due, as I say, to the excellent staff that I have with me.

I wish also to express my thanks and gratitude to all the health workers in Manitoba's hospitals and personal care homes, to the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine and the Physicians of Manitoba with whom we enjoy close co-operation and very good relations; to all those who work for the health of Manitobans in public, private and voluntary organizations; and most particularly to the many

volunteers who support our programs with such energy and devotion.

Our overall Budget this year, Mr. Chairman, for Health Services is \$1.1 billion. We're presenting an increase of nearly 6 percent over '83-84 and this . . . is approximately one-third of the total Provincial Budget. Since health care absorbs so large a share of our provincial resources, strategies to contain costs have been major considerations in developing our Estimates in view of the need to effectively manage the provincial deficit.

Nevertheless, because this government is firmly committed to the preservation of quality health care, Manitobans will continue to receive services at existing levels, as well as benefit from the introduction of several new initiatives to further enhance health care in the province.

We will be asking this Committee to approve an overall increase in our hospital program. Most of this increase is required to maintain our high standards of hospital care, support essential programs and protect jobs. The rest is for necessary new equipment.

In view of the need to expand intensive care services in rural Manitoba, a special clinical and theoretical training program to prepare nurses for intensive care duty will be initiated. Presently, the majority of our health care resources are channelled into our hospital system. In view of our continuing tight economy, we must learn to use our resources more efficiently. Indeed, we are faced with the dual challenge of controlling escalating costs while, at the same time, striving to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care. We believe the answer to this lies in providing increased integration of institutional treatment-oriented services with community-based preventative programs.

Moreover, many of those currently occupying beds in our hospitals are receiving medical treatment for disease and injury brought on by lifestyle-related factors. Lifestyle-related health problems, such as, cardiovascular disease are preventable.

Preventative programming offers long-range benefits to health and quality of life, as well as reductions in health care costs. Developing a shift in the fiscal emphasis from a treatment to a preventative orientation is necessary to improve our effectiveness and efficiency in health care.

I think you will agree, Mr. Chairman, the most efficient and most effective health care is the avoidance of disease and prevention of injury and disability. In spite of restricted resources, we have been able to establish new preventative thrusts achieved through the reallocation of funds from existing programs. Many of these new preventative services will be co-ordinated by the recently developed Health Promotion Directorate. I'm proud to say that this Directorate was established at no additional cost to government through a redeployment of human and fiscal resources. Successful health promotion efforts to effect healthful living habits through education and counselling will in the long run reduce disease prevalence and the demand for costly health services.

New initiatives are presently targeted at specific high-risk groups, as well as to pregnant women, children and adolescents because of the value of securing the early development of healthy behaviour. Specific details of programs to be launched will be provided later during the debate.

To more effectively meet our goal of promoting optimum maternal and child health in the province, funds have been redirected through closure of the obstetrical units at Concordia and Seven Oaks to initiate new programs aimed at reducing risk factors that contribute to fetal morbidity and mortality. The responsibility for co-ordinating and monitoring these new activities will rest with the Maternal and Child Health Directorate.

I am pleased to report that our efforts to improve program planning in this area through the consolidation of all maternal and child health services under one Directorate in the early part of 1983-84 has been very successful. Equal credit for developing the new initiatives must also go to the Child Health Advisory Committee which I established in April of last year.

The Advisory Committee was also instrumental in assisting in the development of a Reproductive Health Promotion Program to be delivered in the current year which had been announced previously.

We are requesting funds of \$1.1 million to provide for new initiatives in this area. Once again, I'll provide detailed information on both the Enriched Perinatal Program and Reproductive Health Thrust at a later point in the Estimates discussion.

With our elderly population climbing steadily the increased emphasis on programs designed to maintain the health and independent functioning of seniors in the community is particularly appropriate. To better illustrate this fact let me present the following statistics: in 1976, 10.1 percent of Manitoba's population was over 65; by 1981 an estimated 11.8 of our population fell within this category. More recent figures placed the number of persons 65 and over at 12.1 percent. It is predicted by the year 2031 that Manitobans over the age of 65 will comprise almost one-quarter of the population.

To infuse greater strength into gerontological programming over \$600,000 has been injected into this area. These funds will be used to develop a number of needed resources for both seniors and the young disabled to assist them in living independently in the community. Details will follow later.

It is the desire of this government to provide universal dental care to all children within the province. You will be asked to approve an additional \$1 million to provide for expansion of the Children's Dental Program.

A number of major health issues are being examined by our Research and Planning Directorate which, as you are aware, is currently undertaking a health services review with the support of the Dean of Medicine and all the institutions in our hospital system.

The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, in addition to continuing its programs of education, prevention and intervention, is expanding its Impaired Drivers Program for Second Offenders. The Attorney-General's Department has recommended that this program, conducted in co-operation with the Motor Vehicles Branch, will be expanded to cover first offenders in all areas of the province.

During 1983-84, the Department of Fitness, Recreation and Sport was reorganized. Fitness was transferred to the Department of Health; Recreation has been incorporated into Culture, Heritage and Recreation under the Honourable Eugene Kostyra.

The Sport Directorate remains in my Ministry, and continues to maintain a strong relationship with

provincial and regional sport associations and the Manitoba Sports Federation to promote sport and the training of athletes, coaches and officials.

I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to remind the members of this committee that this year we can all take pride in Manitoba's athletes. Manitoba won five Canadian curling championships and one world title this year, and that's only in the one sport. No province has so distinguished itself in Canadian sports history and I am sure I speak for all of us when I express my pleasure and repeat my congratulations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

Before I give a chance to the Member for Fort Garry, I would like to inform the members and remind the member that I have given him a list of staff as I do usually, and also of the grants compared to last year. If there is anything else that I could provide him with at any time, I'll be pleased to do it.

When we start the Manitoba Health Services Commission - that will be at the end of the department — (Interjection) — yes, immediately before anything else - I intend to introduce the capital program and pass on the document to all the members of the House.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to participate once again in the spending Estimates of the Department of Health, the department whose activities embrace a field of service that I certainly am keenly interested in and hope to be always in a position to serve.

I want to congratulate the Minister on his opening statement and on the manner in which he is discharging his responsibilities at the head of this very important department so concerned with the very welfare, the very well-being of Manitoba society itself.

At the same time, I want to congratulate him on his good fortune in being served and supported by the staff that he has in the Department of Health and by the health care professionals and workers throughout Manitoba who contribute of their time and their energy and their dedication in this field. I think probably no Minister in Manitoba in any administration under any political stripe is better served than is the Minister of Health. That Minister has at his or her command, as the case may be, as a base of support for himself an army of dedicated, committed professional and occupational personnel at the departmental level, at the Manitoba Health Services Commission level, at the agency level, at the Alcoholism Foundation level and at the service and operational level in the field itself, in our hospitals, in our clinics, in our medical offices, in our professional organizations, in our community field operations, in our whole spectrum of nursing care, in our auxiliary health services field that is without equal in this country.

The Minister therefore, can take great pride and satisfaction in the kind of backup that he receives, and I know he does, and as Chief Health Critic for the opposition I want to add my words of compliment and salutation to those personnel, those men and women who number in the thousands and who serve in this

crucially important field and who serve us all so well. I offer my thanks to them, as the Minister does his.

I am intrigued and impressed, Mr. Chairman, by the references in the Minister's opening statement to three fields of activity and commitment. In particular, one is that field of initiatives in maternal and child health care of which he has spoken. One is his announcement that he and his colleagues are intending to move into a universal concept of children's dental health care. The third is his reference to gerontology, the science of geriatrics, the kind of work and effort and commitment we have to make to reinforcing, expanding and strengthening our services to our elderly population and our interest in our elderly population.

If we are not keenly attuned to all the changes demographically that are occurring in our society, chief among them being the growth of the senior citizen component, we will be left far far behind in a very short period of time, Mr. Chairman, when it comes to delivering and maintaining those services that are calculated, not only to serve the ill but more importantly, to maintain in good health our population as it enjoys good health and as it exists.

If we do not work to ensure that we are committed to health and to the maintenance of health and not merely to the repair of illness; if we do not work to ensure that we are committed to very strong preventive medicine programs, we will find that our whole system collapses, indeed our whole society will collapse. Therefore I want to offer my assurance, Sir, that the field of gerontology and initiatives undertaken in expanding our capability and our facilities in that field represent an area of activity that certainly enjoy and will continue to enjoy my keen interest and support.

I await therefore, with interest and expectation some fuller detail from the Minister as we move through the Estimates in these areas of initiative and activity in particular, maternal and child health, children's dental health, gerontology and gerontological services.

Of course, it goes without saying that my colleagues and I and Manitobans generally await expectantly the release of the Minister's capital program for 1984-85. There are many communities, many sectors and components of our population anxiously awaiting announcements of capital funding for much needed programs in the area of health care facility construction and health care programming innovation, ensured medical services and the like; and certainly the kinds of things that the Minister has talked about in terms of gerontology cannot be undertaken very successfully in my view without some fairly significant capital commitments.

We are not interested in nor will my colleagues and I be pleading for additional commitments of any vast or sizable nature in terms of the building of old-style, conventional-style hospital structures, but we do see in the needs that have to be served and in modern-day medicine, in modern-day preventive medicine, in modern-day health care, the need for facilities that are designed specifically to maintain the well-being of our elderly population and those facilities and the programs that go with them and the personnel that go with them, must be put in place.

The day hospital concept is one that I have long favoured. The Minister and I have frequently discussed that technique, that type of facility. We are fortunate

in having a very valuable and I think, a very worthwhile day hospital functioning on a full-time basis now at the Municipal Hospitals Campus here in Winnipeg, but that's merely the forerunner of other facilities of that type that have to come. Those facilities have to be built and therefore, Sir, we're looking always in this field at capital spending. It's a challenge and a responsibility that we cannot avoid, so we look with interest and expectation for the Minister's announcement of his Capital Program later on in the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, let me take just a moment to say that, notwithstanding my foregoing remarks, I want to place on the record the deep concern felt by many Manitobans for the condition of our health care system in Manitoba today. I think that this Minister, the Minister of Health in Manitoba, faces one of the major political, legislative challenges faced by any public servant in the country.

