

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, 13 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, I'd like to table the Supplementary Information for Legislative Review for this year's 1987-88 Department of Crown Investments Estimates.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motions . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. M. SMITH introduced, by leave, Bill No. 31, An Act to amend The Community Child Day Care Standards Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les garderies d'enfants.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before moving to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 60 students from Grade 9 from the John Pritchard School under the direction of Mr. Murray Lampert. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River East.

We have 22 students from Grade 8 from the Leaf Rapids School under the direction of Mr. Bruce Backhouse. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister for Co-op Development.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

Members will also note the presence at the Table today of Miss Sandra Clive, the Clerk of Committees. Miss Clive will be sitting at the Table in future on a regular rotational basis to familiarize herself with House procedures, and to enhance her procedural knowledge by observing and assisting the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk with certain of their duties.

The intent is to provide the House with a qualified back-up Table Officer in the event of the unavoidable absence of either the Clerk or the Deputy Clerk.

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Labour Relations Act - provisions which caused lawsuit

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my question is for the Premier.

I wonder if he can indicate whether or not he has investigated the circumstances under which an 18-year-old woman has been slapped with a \$3.2 million lawsuit by Bernie Christophe and the Manitoba Food and Commercial Workers' Union because she had the audacity to send a letter around to her fellow employees at SuperValu asking questions about the position of the union and the position of the management in a labour dispute in which they're engaged.

Has he looked into the insane provisions of The Manitoba Labour Relations Act that have caused this lawsuit to be lodged against this young woman?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, first, I have found out, and I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition will be pleased to know, because this was my principal concern in hearing the story, that there is no intent to, in a monetary fashion, create any penalties; so there is no \$3.2 million lawsuit against Jennifer Campbell, nor any intent to penalize in a monetary fashion, one, Jennifer Campbell.

I'm very pleased in fact that that has been clarified by the union themselves.

The Leader of the Opposition makes reference to insane labour relations provisions and I'm not sure what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. Sections 6.(1) and 6.(2) of The Labour Relations Act are reasonable and are certainly quite in order, dealing with unfair labour practice, and ensuring that in the process of organizing, in the process of negotiation, that the members of a union, in fact, do that without interference by the employer or someone acting on behalf of the employer, or at the institution of the employer.

That is a matter that will be before the Labour Board and I think it would serve everyone's interests to ascertain whether or not that, indeed, did take place in the case that is before us currently.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, the insane provisions that I've referred to are those that have caused her to be slapped with a \$3.2 million lawsuit as a result of asking questions, such as: If the negotiations resulted in a strike vote, what would the advantage of a strike be; what would the disadvantage of a strike be?

Labour Board - intercede re penalty to Jennifer Campbell

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that the head of the Manitoba Food and Commercial Workers' Union, Mr. Christophe, has said that he has not withdrawn the suit; that in fact the relief requested, the \$3.2 million, is in the normal form used in Labour Board applications, and it will be up to the board to decide whether or not \$3.2 million is awarded, is the

First Minister saying that he will intercede with the board and instruct them not to award a damage penalty against Jennifer Campbell?

HON. H. PAWLEY: I notice, Madam Speaker, that we are being suggested to do something that, in fact, has been frowned upon for years and years in this Chamber, for a government to intervene on matters involving parties before judicial or quasi judicial boards of government. That has generally been accepted to be political interference, unfair interference, untoward interference on the part of government to do that. And yet, we've had the suggestion by the Member for Brandon West about two weeks ago that the Minister of Labour intervene in a Labour Board adjudication; we have the suggestion today - from the Leader of the Opposition himself - that we intervene in a matter that is being dealt with insofar as its merits before the Labour Board - a Labour Board that is composed of a representative of labour, a representative of business, and a chairperson that is neither representative of labour or the business community. I think that is a fair and appropriate way, rather than for us to engage in political grandstanding in respect to this matter. Save it, that there is no intent, from the information I have, to slap any \$3.2 million penalty against any 18-year-old girl.

Campbell, Jennifer - protection of freedom of speech

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that Mr. Christophe is quoted as saying that he will not withdraw this \$3.2 million lawsuit; and, in view of the fact that the Premier will not instruct the Labour Board not to award a \$3.2 million penalty against Jennifer Campbell, how then will he protect her freedom of speech and her right to be heard on a labour issue such as this, without being threatened and intimidated by a \$3.2 million lawsuit?

HON. H. PAWLEY: The Leader of the Opposition should insure that his facts are accurate. It is certainly my information that the union has indicated very clearly that it has not been their intent, nor is it their intent now, to slap one, Jennifer Campbell, with a \$3.2 million lawsuit; that it is not their intent to cause her monetary damage. What, in fact, we must do in this case is do what is normal and reasonable, and permit the board to ascertain whether or not, under the provisions of the act, there is an unfair labour practice charge. Otherwise, what the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting we do is everytime there is a case in which it is inferred that there is company intervention, directly or indirectly, that we run to the rescue of those who are defending such a charge, and not permit the matter to be dealt with objectively and clearly and without prejudice by the quasi judicial board that has been charged with the responsibility for hearing the matter.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I regret that the Premier will not intervene to remove the threat of this \$3.2 million lawsuit against Jennifer Campbell, the 18-year-old woman who has had her freedom of speech threatened.

And speaking of threat and intimidation, Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Culture and Recreation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

HON. H. PAWLEY: I reserve the right, when the Leader of the Opposition responds by way of preamble to an answer that I've given, then redirects his question to another Minister - I have a basic responsibility and a right, Madam Speaker, to respond to a preamble which relates to the answer that I gave earlier. The preamble should not be allowed.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order. Order please.

The honourable member does not have a point of order.

Businesses intimidated by government staff

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, speaking of threats and intimidation, I wonder if the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation has yet investigated the actions of a senior bureaucrat in her department, who threatened and intimidated the head of an advertising agency, one, Peter Stringham, of Stringham and Grant Tandy, and said earlier, and I quote: "My Minister will have to come down hard on you if this is brought up in the Legislature."

Has she investigated that matter, and has she, in fact, identified the individual involved and reprimanded him for his actions?

HON. H. PAWLEY: I'm extremely disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition is determined to prejudge a matter that is before a judicial body, the Labour Board of the Province of Manitoba. The Leader of the Opposition wants us to prejudge a case. He's made that very, very clear by way of his preamble to the question to the Minister of Cultural Affairs. Madam Speaker, it's contrary, totally contrary to every practice, to become involved and prejudge a case that's before a quasi-judicial body in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I just want to get the threat of a \$3.2 million lawsuit off the back of 18-year old Jennifer Campbell. That's all I want.

MADAM SPEAKER: May I remind both sides of the House that question period is not a time for debate.

Businesses intimidated by government staff

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

MR. G. FILMON: Will the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation indicate whether she's investigated the matter, and identified the senior civil servant who

threatened and intimidated the head of an advertising agency? Has she reprimanded that civil servant?

HON. H. PAWLEY: In response to the preamble by the Leader of the Opposition, we have received clear information, which I delivered to this House. It is not the intent to slap any 18-year-old with a \$3.2 million lawsuit. The Leader of the Opposition should not misrepresent that fact to this House.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, Mr. Christophe clearly is quoted today as saying he will not remove that suit.

My question to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation is: Will she identify and reprimand the culprit in her department who is threatening and intimidating the head of an advertising agency?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture and Heritage Resources.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I clearly indicated yesterday, we on this side of the House reject entirely the kind of innuendo and remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. There were no threats and no intimidation and, let the record show that the Leader of the Opposition has just not gotten the facts straight.

As I said yesterday, I certainly would look into the matter and I have. I have discussed the matter with the official involved and can clearly indicate that the quotation was taken out of context. Members opposite should know, if they don't already know, that it is not my policy, nor the policy of any of my colleagues on this side of the House, to come down heavy on anyone in our communities. My colleagues and I have always encouraged the most open opportunities imaginable for submissions and for awards of contracts.