Indeed, it's probably no greater than the challenge faced by his counterparts in other provinces, but every Health Minister in Canada faces staggering challenges today in terms of keeping up with the pressures and the demands on the system and the need to reform the system in his or her province; but I think the challenge is exacerbated somewhat for the Minister in Manitoba by virtue of the fact that many components of the system here, many parts of it are beginning to show signs of serious wear and tear, serious degeneration, serious deterioration and that deterioration and degeneration is reflecting itself in a growing list of complaints and criticisms coming forth from various members of the public and from various representatives of the health professions and occupations themselves.

I don't need to remind you, Mr. Chairman, or other members of the committee, of the series that was published in the Winnipeg Free Press last winter entitled, "Crisis in Health Care, Crisis in Our Hospitals" which purported to reveal very serious breakdowns in our hospital system in Manitoba, particularly in Winnipeg, very serious crowding and over-crowding pressures, very serious and lengthy waiting lists for medical and hospital attention that reflected a challenge of proportions in health care for this Health Minister in Manitoba far exceeding anything we've seen in Manitoba for the past decade or more.

I don't know of any time in Manitoba's current history when there have been so many reports and commentaries on difficulties and problems and crises of minor and major nature in the health care system as has occurred, not only through the media, but as I say, from the public and from many health care professionals as has been the case in this past year. Now that is attributable to many things, not the least of them being the fact that we have in Manitoba, as elsewhere, suffered a severe cutback in terms of transfer payments, in terms of financing of health care services and programs, from the Federal Government.

We have been left high and dry with challenges and commitments in funding and financing that we never expected or anticipated in years past. We have put in place major programs and facilities and found that because of political, economic and other pressures, the Federal Government has cut back sharply and told us we have to pick up the slack ourselves and, in many cases, go it alone. For a province like Manitoba, that's very difficult.

There are also other reasons why we are having those problems in facing that challenge, Mr. Chairman, however and I think one of them is the fact that our Ministry of Health here, our Department of Health, has not kept pace in an anticipatory way with the kinds of problems that are developing, modern day, in health care.

I think, too, that all Provincial Health Ministers in Canada have a much stronger responsibility that they must meet to go, cajole and pressure the national Minister of Health and Welfare, the Federal Minister and the Federal Department into designing and implementing some forms of leadership that help lift the health care system in Canada for all provinces and the country as a whole out of its outmoded form and into a form that can serve and meet modern-day needs, the needs of the 1980s, the 1990s and the 21st Century, which is only 15 years away.

That kind of leadership has not been offered by the Federal Government, in my view. Therefore it must come from the Provincial Health Ministers and I'm not at all satisfied that there has been any cohesive attempt at providing that leadership. As a consequence, we are operating with a health care system and structure that in many way is badly outmoded, terribly costly and carries with it a financial and fiscal burden that we can't escape. It's built in and it increases through cost-price pressures every year in an automatic way and the Minister and the administration are in no position to walk away from it.

They have to meet the commitments; they have to meet the responsibilities in a locked-in-type of system that is still based on conventional attitudes of many decades ago. We've got to make attitudinal breakthroughs. We have got to make professional and occupational breakthroughs and we have certainly got to make breakthrough in terms of design of programs and facilities if we are going to be able to modernize our system, and we're going to have to modernize it if we're going to save it.

I wish to note, for the record, and for the information of the Minister, Mr. Chairman, if he's not already aware, that these considerations, these concerns are very much a part of my area of activity, in terms of health care legislation, and are continually being brought to my attention by health care consumers and health care professionals; and I would not want an opening exchange between us, going into the Estimates for 1984-85, to be concluded without such references.

The kinds of things the Minister is talking about, in terms of new initiatives, are very welcome. The kinds of support, the kinds of reinforcement and assistance that he gets from health care professionals and health care workers throughout this province are probably without equal, but over and above all that he faces a system that is in question. He faces a system, the consumers of which are now suffering from extreme anxiety. He faces a system which no longer offers the guaranteed security to Manitobans that it once did; and this is one of the biggest problems and challenges of all.

He has got to, his government has got to, and we as legislators have got to help restore faith and confidence in the health care system. Many citizens have lost that faith and confidence in that system. They've lost faith and confidence in certain components

of it, whether it's the hospital component or a particular hospital within that category, whether it's the insured program spectrum, whether it's the community level of delivery, whether it's the field of mental health care and psychiatric services, whatever. Many of those components and categories have encountered so many problems in the last little while that citizens have lost their faith and confidence in them and we have a major job to do and the Minister has a major job to do in restoring that faith and confidence.

He has got to resolve enormous problems at the Health Sciences Centre, Mr. Chairman. He's faced with demonstrated, documented incident reports from nurses from the Manitoba Organization of Nurses Associations indicating that there is a high level of insecurity and a high level of danger with respect to some of the staffing conditions in major hospitals in this province, particularly nursing staffing conditions. He faces, in my view, a totally inadequate Canada Health Act which could have addressed the major challenge facing our system, that is the need to modernize it and reform it, and instead concentrated almost entirely on a couple of minor preoccupations.

He faces very serious shortages in the field of mental health services. Problems for people who require, not only psychiatric beds, but who require psychiatric counselling and treatment. He faces serious problems in children's psychiatric services, through the Child Guidance Clinic and the school divisions where troubled children, disturbed children are being short-changed through a shortage of child psychiatrists and availability of programs to deliver children's mental health.

He faces the very important challenge of maintaining funding for health and medical research. That's a very difficult thing to do at the best of times, much less in times of economic and in fiscal constraint.

So, Mr. Chairman, we go into the 1984-85 Estimates in health care acknowledging the kinds of support and commitment that the Minister of Health for Manitoba gets from his personnel in his department and in the field, but let us not forget for an instant, the fact that there are problems attacking our health care system, eating at it insidiously from inside and from outside that are threatening to bring certain components of it into disrepair, that are threatening to break certain components of it. We say to the Minister that his primary challenge in his '84-'85 program is to reinforce those segments and components that are under attack that have started to deteriorate and to rebuild public confidence throughout the system.

We'll be looking forward to his initiatives and his announcements aimed at achieving that objective as we move through the line-by-line review of the Estimates themselves.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Minister like to bring in his staff?

Item 1.(b) Executive Support—pass; 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass. Item 1.(c) Research and Planning - Item 1—pass.

1.(c)(2) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, a question on this point. I'd like to know from the Minister what is being

done in terms of long-term research and planning. There have been many attempts made in the past to put together a capability in the department to look ahead 3, 5, 7 and 10 years and to develop a long-term plan. I presume that comes under the category of Research and Planning that we're looking at at the present time; could the Minister advise the committee what progress if any has been made in this area?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The different projects are so numerous I won't try to mention them all, but I'd like to mention a few of them.

The mental health services that I mentioned last year, this is pretty well finished but there were a lot of people that wanted to make recommendations because there was only the expert working and I think it was 13 committees or so, different sub-committees. I established a Health Services Review Committee to give everybody a chance and that was chaired by the Deputy Minister. That's pretty well finished. I'm getting the final recommendation now and we haven't gone as far as we would have like to have gone this year but we are moving in this direction. We have done and I will announce different things like some of the things that will be done in Selkirk and Brandon and some of the things in Winnipeg. But there should be announcement of what the government, his response to the recommendation because after all this has been a recommendation of this committee and that was known as the Pascoe Committee, it was Chaired by Mr. Pascoe, our Director of Research and Planning.

Then there has been an early discharge program that was tried in St. Boniface, there was a lot of talk on that. I think the press at one time talked about the reason for that was to force people out because of the closure of the obstetrics department in some hospitals, it wasn't related to that at all, it was something initiated by the commission before that and it is working well. It's not a compulsory thing. It depends on the mother and the physician. So that will be - I expect completion sometime in July of this evaluation.

The health power planning is probably one of the most important ones. We've had different think tanks during the year. We've discussed with many people, we've established a better rapport than we've ever had. For instance, this is what I was saying in my opening remarks with the university and especially the new Dean of Medicine who has been very very helpful and there's a very good relationship with him, with the College of Physicians also and also with the nurses, because I'm sure that we'll have a chance to respond to some of the statements that my honourable friend made during his opening remarks and many of them I concur with. Not all of them, but I concur with many of them and I think one of the things we have to look at is exactly what I like the best on that, that yes, it's a hell of a challenge. Then we have to look at some reform. I think that's the important thing.

In the reform, we'll have to look at the delivery and not necessarily to pay the highest premium for that. It might be that the nurses have more of a role to play so we are working very closely with the nurses also. There will a different committee. There'll be a meeting with the senior staff on that and Mr. Pascoe's staff - I think it's next week sometime or about 10 days or

so to discuss about the whole review committee and sub-committees that we're going to set up working with different groups on that and the hospitals, they're also - well as I stay study the effect of delivery of health services. The main thing is an adequate supply and distribution of health professionals. We're trying again a very difficult thing, at the request of the MMA which is more the union, if I might use that word. The union part of the medical profession in the discussion of the - now that there will not be - and we'll cover that later on - there will not be any extra billing. Eventually that will be prohibited in Manitoba, that we'll have to look at the best possible and the fairest way to pay for the services of these professionals and others. We might incorporate others in that also. Also the use of the beds and the different beds, the length of stay in beds, all these things are going on exactly to try to meet that challenge which is a frightening thing when you look at it.

In addition, it's involving, as I say, utilization of physician services. We are discussing with that the geriatric day hospitals, the cost and so on of personal care homes, many different programs. I am just looking to mention some of the - all right, I'll mention and if my honourable friends wants a little more information.

But the Medical Manpower Study, that should be complete in August, 1984. Now I'm mentioning some of the programs that we have had. The Bed Study, this is in progress, community clinics - also we're having another look at the community clinics. Also to go back to what my honourable friend said, not to stay just with the old model but to involve the community with the hospitals, I personally cannot see that I have to sell the Cabinet and so on. I can't see that we can work independently and say, all right, this is the hospital. This is community health. I think they have to work together, and I think we have to probably make some recommendation to Cabinet to enlarge different boards and so on to have the people working for the community for the total health of their citizens, because it is no longer enough now to talk about Medicare and hospitalization. There is so much more. I think that has to be part of the reform that we make.

The day hospitals, as was mentioned, there is a demonstration project which will be completed in September, 1984. The Health Services Review Committee, a review and evaluation of health services in Manitoba, should be complete in November of 1984. Mental Health Review, well that report compiled and, as I already covered this, we should have a statement at least for the next time around if I'm still Minister. I am talking about next year. I'm not talking about after the next election.

The review of systems employed in the Winnipeg hospitals for the degrees of illness, patient, this is also in progress. The Post-Partum Early Discharge Program that I mentioned already and the Grace Hospital Long-Term Psychiatric Unit - that's an evaluation of the effectiveness of this long-term treatment program, and that's a long-term study that is in progress. The Northern Patient Transportation Program, I will have an announcement to make on that when we reach that item at the Commission's Estimates, and the Bone Marrow Transplant also and all the situation with the cancer care at the Health Sciences Centre which, I think, leaves a lot to be desired and has to be looked at very seriously.

Those are some of them, I think with the staff that we have, this is a department that is very busy, and that is, I think, probably the focus of all the important decisions that we will make. Because if there is going to be any reform, you have to research, evaluate programs that are there, and also develop the programs. That's what we're doing at the present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(2) - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, under Research and Planning, whether his staff in the past year have had the opportunity of looking into the possibility of, when they're looking at personal care homes and home care and the like, whether there's been any effort directed to some form of health care into elderly persons' housing projects. I discussed this last year, I believe, in the Estimates, and the Minister said that there was a concern. They hadn't looked at it at that point. I'm wondering if there is anywhere in the Research and Planning where this aspect has been looked at.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is always difficult in a department such as this to do this in an orderly fashion and not to be repetitious. I wonder if we could cover that when we come to the personal care homes and so on, deal with that item, because we could cover the whole department under Research and Planning if everything was done. I was trying to answer some of the things so, if my honourable friend doesn't mind, under personal care homes we could talk about all the services to the aged population, if he doesn't mind.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Fine.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: My question is regarding an evaluation. Is most of the evaluation in-house evaluation and is it an ongoing team, or have you been getting anybody in from the outside to evaluate certain portions of the system during the year?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is in the department a very important department of Research and Planning and doing evaluation. They co-ordinate and they work with the committees, but we've tried - there is no point in just acquiring people to do that when you have got people in the system. When I say the system, I don't necessarily mean in-house, as I think my honourable friend meant, of just our staff.

We go out and we have had these think tanks, as I said and mentioned, and seen different people. For instance, let me give you an example, and I think that will cover it. In the Mental Health Review, we went out and talked to the people and involved them in sub-committees, chairing sub-committees. It's not all a put-up job by the department. Those that are really concerned are part of the study, the experts that is, those that have something to offer. They will chair different committees. Like we have the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Manitoba Division and all

these different groups, the Society of Seniors it might be and the Council on Aging and all these different groups. So we put everybody to work, or different doctors or specialists on that and the nursing profession, the university. They're all in there.

If that isn't enough, well then we will go out and hire consultants. For instance, we have a contract with Dr. Evans. He is not a medical doctor. I think you've probably heard of him. He is one of the best-known health economists in the country or in North America. So it's certainly not just in-house, but the initiative and the responsibility to get this thing going, get people together, that is done by Mr. Pascoe's team.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Items 1.(c)(2) to 1.(j)(1) were each read and passed.

1.(j)(2) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister what is being done to prepare staff in the department for the changes that are taking place for the continual modernization and streamlining of the department that is required or that will be required to meet the modernization and streamlining of health care programming generally. Obviously, there are continuing programs of evaluation, personnel evaluation that go on within a department. There is continuing education and upgrading that is required or desirable if not necessary.

Jobs and categories of jobs are always in a state of potential flux. That is, they can be phased in and phased out depending on the type of emphasis being put on certain approaches and certain programming concepts by the department itself. This means that personnel are always, of course, subject to some changes, some adjustments of their position and their responsibilities. It also means that personnel have to be equipped to meet new demands and challenges that the department is going to be facing in the years ahead. Those conditions can be very traumatic for individual personnel themselves. What activities or responsibilities are being carried out by this division of the department to prepare personnel for adjustment to new responsibilities to protect them against becoming obsolete and to train them for the new jobs that they are going to be expected to do?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The planning and implementing of staff development for the Department of Health, of course, is the responsibility of this Human Resource Development Unit.

During 1983-84, an exhaustive training-needs assessment was conducted within all programs and operational areas of the department. Using the results of this assessment, a comprehensive and integrated Human Resource Development system for the department is now under development. The system currently provides for planned, co-ordinated delivery of staff development programs and the secretarial skills and effective supervision.

Based on identified needs, a special 10-module program in management and supervisory skills development is now being implemented. The 30 managers and supervisors are scheduled to receive this training as part of the program. Professional

development activities are being integrated into the Human Resource Development system with annual plans submitted to the Human Resource Review Committee consisting of divisional Assistant Deputy Ministers.

The Human Resource Development Unit continues to provide program consultation and program development services to the department and to work with the educational institutions to assist them in meeting their departmental needs. The unit also continues to provide educational consultation to the departmental staff on available educational resources.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(j)(2)—pass; 2.(a)(1) Community Health Programs—pass; 2.(a)(2)—pass.

2.(b)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I am not sure whether I should be up on 2.(b)(1) or 2.(b)(2), Mr. Chairman. I might as well deal with it under Salaries, 2.(b)(1).

My first question to the Minister on this area of Communicable Disease Control would be a question as to where we stand with respect to the campaign against Western Equine Encephalitis. I note that in recent days in response to studies that have been conducted by the Clean Environment Commission and others, and the department itself, there has been an inclination on the part of the media, at least, to draw the inference that the Minister and the department have, for all intents and purposes, abandoned the idea of aerial spraying in the future as a defence of the public and the populus against the threat of Western Equine Encephalitis in a health emergency situation.

Some years ago, during the last few months of the administration to which I had the honour to belong, we had, I think, Sir, designated \$100,000, which was not a great sum, to be sure, but it was seed money, to start the search for some better way of fighting the vector mosquito and preventing public health emergencies in the area of encephalitis, some better way of doing it than through aerial spraying. I know that program was subsequently abandoned by the present government, the intention to spend \$100,000, or any sum similar to that, to search for some other kind of solution, whether it be biological or whatever, was abandoned.

I would like to have a report from the Minister as to where we go from here and whether there is any money, and there doesn't appear to be any in there for developing a better attack on encephalitis than we have had heretofore. The overall budget is down by almost \$100,000 - \$86,000 - so it wouldn't appear to me, Sir, as though we are going to be spending any money to fight the threat. Perhaps that's not the proper way of putting it, but it doesn't appear to me as though we are going to spending any money to find a better way to fight the threat, and I wonder if the Minister can comment on that.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I would be glad to. I want to say that I will try to have a little more information, but there has been a statement in the House made by myself and the Minister of the Environment on that. It's not a question that all a sudden we are turning completely around. I think that when this happened

last year, it's the same as in the days when my honourable friend was the Minister responsible, it was an emergency and there was very little time to lose. At a time of an emergency, it seems that money is no object and there is a lot of money being spent. So that was done.

But this year we did, if you remember, I think we co-ordinated - or last year, I should say - all our efforts, the three departments. My responsibility was the health care and the main responsibility to see if a state of emergency should exist and then the best way to fight it and the chemical that should be used has been the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment. When that is determined, of course, the Minister of Government Services has the responsibility to see, especially once we decided that there would aerial spraying, that this would be done. Now this is done together; it's not as complicated as it seems because we work as a committee.

We set up the mechanism to get much more information at the time. There wasn't that much. There was a committee that was functioning, a committee that reports to me, and they made certain recommendations. Then there was an independent committee of experts also. The main changes that we are going to have is that committee, as such, the Arbovirus Surveillance Committee, which did very fine work in preparing that, making the recommendation, will be replaced more by, in that capacity, as individual specialists in certain areas as I mentioned in this statement that I made previously. Then there will be a committee of major senior personnel representing the departments that I mentioned, including Agriculture also, and then the Minister. There will also be a sub-committee of Cabinet with the Ministers. I will chair that sub-committee that will be responsible for that.

What we did, there is no doubt that we looked at the whole thing. When my honourable friend mentioned a while ago about reforming and looking at the situation, I think that was part of the challenge that he was giving me and he was addressing to me. When we looked at the different diseases, for instance, and different killers in the diseases - cardiovascular or cancer and so on - and the money spent on it, we saw the exorbitant cost that was just for the target area that we were obtaining. I think it scared you and it made us realize then that we could no longer say well, okay we're not even sure this is a great thing but money is no object, \$3 million or \$4 million, and then I have to fight with my colleagues in Cabinet or in the House and so on to have maybe \$100,000 or \$200,000 to improve the cancer or the cardiac surgery department and so on. So I think we have to look at the overall thing.

Then the experts, and I want to assure the members that I certainly don't consider myself as an expert, but I might say, if I am going to be completely honest, that last year, if we were going to categorize the people that favour spraying and those that didn't, I was probably one of the leaders of those that were saying that you should spray. If there is any doubt when you are talking about a life and so on, you want to protect, but then to realize that that might be the other side of it, even the experts themselves will never agree, I would imagine. Well, there always will be some that won't agree.

The committee and the work that was done, and I am not talking about people that if I mentioned the

name I am sure that my honourable friend from Fort Garry will realize - the people that work in there - I'm talking about Dr. Jack Wilt, for instance, who is certainly one of our best experts in the hospital, they prepare this information for us and show us what we were spending and showing us that. Those were factual things, with the work, the study and all the information that had been accumulated and the work of that committee. Sure, there was very little, a very small percentage of people that we were attaining because it was starting and then you were maybe protecting a few for about five or six days, and for the amount of money and then for the percentage you might have protected - how many of those would be sick? For instance, you might have 20 percent and so on for five days and how many of them, with the percentage, there would be six; so it came that it was very very unclear what was being done and in fact were we doing anything at all, so we switched the priorities.