Finally, Madam Speaker, let me say, as the Premier indicated yesterday, the demise of this agency is widely known throughout Winnipeg, if not Manitoba, a result of a loss of a major contract with the Federal Government when the government changed from Liberal to Conservative and, according to other information, the result of a loss of a major contract in another sector of the economy.

So I think the Leader of the Opposition should get his facts straight before he makes such derogatory statements.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, is the Minister now saying that Mr. Stringham was lying when he said he was told, by a senior official in her department, I might indicate a senior official who was responsible for allocating contracts to advertising agencies on behalf of this government, is she saying that he lied when he quoted this official as saying, and I quote, "My Minister will have to come down hard on you if this is brought up in the Legislature."

MR. H. ENNS: How do you take that out of context? He hands out the advertising contract for the government.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The Leader of the Opposition continues to distort this issue and make

suggestions that are just not founded in fact. I have indicated that the official involved was misquoted, and I have indicated yesterday that if anything was said, and I believe it was said in this way, that there is no relationship between the situation of this particular advertising agency and the economic climate of this province, then I think those matters have to be stated by members in this House as well as by staff involved.

Interest Rate Reduction Program - calculation of and fee charged

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

Some information has recently been sent to all MACC clients about the MACC Interest Rate Reduction Program. In this information, Madam Speaker, that was sent to all clients, I would like to ask the Minister why MACC did not indicate to the clients how the Interest Rate Reduction Program is calculated and what the fee actually is?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I will look at the letter that was sent. A letter was sent, and would have been sent to those clients who would have long-term loans with the corporation; not all clients of MACC would have, in fact, received the letter because there would be a number of clients who would have short-term loans where the buy-down program would have had a little or no impact in terms of their saving.

I've indicated that in the House. When I announced the program, it was those farmers who would have had a longer-term repayment. Madam Speaker, the program pointed out that the buydown would be to a rate from the present rate that the mortgage was at, and there would be mortgages as high as 13 percent; the buydown would be to 8 percent and would be financed in several ways - either a cash payment; either a loan for a shorter period of time; or a loan up to a maximum of 15 years. On the basis of the loan for 15 years, the current interest rate that the corporation borrows at would be used to finance the buydown, and that would be what the communication should have read.

If there is something in the letter, or a letter that the honourable member has received, that is not clear, I wish he would bring it to my attention and we'd certainly want to look at that question.

MR. G. FINDLAY: I would ask the Minister then to let all clients know how the fee is calculated.

Interest reduction fee - income tax deductible on 1987 tax return

MR. G. FINDLAY: I would like to ask the Minister, in addition, would he tell the House whether, if a farmer pays his interest rate reduction fee this year, is it considered a fully deductible cash expense for his 1987 income tax return?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I guess I can't answer for Revenue Canada in terms of how they calculate income tax returns on expenses. I would assume that an expense made, and on the cash system, would be in fact calculable toward one's mortgage payments, as would normally be deducted, but that should be cleared through Revenue Canada because we are not the agency to assess that.

Madam Speaker, let it be clear, when I announced the program, if the buydown is taken by virtue of a loan to make up the payment for the buydown, the interest rate currently charged by the corporation for the period of the buydown is the rate that is used for the cost of the buydown; and it is basically tacked on to the end of the mortgage or as part of the mortgage.

It is those two fees, the reduced payment by virtue of the 8 percent mortgage, and the increased cost of the buydown, and the difference between is what the farmer saves in terms of his overall payments. That was basically the debate we had during my Estimates and the knowledge, or the statement about how the program is financed, continues to be the same.

Drought - contingency plans

MR. G. FINDLAY: A new question to the same Minister.