The first priority, which always was, as I'm sure in the days of my honourable friend, but we want to start earlier, not wait until there's something because you can repeat it, you can advertise on TV or the newspaper. There's always somebody that doesn't care, but education, because the most important thing is if the people are careful. Our expert tells us if our people are careful, not to go out of doors in the worst time, more than they have to, to cover their arms, to use some spray and so on, that this would be one of the best ways.

By the way, the funds will be as we need them, will be passed by the Cabinet and for the research - before I forget this - that was the main question. For the research there may be a vaccine or something, I think that's what my honourable friend had started and I think that is a good thing. That's not going to stop. That is done in a great area within the department of my colleague from the Environment, but the education, as far as our department is concerned, is the education.

We haven't ruled out, we haven't said that we would never spray, but we'll have to be convinced and we'll have to wait and see because we should never - I don't think it would be right to say "never," because never is a long time.

Another thing that we would want to do also is instead of waiting in panic - I don't know if I should say panicking - but declaring an emergency every two or three, or every three, four or five years and spending \$3 million or \$4 million to try to spread that around and start to improve the situation by larviciding every year, if at all possible, and that is something that we're going to develop and work with, to try to do that, to clean the backyards, to fill holes and all that, to work in that direction and spend a certain amount of money every year.

I don't know if I was clear enough. The thing is not completely about turn. Personally, I might say that the committee was unanimous in their recommendations that they made, including Dr. Wilt, who himself last year was certainly not adverse to spraying, but they looked at the charts and they had charts. Some day I'd like to share that information with my honourable friend because I know he is interested in that and to show the charts that were prepared, to show the money that was spent, as I say, for cardiovascular disease and cancer and so on and then for the target population that we are getting now.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Some of the money that has been earmarked for health promotion, and I think there is an increase in that funding - yes, there is. We're not there yet, Mr. Chairman, but will some of that be earmarked for preventive programs where the encephalitis threat is concerned?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I understand that the funds will be dealt separately on request, but there is a certain amount of money, depending on the situation. For instance, there's \$50,000 earmarked for the education that I mentioned before, and I know there's money for larviciding and so on in the department of my honourable friend who is probably on next door.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister where we stand on mandatory immunization programs for certain communicable diseases such as measles, in particular?

I really am asking for him to refresh my memory and my own knowledge on this point. Do we have in place at the present time, now in Manitoba, a program that requires children to be immunized against measles when they enter the school stream, when they start going to school? That had been a subject of some considerable interest and some considerable debate for many years, as the Minister knows. Certainly there were jurisdictions in North America that had implemented that kind of compulsory immunization program.

There had been others, including Manitoba, that resisted it for various reasons for some considerable time. Do I recollect correctly that we now have that kind of a mandatory program in place in Manitoba or, if not in Manitoba, in Winnipeg?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, to refresh my friend's memory, you will remember that we had an amendment to The Public Schools Act. It hasn't been proclaimed at this date because we're getting everything ready and it would make it compulsory for all children to be immunized against measles before entering the school system.

The amendment does provide for the exemption of some children for medical or religious reasons, but it is mandatory. The amendment has been passed by the Legislature and before being proclaimed, the drafting of new health regulations under The Public Health Act which will permit the exclusion from school of non-immune contact of a confirmed case.

The voluntary immunization has generally proven effective, but we feel that if we want to eradicate, we've declared war on measles for one thing, that this will do it. We're pretty sure that it's being done in other areas and so on. I might say that so far of the two-to-four-year olds in the province, at this stage, 95 percent have been immunized on this so it is practically total.

The three-part vaccine which immunize against mumps, measles and rubella that were introduced last year has financial advantage, apart from its usefulness in implementing our earlier rubella immunization policy and we feel that the information that I have is that we feel the department will save approximately \$95,000 to \$100,000 en masse resulting from the cost difference between the MMR dose and the total cost of each of

the these separate vaccines, and an easier way for administration mostly and reduction in the number of separate vaccination service fees to the Manitoba Health Services Commission which is required to pay for physicians. That is only the actual cost of administration and cost of drugs, but the cost will be saved in hospitalization and so on if we are successful in getting rid of these diseases, so, yes, we are in favour. We have been instituting, we're going as fast as we can for compulsory immunization.

MADAM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, M. Phillips: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Madam Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister when he expects that to be proclaimed? Will that be in place for the school year starting next September?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My guess is that it will be. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of when we would go in the Estimates and so on and how fast we would proceed, Dr. Wilt, who is responsible for that program will be here tonight, and I wonder if I could wait until tonight to give that answer.

MADAM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(1)—pass.
2.(b)(2) - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Madam Chairman, I notice that in some of these sexually-transmitted diseases, they seem to be on an increase. I was just wondering whether our program is failing in certain areas. I notice especially there is a decided increase in the reported cases of syphilis. Would this be because they had not been properly identified or what really is the reason for this increase at that particular time. We had been very successful, I believe, in fighting this particular disease over the past number of years?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The number of laboratory-confirmed reported cases of gonorrhoea for '83 has shown a decrease of approximately 850 from cases from the year 1982. The total number of syphilis has risen by 23. The number of infectious syphilis cases has more than doubled, with the majority of these being in the homosexual population at this time. Herpes - I think there has been some information on that that's a little more encouraging than has been. We have worked on this in the area, because of the target date. I think we have worked with seminars and so on with the homosexual group to try to reduce these venereal diseases.

MADAM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(2)—pass.
2.(c)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has spoken in his opening statement about new initiatives in the field of Child and Maternal Health, but I'm not sure whether he intends to elaborate somewhat at this stage of the Estimates, or whether he wishes to deal with that when we come to the section on the Commission. It's certainly satisfactory as far as we're concerned if he prefers to deal with it there. It would

not be illogical at that point because much of the service presumably will be delivered through the hospital program. I just raise that question as to which way he perhaps wants to deal with it.

Secondly, I note that in terms of the staffing complement for the department, one of the major staffing increases in the department occurs in this area, where in 1983-84 there were five staff years in Maternal and Child Health. There are 19 proposed for '84-85; 19 being requested for an increase of 14. Can the Minister advise the intentions for those 14 and the deployment of them? What type of personnel will they be essentially? Will they be pediatric nurses, or will they be obstetrical, gynecological personnel, will they be high-risk maternity personnel and where would they be deployed? Will they work out of the department as such, or will they be assigned to specific programs or facilities in the field? I wonder if we could begin examination of this particular vote, Madam Chairman, with a look at some of those questions.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think probably, most of it anyway, should be covered at this time because it is under Dr. Wilt. It is focussing in that direction with Dr. Wilt, with this new Directorate that we have, and the new ADM, so I'll try to deal with that at this time.

First, the increase in staff and that is for the Reproductive Health Program that we have, the 14 increase.

MR. L. SHERMAN: The Reproductive Health Program it's called, eh?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes. I think I made a statement. I'll give you more information on that.

I had announced in the House that if there's anything that we could do to cut the need of abortion for one thing and give the information to the people, that was part of it, and then anything that could help in the information and so on of these people on the Maternal and Child Health.

What we did, we studied, not to duplicate, we studied to see what was being done, if anything. There was quite a bit being done, but it wasn't co-ordinated and it wasn't enough and it wasn't covering the province at all. It wasn't necessary that we should do all the program ourselves. Many of the clinics; for instance, Mount Carmel, Clinic, and so on were providing some services. We've tried to improve the services in the consultation with the Department of Education also around the schools. We co-ordinated the work that was done with the clinics and provided more funds for that to go in that direction and co-ordinate the program and the information that was given.

In the society that we were working with in Manitoba with the diversified group and because of the religious belief, there was an effort made to serve all the people of different faiths and different beliefs and so on. There was a grant made to a new clinic also, the Youville Clinic, it's for mostly people that do not believe in abortion at all, so that information could be given for those that wish that. Of course, some of the other clinics were providing all the information.

A lot more has to be done in the North and the rural areas. We're working, for instance, in Thompson at the

request of the school division that identified a real problem there with the youngsters. They feel that's where the need is the most prevalent, in that area anyway, so we're talking about the staff in that area to work with the school division in that area.

Then, in the rural part where there was nobody to deliver the service, well then we were filling in to co-ordinate the whole service, the education, the information and providing whatever was done. The 14 on that, these staff will provide the education as I said to professional health care personnel in all regions, public education, and they are made up of public health nurses, social workers, health educators - public health nurses mostly in that area.

I think maybe my honourable friend wanted to know where they would be; 1 director of Maternal and Child Health, we have Dr. McDonald, who is the acting director at this time; the program specialists, 3 of them; 1 administrative support; 14 Reproductive Health Care Programs, there's 2 in Winnipeg, 3 in Thompson, 2 in Norman, 1 in Parklands, 2 in Westman, 1 in Interlake, 1 in Eastman, 1 in central, and 1 program specialist.

It might be that there might be more than that if you look indirectly at the clinics that might receive extra funds and that may have half a staff year or whatever. I haven't got that information.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Did that add up to 19 though?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, 14; 19 was the total before there were 5; 14 is the difference.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So, now it adds up to 19.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes. I dealt only with the 14 additions.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Madam Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister whether this is related to the high-risk, newborn transport program or whether that is an independent component of the Maternal and Child Health Program? In recent years we've been trying to get a high-risk newborn transport program developed to a very sophisticated degree particularly to serve Manitobans within a 50-mile radius of Winnipeg and I believe within a 50-mile radius of Brandon. It would be everyone's hope I'm sure to be able to expand it and extend it beyond those parameters.