Given that Manitoba and Western Canada and a large portion of the United States have received very little or no rainfall this spring, and it's obvious that a severe drought is imminent if something doesn't happen in the next three to four weeks, I would like to ask the Minister what contingency plans he has in place, or is prepared to put in place, to deal with a severe drought, if it should occur in Manitoba in 1987?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I have asked our staff in our department to monitor the situation very closely, and indeed we have concerns that may occur. However, at this point in time, it would be premature to say that this is what the contingency plans will be. We're monitoring the system very closely as to what might occur, it's everyone's hope I'm sure, including honourable members opposite that all of Canada, and Western Canada in particular, receive at least an inch or two of rain over the next two or three weeks and make sure that the crops that have been seeded to date will in fact grow to maturity, and that farmers can realize at harvest time what all of us are hoping and praying for.

Manitoba Lotteries Foundation - conflict-of-interest guidelines

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation.

Madam Speaker, last week I asked the Minister if there was a conflict-of-interest policy in place for Manitoba Lotteries Foundation employees and the Minister kindly provided me with the schedule of those conflict-of-interest guidelines. I also asked at that time, Madam Speaker, if there was a conflict-of-interest policy

for umbrella groups. The Minister did not respond at that time, perhaps she can respond now?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Lotteries.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I indicated to the Member for Charleswood privately, there is not a policy that we have handed down to each umbrella group for conflict of interest; however, each umbrella group has the responsibility for determining and putting in place its own set of operating procedures and no doubt, in many cases, umbrella groups have conflict-of-interest policies, but it is quite a separate matter from the question of a conflict-of-interest policy for staff at the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation.

Manitoba High School Athletic Association - Ex. Dir. role in distribution of funds

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, I have a new question to the Minister.

The Manitoba High School Athletic Association receives in excess of \$200,000 in lottery funds, both from the Manitoba Sports Federation umbrella and also through their own direct bingo dates. Could the Minister advise if the executive director of that association would have any major role to play in the distribution of funds generated from those sources?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, as I just indicated each umbrella group is responsible for putting in place its own set of procedures and for determining how decisions are made with respect to grants. We respect the arm's-length relationship between each umbrella group and the Government of Manitoba, and it is not our role to interfere on a daily basis.

However, Madam Speaker, as I've indicated previously to this House and to groups concerned, we are in the process of putting in place a needs assessment that will review the current distribution system, and will review the operating policies and the administrative practices of each umbrella group. And it would be through that needs assessment that we would have the opportunity for groups to raise these concerns and for each umbrella group to put in place practices that are responsive to the concerns raised.

Value Checks, fundraiser for MHSAA - investigate violation of guidelines re Lotteries employees

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, we're dealing with hundreds of thousands, millions indeed, of dollars of lottery revenues, coming forward and, in this situation the executive director of the Manitoba High School Sports Federation is in fact the sole director and president of a company called Jim Enterprises Ltd. Jim Enterprises markets and produces a book, Madam Speaker, called "Value Checks." Value Checks is indicated as the official fundraiser of the Manitoba High

School Athletic Association. Madam Speaker, this clearly violates the guidelines expressed for Manitoba Lottery Foundation employees under Clause 3 where they cannot use their own position, as an employee, to generate business privately.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, the situation is this: Will the Minister investigate the situation to determine if, in fact, Lotteries funding is being used to fund the private business of this gentleman?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, the Member for Charleswood certainly raises an important matter. I've already spoken to staff at the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation about this particular incident, and will be looking into it further to see what action can be taken on my part.

I certainly would encourage all umbrella groups to put in place conflict-of-interest policy, to deal with situations just like this one that the Member for Charleswood has brought to our attention. I would also hope that, through this fairly major endeavour of a needs assessment of all of the entire lottery distribution system, that we will be able to address these questions in a meaningful way and end up with a refined and more effective distribution system.

Disability pensions - welfare recipients

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Employment Services.

In January of 1987, the disability pensions under the Canada Pension Plan were increased by \$152 a month. Tragically, the only individuals who do not benefit under this provision are those who are in receipt of welfare.