Where does the high-risk newborn transport program stand at the moment? What's its status and do any of these personnel that have been identified for us by the Minister have joint responsibilities or responsibilities that dove-tail into that program? Would that be the case for any of them or are these two entirely separate concepts in Maternal and Child Health?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is directly under the commission, if my honourable friend remembers, there is one line for the ambulance thing helping the community and also for the air ambulance. I can't really resist the temptation of maybe making an announcement at this time instead of waiting for the - and that will go a long way I'm sure in answering the question of my honourable friend. The commission has been authorized by the Cabinet that the commission

will either purchase or lease a plane that will be set up with all the equipment strictly as an air ambulance. It will be the responsibility of the commission who will do all the dispatching.

Of course at the moment, we're discussing with the Treasury Board and also with - the arrangements that we're going to make, of course, is for the maintenance and the pilots and all that. Of course, we're not going to have a different set at the commission but the dispatching of the ambulance will be our responsibility. Now we're trying to see the best way to do it. It might be that we want to work with the Government Services - might want exchange certain planes and so on. What we're looking at now on that is if this is preliminary - they approved it in principle as being received but the detail is being worked at. It's a Citation II ambulance, all fully equipped.

That of course will be then extending to the Northern Patient Transport and one of the main things though will be exactly the program that you're talking about because there were a lot of criticisms. I think we were supposed to go 80 miles and there are some areas that weren't being served. I don't know exactly. I don't think I'll be able to announce that during my Estimates, but the detail will be announced later on. I don't know exactly what will be covered in the plan. Some of it - there's a possibility that plane of course will be available for any emergency. There might be some areas that there will a charge. That hasn't been determined, but at least we'll expand the program. That is our No. 1 aim, the program that my honourable friend has mentioned and also the Northern program.

It'll be available only for an ambulance, it'll be fully equipped not like the plane that we now have. As soon as I have this finalized - as I say it is definitely approved in principle and I would hope that you won't see any funds there at all because it will be financed through the commission, whatever it is. We might hire some staff to get everything ready and I would expect that the program should be ready to start by the April 1st of next year. In other words the funds for the operating and so on would be in next year's Estimates.

MR. L. SHERMAN: That would be a general medical ambulance, a general medical care ambulance. It's not going to be specifically part, necessarily, of the high-risk newborn ambulance program, but it could be used for high-risk maternity cases.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. L. SHERMAN: That certainly will be a welcome addition to our health care programming spectrum, Madam Chairman. I hope we can explore that in a little more detail with the Minister when we come to the Commission section of the Estimates but for the moment I certainly welcome it. I would expect that all Manitobans, particularly Northern Manitobans would welcome it very warmly.

Getting back to the personnel then who are being added to Maternal and Child Health, Madam Chairman, they are not tied in in any way with the High Risk Newborn Transport Program. That is a program that comes under the commission and we can look at it at that point. So dealing with Maternal and Child Health

specifically as being those services in the reproductive health program to which the Minister has referred, I would ask him if he can deal with the costs of that expansion for a moment.

I note that in total we're looking at an increase of some \$700,000 in Other Expenditures for Maternal and Child Health and an increase of some \$400,000 in Salaries for a total overall request of \$1.1 million over last year. Is that \$1.1 million going, essentially to the expanded staff years capability that we're discussing at the moment - the 14 new staff personnel and the work that they will be doing, the programs with which they will be associated? Where is that money coming from? Is it all new money or is it being transferred from somewhere else in the department or is it being pulled out of the hospitals budget of the commission?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The total increase will be \$1.1 million - \$394,000 is for the salaries within the department. The rest is mostly grants to the different clinics as I was mentioning and the supplies or whatever is needed for the program. By the way it's all new money. The 1.1 is new money.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Have the final decisions on phasing out the obstetrical units at Seven Oaks and at Concordia therefore been made conclusively or is that a situation that is still under some review, Madam Chairman? Are there other phase-out plans or consolidation plans in obstetrics being contemplated by the Minister?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is definitely a final decision. There is no reason at all to change our mind in that. In fact all information that we've had in discussions with all the majority of experts and the people charged with this service in Manitoba confirm that this was the right way to go to improve the patient need. I might say that I'm sure there were different stories of all the problems that were happening. Most of those stories - 90 percent of them - where certainly they were to supposed to happen, and that was done before the hospitals were closed for one thing. I have always said from Day One that because of the demand both throughout the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface that we couldn't keep with that, and that had nothing to do with the closing of either Concordia or Seven Oaks. The situation had to be changed in those hospitals and improvements had to be made. That is being made now.

Besides that, we saved over \$1 million. If you are looking at the true saving, some of it was spent, was taken from that for the improvement at the Health Sciences Centre and at St. Boniface. The true saving is over \$1 million - (Interjection) - ask him. He's one of my best buddies, one of my biggest supporters.

The resulting saving as I say, not the true saving, but the - what? - net saving after the money that was spent at both St. Boniface and the Health Sciences Centre is, as I have mentioned at the time, \$800,000, and that is being redirected to strengthen Community Health Programming and, in particular, prenatal and postnatal care throughout the province.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Madam Chairman, I guess one of the things that Manitobans are looking for, certainly

young families having babies, is some assurance that there is guaranteed security insofar as anything in obstetrics can be guaranteed, but reasonable guaranteed security of professional quality care in the existing tertiary-care hospitals such as Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface where all the maternity traffic or most of the maternity traffic now is being concentrated.

We had extreme difficulties over the past year with some mysterious infections in both hospitals that resulted in some unfortunate tragedies, some deeply-unfortunate incidents, baby deaths. The public, I think, is concerned about the capability of those two obstetrical units to handle the traffic. Is the Minister offering the committee and the public the assurance that those problems have been resolved, and that those two units can handle that traffic?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I am seriously not going to give guarantees. I'm not going to try to play God, because he himself at times cannot give us all the guarantees, it seems, with the sickness that we have. But I would say that definitely there will be a big improvement. We are convinced that it will handle the service, but I'll try to give an example because my honourable friend mentioned about that series of articles which someday I would like to discuss that.

The situation was that somebody said that they hadn't seen anybody that got — (Interjection) — I was just starting.

MADAM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister will have to give his example at the next sitting. The time now being 4:30, I am interrupting proceedings for Private Members' Hour.

Call in the Speaker, please.

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

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time being 4:30 and Private Members' Hour, proposed resolutions.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there may be an inclination to dispense with Private Members' Hour today, Sir, by leave, and return to Committee of Supply.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed) Leave is granted. The members will then continue in Committee of Supply until 5:30, and again from 8:00 this evening.

SUPPLY - HEALTH (Cont'd)

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Has the Minister called in his staff?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Not yet. Welcome back, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: During the short interruption - I will continue the discussion that we had and that will give a chance for staff to come back also.

I was saying that particular story that was related in the press talked about this mother-to-be that was taken to St. Boniface Hospital and then for a while I think she had to wait in the hall. Anyway there were some complaints. The point is that those guarantees, that will always happen.

First of all, that was before the hospitals were closed. That had nothing to do with the closure of the hospital. Secondly, there were all kinds of hospitals that had lots of room, facilities, but it was deemed the wise thing to do. The doctor was at St. Boniface Hospital. It was their hospital, but it was a thing that happens very seldom. They happened to be within half-an-hour that they had five or six deliveries which is certainly not normal.

Those things will continue to happen periodically. We can't control this. You can't say you're going to have a delivery every hour or every half-an-hour. This happens very seldom and it might happen again. In the meantime, it will be more of an emergency. There might be emergency measures being taken. But all in all, this will not be affected because of the closure of any beds or of the service of obstetrics at those two hospitals. That's the point I was trying to make.

When everything is in place, and I think it's nearly there now at St. Boniface - I think they have finished Phase One. They're in the second phase, and they certainly will be able to give the service.

I might say that I don't want to make a premature announcement, but I had a meeting with a young doctor, so therefore I will not name him at this time, who asked to come and discuss with us to see if we were on the same wavelength. He has been offered the vice-presidency to replace Dr. Tyson, and he is a highly-qualified man, and I think it would be a tremendous coup if the Health Sciences Centre could get him to direct that department. Because as I say it hasn't been announced as yet, I'll refrain from mentioning his name. But I would be very pleased to work with him, and I think when everything is in place it will have as good a system there as they have presently at St. Boniface Hospital, there being more problems at the Health Sciences Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: In the investigation into the two baby deaths at the Health Sciences Centre, Mr. Chairman, my recollection is that the investigating judge found that there were serious staffing shortages, nursing staff shortages, in the newborn nursery and the pediatric intensive care nursery, and much or part of the problem was laid . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's the Commission, though; I wonder if I could wait for the Commission.

MR. L. SHERMAN: . . . or part of the problem was laid to that situation, and that's part and parcel of Maternal and Child Health as far as I am concerned, although the Minister says, and I am prepared to agree, that really the subject of staffing of nurseries at hospitals

comes under the Commission. Perhaps we should look at it when we come to hospitals.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, we're most definitely talking about the hospitals and staff at the hospital and death that happened in the hospital, so I would appreciate it if we could deal with that at the time.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Okay. We'll deal with that other subject then, Mr. Chairman, when we come to the Commission.

My only other question on this subject would be whether the Minister has had a chance to monitor the initiatives that he is introducing in the Maternal and Child Health field, or is to early yet to pass any judgment on the programs that will flow from the addition of this new staff? Are any of these new 14 persons in place and at work on Maternal and Child Health programs at the present time, or is the search for them just barely under way?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, we'll have a better chance to cover that particular incident, although I want to state again that this had nothing to do with the closure of beds. It was that just because of demands - as I say, for instance, Seven Oaks, there was less than one delivery a day and with the staff - I don't remember exactly what the staff was, and that's why I wanted to wait and cover that more fully. It's just because of the high demand and people wanting what they feel is the safest and being referred to specialists and so on by many doctors, were going to these hospitals and there is no doubt that the facilities were not adequate, but that's not why we closed the facilities. The staff also is being reviewed and we will cover that later.

It is a little bit early; I can give you some information at this time but it is a little too early to have a real complete assessment. When the directorates of health education and professional development in public health nursing services were realigned in 1983, two health educator positions and a nursing consultant position were transferred to the reconstructed directorate of Maternal and Child Health to augment the services of the directorate. This is consistent with the recommendation made by the Task Force. Mind you, it's not too early to say that they are quite pleased with some of the changes that were done since we received the report.

The directorate continues to provide program support and consultation to public health nurses as well as other health professionals working in the area of infant preschool screening and assessment and other aspects of the Maternal and Child Health. The directorate staff have been involved in providing leadership co-ordination and support to a variety of community programs in Maternal and Child Health, including the Healthy Parent-Healthy Child Outreach Project in the inner city, the Parent and Childbirth Educators' Network, the Maternal Fetal Nutrition Committee, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Perinatal and Maternal Welfare Committee, as well as involvement with many professional and community organizations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(3)—pass.

2.(d)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is a significant increase in staff requested in this appropriation - 21.5 staff years in the '83-84 complement, 26.5 requested for '84-85. What are the Minister's plans for Health promotion for '84-85, Mr. Chairman? Does this get us into the whole area of lifestyle promotion and preventive medicine and educational awareness in areas such as immunization, such as protection against the threat of encephalitis, such as protection against the kinds of activities or lifestyles that affect our cardiological health and our pulmonary health and the kinds of things that need to be done to maintain good mental health? Is this where the Minister is expanding his efforts to concentrate on health rather than illness, and what will these additional new staff years be doing in that respect?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, that is the direction that we're following. The recent reorganizational changes in the Manitoba Health have resulted in an increased operational effectiveness as well as a redirection of resources toward the development of health promotion programs and prevention of lifestyle-related diseases.

A number of initiatives being developed by the Manitoba newly formed Health Promotion Directorate are outlined. There was Smoking and Health; that was the main program. During 1984-85, Manitoba health will continue to work closely with the Manitoba Inter-Agency Council on Smoking and Health in developing a comprehensive approach to smoking prevention and cessation in the province. This strategy will include schools and community programs as well as mass media approach. This strategy will address the recommendation of the Federal-Provincial Ad Hoc Committee on National Health Strategies, and special emphasis will be placed on school-based smoking prevention programs.

I can say that the department also has been working with the policy; first of all, to try to respect the by-law of the City of Winnipeg and everything that we can do and directions have been started with the Department of Health, no smoking in certain areas and board rooms, and I have been pretty successful in stopping smoking at least at the office and then I steal a puff once in a while at home, because my weight is not helped if I try to quit smoking. That is one of our main thrusts.

Also, there is the Hypertension Prevention Control Program, a demonstration project dealing with hypertension control will be established this year which will be targeted to high-risk groups. Like last year the main thing was the smoking; this year, it's hypertension under the direction of Dr. Wilt who feels that this is one of the biggest killers, one of the things that could be changed, the first priority. The program will emphasize the importance of lifestyle behaviour in relation to high blood pressure, particularly in the areas of weight control and smoking. There I go again. It is becoming increasingly evident that high blood pressure can be prevented and significantly reduced through appropriate assessment and care.

Then there's the diabetes education which is one of the directions we are going. A dual approach to the prevention and control of diabetes will be co-ordinated

by the department and delivered through diabetes education centres in several locations throughout the province. A health professional with specialized training in diabetes control will be involved in the prevention of this disease with groups whose lifestyles place them at risk of developing diabetes. In addition, control programs will be developed for diabetics and their families, utilizing educational methods.

So these are the three major thrusts that we have at this time: Smoking that was started last year and the two others, which our advisors feel are two of the most important ones and something that we should be starting as soon as possible.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't able to take in all that the Minister had to say about diabetes, and that had been a question on my list. I was going to ask him specifically about that diabetes education program. There had been a program involving Dr. John Moorehouse and I think an annual budget of \$200,000 at one point in time, which was delivered through the Health Sciences Centre, I believe, and was designed specifically to meet the educational lifestyle, education requirements of young diabetics, to teach them about their conditions, to teach them about the problem of diabetes and teach them the kind of lifestyles and approaches that they could take and should take to ensure long and healthy lives for themselves, to ensure that by the way they lived they could keep their disease well under control.

There was considerable dismay and disappointment when that program was cancelled in the early administration of this government. In its first year or two in office, one of the first things that went by the boards, while other programming areas received expanded funding, was that Lifestyle Education Program for young diabetics and the whole John Moorehouse initiative. So that had been a question of mine, Mr. Chairman, as to where we stood in respect to that kind of preventive medicine, that kind of health care programming.

The Minister did refer to the subject in the answer he gave me a few moments ago, but I'm sorry, I didn't pick up the details of what he was saying about diabetes education and I would put that question to him now.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There's certainly still contact with Dr. Moorehouse. My honourable friend is right that we had cancelled the program with the grants. At one time, I think that if I remember correctly, there was some federal participation and that was withdrawn. Anyway, I don't remember the details. Maybe I'm wrong, but it is true that we didn't fund it last year. The program now has been taken over by Dr. Wilt, Directorate, who is working with the hospitals, and in the hospitals also there is still communication with Dr. Moorehead, but he is not working on the program. I want to be careful; I'm not saying that he wasn't capable, because I think that he probably pioneered the program and was probably instrumental for us doing this at this time, but I think with the co-operation of the department and the different hospitals and so on, it probably will be improved. I will have another statement to make during the discussion of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and I think it involves about \$600,000 and so on for this program with the hospitals.

If there is a Page, I would like to send this information also ahead of time to my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(3)—pass.

2.(e)(1) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Can the Minister advise the committee as to whether any new hearing testing centres, hearing testing laboratories have been added regionally to our spectrum in Manitoba in the recent months or whether any are contemplated for 1984-85?

Judging by the requested vote, which is some \$68,000 lower than last year's vote, it would appear that no such expansion is contemplated. I'd like the Minister's report on that. Where do we stand on our hearing testing centres? The ambition, both of the NDP administration of the 1970s and then the Progressive Conservative administration of the late 1970s, had been to ensure that a laboratory was in place in each region of the province and we had, by 1980, covered a substantial part of the province, in regional terms. Is it fully covered now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, the hearing centres are located in all the rural health regions, as my honourable friend knows, and in Winnipeg there has been some increase. The hearing centres are located at Seven Oaks Hospital, Deer Lodge Centre and two further hearing centres are also to be opened at Concordia and Victoria Hospitals.

Audiological assessments are undertaken at the Regional Hearing Centre, through the operation of the mobile van we have. Referrals are made to family physicians if a child or adult is found to have a hearing impairment.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is there any difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply of audiologists, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we're continuing that program and have to a job of recruiting for them. I'm informed the department also has a bursary or is planning a bursary health program for the recruitment of qualified personnel.

MR. L. SHERMAN: How extensive is the Children's Hearing Aid Program, Mr. Chairman, at the present time, or would the Minister suggest we deal with that under the Commission?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: During the school year 1982-83, 46,722 children were screened in their respective schools, and of these children 1,602 were found to have hearing problems and were referred to their family physician for treatment. In addition to the above, 1,998 preschool children and 2,916 adults received services from different hearing centres.

Before we continue, we are quite impressed in the recruitment of these experts also, because as my honourable friend might remember, we had announced, in principle anyway, that we're interested in going in that direction for a program for the seniors and we're preparing something that will be presented to Cabinet

that we hope should be ready for next year anyway or even maybe later this year.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Can the Minister advise the committee why the requested vote is down, Mr. Chairman? I'm not at this juncture objecting to that, but to say the least, it's unusual to see a reduction in the requested vote of this magnitude in a program area of this importance, unless we've got everybody covered now whom we think needs to be covered.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The grant to the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 for purchase of audiology services for the Child Guidance Clinic is reduced, as one audiologist at the Child Guidance Clinic will be transferred to the Manitoba Health in 1984-85. This was a vacant position that we haven't been able to fill in the past and that, as I said, will be transferred to be ready for the program for the seniors that should be brought in next year.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Does that account for the full \$68,000 reduction in Budget, requested Budget?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm trying to clarify something here. It is the audiologist that we haven't been able to fill. That what caused us to start this bursary program, and also the grant that I mentioned.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Also the grant.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1)—pass; 2.(e)(2)—pass; 2.(e)(3)—pass.

2.(f)(1) Gerontology - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise of the status of the new Director of Gerontology. There is a Provincial Director of Gerontology now. I'm aware of that, and certainly a very competent and capable person, an expert in the field, in fact. Miss Betty Havens fills that position. I note there are two positions in the establishment shown for staff-years, and I would appreciate a report from the Minister as to the status of the Gerontology Directorate, and the department's plans for it. It is a new directorate. Is it working with the Manitoba Council on Aging, or does it work independent of that Council? What are its intentions and planned initiatives, if any, for 1984-85?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I would like to thank, Mr. Chairman, the member for stopping the committee at this time to ask this question, because I would like to give credit to Miss Betty Havens who is our Provincial Gerontologist and was referred to in complimentary manner by my honourable friend. This person has just been named the Woman of the Year by the YWCA in this category. Today, unfortunately in a way because my Estimates were starting, I missed an invitation to rejoice with others first at the convocation at the University of Manitoba where she was this morning receiving a degree, and also more of a lunch at the President of the University's residence that unfortunately I had to pass. But I'm sure with her

devotion, when she understands that we have been trying to get the funds that she needed to do her work, she will forgive me for having missed this event.

I would like to say that in the 1984-85 fiscal year, Manitoba Health will be providing funding of \$191,000 to promote the development of resources and support services for senior citizens throughout the province. Support services to seniors include activities such as meal preparation, transportation, shopping and a wide variety of everyday tasks which most people take for granted. Most seniors require no support service to function from day-to-day, but some seniors require minimal support and a few require support on a regular basis.

This program is not aimed at replacing normal family support or formalized programs such as Home Care. This certainly will continue and, I hope, will be improved, but the primary purpose of the program is to enhance independent living for senior citizens.