Would the Minister tell the House whether Manitoba is prepared to accept the new recommendations of the Minister of Health, which would, in fact, deem these benefits to be expenses related to their disability, not income and, therefore, would entitle them to receive the appropriate welfare benefit?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security.

HON. L. EVANS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I welcome that question from the Honourable Member for River Heights. Indeed, it is a very important question, and one that has to be addressed, as it is being addressed, by the Federal Government. Because, Madam Speaker, under the present Canada Assistance Plan Regulations, none of the provinces can do what the Member for River Heights is suggesting.

The member alludes to a statement, I believe, by the Honourable Jake Epp. He has made a public statement saying that he has written to the provinces in this regard. I might advise members that we have not received any representation in this matter whatsoever by the Honourable Minister. So we're looking forward to hearing from him. I think that this is a matter that we should consider in a positive light.

Social Assistance Program in Manitoba - conflict with Charter or Rights

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A supplementary question to the same Minister.

Will the Minister be introducing, in this Session of the House, an act to end our two-tiered Social Assistance Program in Manitoba, thereby ending a conflict which exists with the Charter of Rights?

HON. L. EVANS: Madam Speaker, this is a matter that has been under consideration by myself and by our government for some time. I would hope to be able to indicate a government intention in this matter in the near future.

But I want to advise the honourable member that all the solutions in welfare, all the difficulties we have in the welfare system, do not vanish once you have a one-tier system. Because I could point to one-tier systems across this country where welfare people are treated very shabbily, Madam Speaker.

I would just mention that in the Province of Saskatchewan now, with regard to CPP disability, the Government of Saskatchewan is requiring CPP disability recipients to claim those monies so that the Saskatchewan Government does not have to pay it out in the form of welfare.- (Interjection)- Madam Speaker, that is not correct.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. L. EVANS: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Health, Mr. Epp, wrote to us to ensure that we would not encourage welfare recipients to go to the Federal Government and get the CPP benefits. We said that we would do that. We would not force our recipients to do that. Madam Speaker, regrettably the Province of Saskatchewan is doing this, this very day.

Sexist language - removal from social assistance legislation

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A final supplementary question to the same Minister on a Manitoba problem.

Madam Speaker, will the Minister introduce legislation in this Session which will remove sexist language which in fact discriminates against both males and females within our society from all social assistance legislation?

HON. L. EVANS: Madam Speaker, we'll have to look at the legislation. I'm not clear precisely what the member is referring to and I would appreciate getting some detail from her at some point. I might mention though, Madam Speaker, that unlike many other provinces, we treat fathers and mothers the same. We not only have mother's allowances in Manitoba, we have father's allowances. We've removed any sexist approach in that respect. Well, that's very important because I think the fathers are entitled to the same treatment that mothers are under a social allowance program.

Awasis Agency - criminal charges re sexual assault

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Attorney-General.

Nearly two months ago, I asked him whether criminal charges would be laid in the case of the 14-year-old girl who was involved with the Awasis Agency and was allegedly sexually assaulted and raped. Could the Attorney-General indicate if charges have been laid and, if not, what is the reason for the delay?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, well, I'll give it a straightforward answer in that case. The matter was and still is under investigation by the RCMP. Whether or not the RCMP report has been forwarded in its final form to the Crown prosecutor in Thompson is not known to me as of today, but I'll take the question as notice and advise the member and the House tomorrow.

Legal Aid - application for certificate to sue Awasis Agency

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, I also asked the Attorney-General, relative to that matter, whether he would assist in the granting of a Legal Aid Certificate to the family and the young girl to seek compensation in this matter. He indicated that he would await the decision of the Legal Aid Board.

Could he indicate whether that matter has been considered by the Legal Aid Board and whether a certificate will be granted to provide a lawyer for the family and the young girl to seek compensation in that matter?

HON. R. PENNER: Certainly, I think you'll recall indicating at the time that it was my view that if an application for legal aid was made by or on behalf of the young woman in question that it ought to be within the rules and regulations of legal aid, ought to be dealt with positively. I'm not aware that an application has been made or, if an application has been made, if it's been dealt with, but I'll certainly take that as notice as well.