Acting on a recommendation of an inter-agency committee on support services, Housing for Elderly Persons - and by the way, that's what we used to call enriched housing, but I think I pointed out to the committee last year that we have been convinced that was a wrong term because it was reflecting too much on bricks and mortar, and we should talk about the service and the different necessities, different needs in different areas of the province and different settings.

The programs will be provided through a three-service delivery method: first, the Direct Service Subsidy and Support Services to Tenants in Elderly Persons' Housing units, and three community resource councils. These methods may operate independently or in concert with one another. It is essential that they be delivered in response to need as part of the community they service.

The Direct Service Subsidy, provincial grants to offset start-up costs as well as funds to provide for the organization and delivery of direct services will be made available. The most urgent need for a provincial subsidy is for congregated meal programs. The subsidy will allow for consistent, nutritionally-balanced meals for seniors which are affordable.

Then there are Support Services to Tenants in Elderly Persons' Housing, EPH units. The provision of support services in EPH units will be applied through Direct Service Subsidy and through tenant resource coordinator staff to help them with co-ordinating their programs. The independent living nature of the EPH unit must be maintained. However, it is important that the administrators of these units be encouraged to go beyond the provision of shelter when tenants require support services, enriched services instead of enriched facilities or buildings and so on.

The Community Resource Council with the Provincial Government and community groups support community resource councils are being recommended for development throughout the province. That's something that we are working on. The CRC have broad community-based membership and incorporate individuals and groups committed to support services to seniors and flexibility in terms of council structure, organizational function and geographic area is important. Efforts should be made to ensure a sense of community, ownership and responsibility. Now this program initiative is consistent with the high priority which Manitoba Health has placed on services to seniors.

We were working on that last year, if you remember, and there was no co-ordination because it was worked in different departments, the responsibility of different departments, but Cabinet decided that the Minister responsible would be the Minister of Health although we have a committee that is working quite well together that covers the Housing Committee, Community Services, I think your department also, and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the federal too. So they're working to develop these programs. We are certainly not completed as yet. The sub-committee of Cabinet is working on that also, but this is the start anyway.

I think that we have to realize that it's not just a question of senior citizen homes and personal care homes; that there are an awful lot of seniors that are living, sometimes if they're fortunate, with their relatives. They certainly need help, many of the well elderly that we're concerned with, to keep them healthy. I think more and more, we have to realize that people should function and certainly be productive long past the usual retirement age of 65.

That reminds me that, two days ago, I think I was fortunate to assist at a meeting of, I think it was, the Catholic Physicians Guild where the guest was Emmett Hall, who I think is 85, and he was a remarkable man. If anything, he was too long. I think he spoke for 55 minutes without stopping. But I think that showed a man that is a dedicated person, and who is certainly still working, by the way. For the information of the committee, I thought he was finished after the second Hall Commission, but now he's going across Canada working in the medical colleges in different provinces. He tells me, by the way, that Manitoba should have three Natives that will register at the medical school next year, three Native people.

So this is pretty well the idea of what we're trying to do. We are far from finished with this, but we're going in that direction. That will be a piece of the puzzle that will help co-ordinate and cement all these different programs.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Who is the other person, the other staff year in Gerontology, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's a full-time secretary who works for Miss Havens.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, is there a gerontological centre in Winnipeg or in Manitoba? There had been some consideration given by both sides of this House in the past for the establishment of a centre of gerontology and gerontological studies . . . we could develop almost a continental expertise here in that field. Certainly, there are personnel, like Miss Havens herself, who possess that expertise individually. Do we still have plans to move toward the establishment of such a centre?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I think my honourable friend and I share the same concern and the same dream, remembering the discussion that we've had in the past. I think that both of us have been on record that we'd love nothing better than to establish a Chair of Gerontology at the university, for instance. In this

difficult time and especially that we're moving as fast as we can, I think Miss Havens is working 20 hours a day, because the centre now is with her and travelling with her and the Council of Aging that my honourable friend set up that I changed a bit. Now I think it has the council reporting to the Minister and now it is reporting, I meet with them occasionally, once a year or twice a year, but it is reporting to give a little more clout or whatever to the gerontologist and is reporting to the gerontology.

There's also this other committee that is working. I was reading today, I think it was in today's paper, but Dr. Skelton, formerly of St. Boniface Hospital has some kind of a centre or is developing people like this, I think it's in Edmonton. This is something that certainly is in the cards, I hope for the future, but even if we had the funds at this time, I don't think we could go that fast.

There's only one thing Miss Havens is so well known and such an expert in this field that she's in demand and if I wasn't careful she'd never be in Manitoba because they want her service pretty well all over the world and we can't spare her that much. We probably will be organizing a conference on aging in a year or so. It'll be announced, we're working on that, and also there'll be the one reporting after the Vienna Conference on Aging that was practically two years ago now under the auspices of the World Health Organization. There'll be some work and preparation for a Canadian conference. There was a start of that last year where I participated on the panel with the Minister of Health from Quebec and the one from PEI.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned that perhaps in some ways, perhaps some subtle ways, the Manitoba Council on Aging operated somewhat differently now than it did under our administration. That was going to be one of my questions to him, where is the Manitoba Council on Aging at the present time? Is it operating on a basis of providing regular input, regular involvement in the field of evaluating the concerns and the needs of Manitoba's elderly population addressing the basic priority questions and problems that they are raising? I know that we are fortunate. We've had a handbook for senior citizens. It was published and distributed and disseminated a year-and-a-half ago among the elderly population of the province and it contains very useful material. No doubt those things have to be monitored and evaluated and kept up to date. Is the council on aging being used for that sort of purpose now or is it working altogether differently than it did under our government?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, it isn't. It was functioning quite well and let me be very candid with my honourable friend. The only reason, the main reason it was changed, it was at the request of their gerontologist, because if you remember it was reporting to the Minister. It was the Minister's Council on Aging and I think expedited manners now with this committee reporting directly and therefore whenever advice is needed from this council Miss Havens can go directly with them and she's working very, very closely with them. It has been expanded. It was being established in 1980 in hope that anything can be improved and we expanded to

15 — (Interjection) — I thought somebody said something. It's pretty well representative of all the region. We made a real effort to have every region, and every region in the province is represented on this committee now, but it's functioning pretty well in the same thing doing the same advice in both ways; bringing the information to the gerontologists and therefore to the Minister and the government, but also bringing back some information to the seniors across the province. For the same purpose, I'm sure, as it was when first set up.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is there any funding appropriation in here for the Council on Aging, Mr. Chairman? I note that there are no external grants noted in the Estimates under the Gerontology section, although certainly if you looked at the Health Promotion Directorate and the external grants in that area, one would have to say that they certainly cover off certain significant services to seniors in programming for seniors; such as the Age and Opportunity Centre and the Brandon Civic Senior Citizens Organization and the Manitoba Society of Seniors, etc., etc. I'm wondering whether there's any funding support offered the Council on Aging?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is actually only for the office of the gerontologist. The expense for the Manitoba Council on Aging is under Other Expenditure. The other programs my honourable friend was mentioning; well there has been an increase in the society of seniors, quite an increase - I think my friend might have this information - and that is charged directly to the programs. I think one of it is health education and health promotion.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So that the provinces's support for the Council on Aging shows on the Other Expenditures line, not as a grant to an external agency?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(f)(1)—pass; 2.(f)(2)—pass; 2.(g)(1) Continuing Care—pass; 2.(g)(2)—pass.
2.(g)(3) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I suppose if one had to rank the questions and the question marks that one would attach to the 1984-85 Estimates for the Department of Health, one of the primary question marks would appear here. In Home Care Assistance we have a budgetary reduction of some \$800,000 in this year's requested vote, print over print, this fiscal year for last fiscal year. The government is requesting \$19.6 million this year as against \$20.4 million for last year. Again I make the point, Sir, that we're all aware that very frugal, careful, responsible budgeting is necessary, and I'm not asking this Minister or this department to spend money unnecessarily or to increase its budgets as an automatic way of life, but one would think that in the area of home care and home care assistance which provides the opportunity for us to get out of the institutional model of health care, to get out of the frozen conventional system we're

in that is so expensive and really in many ways is so old-fashioned, that a much more sophisticated, much better developed, much more extensive home care program contains one of the answers for us. In fact, it possibly contains many of the answers for us and that that is the direction in which we should be moving.

Therefore it is surprising to see that if this government is trying to save money somewhere and heaven knows there are lots of places where we think they're spending is probably undeserved and unjustifiable, if this government is trying to save money somewhere, one would hardly look at the home care area, or at least I would hardly look at the home care programming area as the logical place in which to do it.

So I'd begin my examination of this area of the Estimates with the Minister on that point, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to know why there is such a reduction - and it is fairly significant - fairly close to 5 percent? I haven't figured out the precise mathematics, but it's 4 percent anyway, a 4 percent reduction in what the province is planning to spend on home care in 1984-85 as against what it spent in 1983-84. How are we going to get out of the hospitals and into the community if we proceed in that direction? I'd rather see the money taken out of the hospitals budget and put into home care.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Before my honourable friend gets too incensed on that, let me give some explanation. We want to look at this in a positive manner; it hasn't been just money saved, it's been money redirected for specific programs. For instance, the transfer, the health promotion that I said for the elderly persons' housing, which is part of home care; it has been also to Regional Service for establishment of staffing and in Winnipeg for the young disabled, which is another program we're working on. There's been others - the transfer to help promotion for three rural senior centres also, which is certainly that same type of thing, and a review of procedure and delivery methods for home care services to achieve operational efficiency.

There's not too many of my colleagues listening. I could also share a little secret with a friend. The money wasn't all spent last year. For instance, as my honourable friend knows, it is practically impossible to budget for that, and as my honourable friend knows also, there is no way that any government will stop home care if they're short of money in the middle of the year. So this provided me with the funds to do the service that I had and if I have to go for a special warrant, we certainly will.

A MEMBER: You'll never get it past Cowan, the Treasury Board I'll tell you.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: He'll never get his plane for the North if that's the case.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I'm glad to get that reassurance from the Minister, Mr. Chairman.