Bank of Nova Scotia - head office to Calgary

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, a new question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

I would ask him whether he has had any conversations with officials of the Bank of Nova Scotia, or has any knowledge about the Bank of Nova Scotia moving its head office to Calgary and reducing their staff from 40 to 8 in the city?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll take the question as notice in terms of the department, but I heard some noise from the peanut

gallery about employment in the province. I would remind members on that side that Manitoba has the strongest employment growth of any province in Western Canada over the last year and over the last number of years. We have 7,000 more people working here today than we had last year.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

Co-op Implements - additional support

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Cooperative Development.

Could he tell us why Co-op Implements needs an additional \$12 million of taxpayers' support, of which \$2.5 million is Manitoba's share?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Co-op Development.

HON. J. COWAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Unfortunately, the Member for La Verendrye is obtaining some of his facts from a press article that was not entirely correct, so let me take one moment to explain what the agreement is so that he has a full understanding.

In essence, what has happened is Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and the Federal Government have entered into negotiations and finalized successfully negotiations with Co-operative Implements and Vicon to bring to an end an agreement which members of his party entered into in 1978, which provided for \$12.5 million in loan guarantees.

So what we are doing now is to end that agreement, and we have struck an arrangement whereby Vicon itself and C.I. will assume responsibility for 50 percent of those loan guarantees and the prairie provinces, along with the Federal Government, will assume responsibility for the other 50 percent of those guarantees with the proviso that, if Vicon and C.I. are profitable over the next number of years, they will return that 50 percent which we paid out.

In Manitoba's instance, that 50 percent amounts to \$1.4 million of a write-off of a loan guarantee that has been around for far too many years. We're doing it now at this time, Madam Speaker, because we are encouraged by what Vicon and Co-op Implements have been able to do over the past year by working together to serve rural communities, to provide jobs, to protect the farm implementation industry in Manitoba . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. J. COWAN: . . . and, Madam Speaker, we're proud of that agreement.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: In view of this lengthy statement that the Minister made, I'd like to go on a report of February 5, 1987, from the Manitoba Co-operator which states, and I'll read as follows: "Net income of \$2.36

million for 1986 was reported by Co-op Implements, the Winnipeg-based farm machinery cooperative. This is a dramatic turnaround in the position of Co-op Implements," said Vic Kuffner, Chief Executive Officer.

My question is to the Minister again: Is that report not accurate and, if such, is he totally informed as to the position of Co-op Implements?

HON. J. COWAN: The Member for La Verendrye is not disappointed at the success of Co-operative Implements.

One of the reasons they have been able to be successful is not only due to their hard work - and they have worked hard, and the support of their 24,000 cooperative members and they have worked hard and shown commitment and dedication - but also because a Provincial Government and a Federal Government and two other Provincial Governments sat down with them and said, how can we make this farm implement manufacturing industry and distribution network work better for the farmers, work better for rural Manitoba, work better for the Prairie Provinces, and when that happens, when the farmers benefit, when the workers benefit, all of Manitoba benefits and we're proud to be a part, a small part, albeit, but a part of that turnaround, Madam Speaker. And what we did just the other day will ensure that we are finalizing a reliance on the part of Vicon and Co-op on the government and at the same time poising them for continued success and a better future for all of us.

Vicon - amount of total loans and loan guarantees

MR. H. PANKRATZ: My final question to the Minister: What is the total amount of loan guarantees and the outstanding loans that Vicon has at the present and have they lived up to their present commitments and would he be willing to table this in the House?

HON. J. COWAN: I would just have to seek some clarification from the Member for La Verendrye.

Is he asking for the agreement to be tabled in the House?

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Madam Speaker, I would like the Minister to table all previous agreements and loan guarantees that have been made by the Province of Manitoba.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, I believe the original agreement in 1978 was tabled in the House but if the Conservative Government of the Day neglected to do so, we will certainly do so.