Can the Minister advise the committee as to the changes in the caseload in home care in the past year and in anticipated changes in the coming year? I would expect that in the direction in which he's trying to move the department, we should be looking for an expanded home care caseload. How does the prospect for '84-

85 measure up at the present time in that area, Mr. Chairman? How did '83-84 compare with previous years? Are we looking at continual expansions and increases of demand and pressure on our home care capability? Have we plateaued, have we levelled off? Are there special home care requests being made now? Do we have enough home care workers and do we have enough personnel to meet the necessary demands?

Are we still having some difficulties with people who expect home care to include domestic chores and duties that really go beyond the terms of reference of the home care service. All these questions are questions that continually revolve around the home care program and I would appreciate a report from the Minister on the status of such.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll be pleased to report. I think, also, if we could arrange with Hansard to have this recorded and I could send a couple of pages of all these statistics to my honourable friend. If I miss any, it could be provided in Hansard also. (See attached charts)

A MEMBER: That sounds pretty reasonable to me, Bud.

MR. L.R. SHERMAN: Very.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: So all members can find out tonight anyway, the admission to home care in 1982 was 9,687; in 1983 - 9,733. Discharge from home care 8,697 and in 1983 - 9,419. So the total number receiving home care service during this year is 19,343 in 1982 and 20,379 for 1983. Now the personal care placement

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I note that the Minister has also got 1981 figures in there and the total number in 1981 was 16,971, is that correct?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You're fortunate, I stole this copy from the ADM and I haven't got that on my copy.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I just make the point that we're looking . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Excuse me, I would like my honourable friend to make his observation with the understanding that Hansard will print these two pages without me having to put them on the record at this time. We'll provide these pages for Hansard.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Well, I don't want to interrupt the Minister, Mr. Chairman, but I just wanted to note that if you look at the figures in total that the Minister supplied me with - I appreciate receiving them - we're looking at a fairly significant increase between 1981 and 1983 in the total number receiving home care services for the year. The 1981 figure was 16,971 according to the sheet the Minister sent over to me; 19,343 in 1982 and 20,379 in 1983. So from approximately 17,000 to 20,379 in that three-year span adds up to a fairly substantial and significant increase which then leads to the question as to whether this is

the kind of trend that the Minister would expect to be a continuing experience. Are we looking at an increase of similar proportions in his view and in his department's view over the next two to three years? Are we plateauing or anywhere near it, or is it just wide open at this point in time, because that makes, of course, an enormous amount of difference in terms of his budgeting request and in terms of a request for programming personnel?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Last year, as I stated, we received an extra \$2 million. I think that was the only thing that was increased with new money. Now I can give a little more information. I can go through from 1980, 81, 82 and 83; and start with 1980. The admission to home care in 1980 was 8,832; discharge from home care the same year 7,763. Now, in 1981, the admission to home care was 9,212. The discharge from home care was 8,767. In '82 the admission to home care was 9,687; the discharge 8,697. Finally in '83 the admission 9,733; discharge 9,419. I think that we're going to see now more programs. I think home care is going to change.

I think you'll have to deal now trying to improve the situation, for instance, with the handicapped people. I think the cost of home care will probably increase, and especially when all the related programs as I mentioned. But that is part of the reform that my honourable friend was talking about because that will keep people out of maybe welfare, and out of institutions, and even personal care homes with these enriched services. Like home care is a terrific program.

I think we're all proud of our home care in Manitoba but that doesn't mean that forever and a day we're going to say well we have the best. I think we have to look, in the past there has been a tendency to try to fit everybody in home care, for instance the handicapped people. With the studies that we had on the young handicapped and so on I think we see that there are certain programs that have to be directed to them. If you spend some kind of money to help them it might be that we might have helped them to go to work for instance and to try some of the programs I think that started in my honourable friend's days of living together in independence because that's what these people want more than anything else. They don't want sympathy, they want a chance to equalize things so they could live independent. So you might see if you count all that home care and it all is some of home care I think you will increase. It won't plateau for awhile but I hope that that's part of the program that maybe will not necessitate more, and more, and more construction of personal care homes and so on.

Before you close, because I think you're going to call it 5:30, I wonder if I can have assistance from my honourable friend without a commitment just to make sure that I get the proper staff here, we're progressing so well that I'm not used to that. We're on Continuing Care. Is there more on home care that my honourable friend, I would imagine he'll want to speak on about the orderly program that we have, and then Dental Services, we can cover that tonight, and the Mental Health. Does my honourable friend feel that - will we cover as far as Page 89 Children's Psychiatric and Forensic Services tonight or? We can agree to . . .

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would hope we would get down to Children's Psychiatric and Forensic Services, Resolution No. 90.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Would it be all right then if I get the staff for that, and if it's a reasonable time we'll stop there?

MR. L. SHERMAN: Yes.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay. We won't go past that anyway. Not necessarily have to reach it but we . . .

MR. L. SHERMAN: I don't know how far we'll get into it. We may not get into it but I would hope we will get to it. We'll get to Resolution . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, but we won't go past that anyway?

MR. L. SHERMAN: No.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay, have you got that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. A little while ago the Minister of Health requested permission to enter into Hansard the statistics. I'm informed by the Clerk that under Rule 311 of Beauchesne it would be necessary to have leave of the House to do that. Does the Minister have leave?

HON. L. DESJARDIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, could I table this. All right. Could we have leave to have that, I ask for leave then. Of the House or the Committee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee. — (Interjection) — Leave is granted.

The hour being 5:30 it is time for the dinner recess. Committee will reconvene at 8:00 p.m. tonight.

APPROPRIATION: 21-2G

PROGRAM: CONTINUING CARE

Issue: Home Care Services - 1983
Annual Home Care Caseload

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Admissions to Home Care	8,832	9,212	9,687	9,733
Discharges from Home Care	7,763	8,767	8,697	9,419
Total Number Receiving Home Care Services	16,971	18,386	19,343	20,379

Of the number admitted to the program in 1983, the alternative for them had Home Care not been available would have been:

Personal Care Home	17%
Remain in Hospital	46%
Remain at Home Without Appropriate Care	37%

Of the number discharged from the program in 1983, the reason for discharge was:

Placed into Personal Care Home or Admitted to Hospital	23%
Improved and No Longer Needing Home Care	39%
Improved and Able to Manage own Care	16%
Deceased	17%
Other	5%

Issue:

Caseload Statistics

Monthly Caseload by Age Breakdown as of December 31

<u>Monthly Caseload</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
0 - 18	301	342	268	265
19 - 64	1,821	2,059	2,047	2,135
65+	<u>7,086</u>	<u>8,122</u>	<u>8,331</u>	<u>8,600</u>
Total:	<u>9,208</u>	<u>10,523</u>	<u>10,646</u>	<u>11,000</u>

Average Monthly Number of Persons Receiving Selected Services

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Nursing Services- R.N. & V.O.N.	3,329	3,330	3,587	3,900
Auxiliary Services - L.P.N. & Home Care Attendant	1,280	1,733	2,089	2,269
Community Therapy Services	272	279	309	341
Homemaking Services- Community & V.O.N.	<u>5,192</u>	<u>5,865</u>	<u>6,518</u>	<u>6,790</u>

In a Typical Month, The Program Employs Part-Time:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Homemakers	1,682	1,852	2,010	2,020
Registered Nurses	103	174	197	219
L.P.N.'s	76	75	95	107
Home Care Attendants (Aides & Orderlies)	136	171	209	223
Therapists	45	56	48	34
Volunteers(Estimated)	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

Thursday, 31 May, 1984

Average Monthly Cost of Home Care Services per Person Served:

	<u>1980/81</u>	<u>1981/82</u>	<u>1982/82</u>	<u>1984/85</u>
Average Mthly Cost at end of December	84.23	98.15	106.42	124.36

These figures do not take into account departmental staff salary costs. Experience has shown that 3rd and 4th quarter costs are more representative of full costs.

Number of Persons on Waiting List for Personal Care Home Placement at End of December

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Total Rural Areas	1,079	893	717	803
Winnipeg	711	519	727	874
Total:	1,790	1,412	1,444	1,677

Average Monthly Number of Persons Remaining in Hospital in Winnipeg Waiting Placement

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Acute Hospitals	171	153	148	162
Non Acute Hospitals	214	174	155	179
	385	327	303	341

Average Monthly Number of Persons Remaining in Hospital in Rural Areas Waiting Placement

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Average Number of Persons	289	285

Thursday, 31 May, 1984

APPROPRIATION: PROGRAM:	21-2G HOME CARE ASSISTANCE	Actual 1982/83	Adjusted Vote 1983/84	Requested 1984/85
Central Office		34.0	467.8	467.8
V.O.N.		1,822.0	1,995.0	1,995.0
Adult Hospitals		1,210.1	1,327.1	1,327.1
Children's Hospital		193.3	210.0	210.0
Winnipeg Region		8,557.1	10,694.4	10,694.4
Winnipeg Total		11,782.6	14,226.5	14,226.5
Westman		1,112.9	1,465.6	1,465.6
Eastman		609.2	717.8	717.8
Central		802.0	1,036.9	1,036.9
Interlake		865.8	1,046.8	1,046.8
Parklands		600.1	784.2	784.2
Norman		336.5	419.3	419.3
Thompson		29.4	35.1	35.1
Health Centres		120.6	134.7	134.7
Total Rural		4,476.5	5,640.4	5,640.4
12 & 24 hour rates		-	109.5	109.5
TOTAL PROVINCE		16,225.1	20,444.2	20,444.2
Transferred to Winnipeg Region				*(25.8)
Transferred to Norman Region				** (17.5)
Transferred to Health Promotion				*** (227.0)
Federal Sales Tax			.2	.2
			20,444.2	20,174.1

*Transferred to Winnipeg Region
for Fokus Unit (84/85)

** Transferred to Norman Region for Fokus Unit 84/85.

*** (191.0) transferred to Health Promotion for Support Services Housing
& Community Resource Development for elderly persons.
(84/85). (36.0) transferred to External Agencies for 3 rural senior
senior centres. (84/85).