We have made all the other agreements public. As a matter of fact, I believe the Member for La Verendrye should be in receipt of this particular agreement that was just recently negotiated and signed because I had it sent to his office this morning. If he wishes me to table in the House, I can do that, there's absolutely no difficulty, we've already made it public in many different ways. I would be proud to because it provides, Madam Speaker, for a better future for Co-op Implements and Vicon, it provides for pay equity provisions, it provides for affirmative action, it provides for job security, it

provides for economic spinoffs, it provides for a stronger farm implementation manufacturing industry, a stronger distribution network, stronger rural communities and it does all that while having Vicon and Co-op assume 50 percent of the responsibility that we had previously and then promises to pay it back to us if they're profitable.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Cooperative Development doesn't get very many opportunities to answer questions about his portfolio in the House. I guess that's why his answers are so long.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question?

Conditions for bailing out companies in future

MR. J. McCRAE: Part of the deal, Madam Speaker, was that the Manitoba Government obtained a guarantee from Co-op Implements that comparable value, sometimes called pay equity, and affirmative action, would be part of the deal. Is it the policy of the government that comparable value and affirmative action will be a condition for bailing out companies in the future or for doing business with this government?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Co-op Development.

HON. J. COWAN: I had the opportunity to read back through the 1978 Hansards when Mr. Craik was addressing this issue in the House when they made that 1978 loan guarantee agreement and I can't recall having heard the word, "bail-out." It certainly wasn't a bail-out then and it's not a bail-out now, it is a progressive agreement that provides for assistance to an industry that is providing a strong service for rural Manitoba to an area of Manitoba that that member represents, and I think he should take some pride in it.

In respect to pay equity, Madam Speaker, it is part of a development agreement, along with affirmative action, along with job guarantees, and along with economic spinoffs, and the best efforts being utilized to obtain those in Manitoba.

Manitoba negotiated those when the other Prairie Provinces could not or would not. So we stand alone in that regard, and we're quite proud of what we were able to negotiate. No, it is not a condition of any agreement we enter into; perhaps it should be; but it certainly is something that we want to negotiate when we have a progressive company like Co-op Implements, the cooperative movement being progressive, and Vicon, who want to work with us to provide better quality jobs for their workers, and to ensure that women and those who have been economically disadvantaged in this province, through no fault of their own, have a fair share at the work opportunities we're creating by working together.

Manitoba Labour Law - in compliance with Charter of Rights

MR. J. McCRAE: Madam Speaker, this question is directed to the Attorney-General.

On Monday of this week, the Attorney-General said that The Manitoba Labour Relations Act has been undergoing scrutiny for Charter of Rights compliance. When will that opinion be ready? Will the Minister make available to honourable members of this House the opinion of the law officers of the Crown regarding the Charter compliance of The Manitoba Labour Relations Act?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: What I said was that in connection with an action by Metropolitan Stores and others challenging our labour legislation, the Legal Department of the Constitutional Law Department of the Attorney-General were, in fact, briefing the whole relationship between the labour legislation generally, our Labour Relations Act in particular, and the Charter of Rights.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. R. PENNER: If you'd be a little patient, which is not one of your better qualities, I'll complete my answer.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

Could we please stay on the topic?

The Honourable Attorney-General on the question.

HON. R. PENNER: In fact, Madam Speaker, in relationship to questions that were asked earlier today about an action taken by a union, I should point out that Section 23 of The Labour Relations Act, has a strong clause with respect to freedom of speech which has been used successfully, I'm glad to say, in cases where it's a borderline situation between unfair labour practice and the right of freedom of speech.

We have those provisions in what is one of the best, if not the best Labour Relations Acts in the country. What I said, if the Leader of the Opposition would have listened, is that year-by-year for the last three years, we have been subjecting all of our statutes to an analysis with respect to the Charter of Rights. We have brought in the best legislation in the country in terms of compliance, and there will be another bill this year that will do the same thing.

The Labour Relations Act - opinion from law officers re freedom of speech

MR. J. McCRAE: Madam Speaker, this is the Minister who complains about being taken out of context all the time, and he won't answer my question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. J. McCRAE: In addition to making available the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, two honourable members in this Chamber, will the Minister seek also an opinion from the same law officers regarding any provision in The Manitoba Labour Relations Act which allows an 18-year-old employee to be liable for the payment of millions of dollars under the section dealing with penalties for unfair labour practices, which is legislation put in by this government, and such unfair labour practices as expressing themselves through freedom of speech and expression? Will you table the opinion?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, Madam Speaker, of course. Legal opinions prepared for a court case by the Department of the Attorney-General are the property of the people of Manitoba and certainly its Legislatures, and . . .

MR. G. FILMON: For the legislation, that's what we asked for.

MR. J. McCRAE: Review of the legislation, you know what I'm talking about, answer the question, please.

HON. R. PENNER: Madam Speaker, I'll continue with my answer. That opinion certainly is available, No. 1.

No. 2, with respect to the Member for Brandon West, harkening back to the original set of questions in this Chamber, the fact that someone chooses, as they allege, to file a complaint under the act and ask for X or Y or Z is a far cry from that, in fact, being available under the legislation and being allowed by the Labour Board. The members opposite should recall - although they choose to forget - that the Labour Board is composed of equal numbers of employer representatives and employee representatives, and they should not, for a moment, think that its adjudications have been weighed in one direction or the other; they haven't.

If that's the inference, then it's an unfair criticism and an unwarranted criticism of the Labour Board, and an unfair criticism of representatives of employers' groups who sit on that Labour Board, just as much as representatives of employees' groups.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: May I draw the attention of honourable members to the Speaker's gallery where we have the pleasure of having with us this afternoon His Excellency, the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Mr. Sean Gaynor and Mrs. Gaynor.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature today.

Also in the gallery we have 56 students from Grade 9 from the Gabrielle Roy School. The students are under the direction of Mr. A. Jobinville and the school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

I also understand they're accompanied by an exchange class from the Province of Quebec.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, would you please Second Readings in the following order: Bills No. 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, and then please call Bill No. 15; then the Debate on Second Readings, the Adjourned Debate, on Bill No.6.

It's my understanding that there's an inclination on the part of all members to forego Private Members' Hour, by leave, and if we complete the Debate on Second Readings, we would then move the necessary motion to move us into Committee of Supply for review of Estimates.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is it the will of the House to dispense with Private Members' Hour? (Agreed)

SECOND READING BILL NO. 23 - THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

HON. J. PLOHMAN presented Bill No. 23, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Madam Speaker, it is my honour to present for Second Reading, amendments to The Highway Traffic Act. I do have a copy of the opening remarks, if the members would like to have a copy.

Madam Speaker, many of the amendments that are being introduced here in the Legislature today serve to streamline the operations within my department and also correspond to cost-saving initiatives that have been undertaken this year through the Estimates process.

In addition, modifications have been made to certain sections . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

If honourable members would like to have private conversations, could they please do so elsewhere?

The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that intervention.

Now, I was saying that many of these modifications have been made to certain sections in order to more accurately reflect the spirit, intent and the practice under the act at the present time. One of the cost-saving initiatives that I referred to will result in issuing single licence plates for motor vehicles. The existing act requires, Madam Speaker, that two-number plates be displayed on most vehicles in the Province of Manitoba, with the exception of motorcycles, mopeds and trailers.

The proposed amendment will require that only one plate be displayed on the rear of all motor vehicles. It is the rear plate that is most visible in the case of traffic enforcement and the plate to which the registration decal is affixed.

Manitoba is the third province in Canada to adopt the practice of issuing single licence plates. The policy has already been established in Quebec and Prince Edward Island and about 20 states in the U.S. This new policy is expected to represent a \$210,000 annual reduction in expenditures, something that tends to be ignored by the members of the Opposition who have opposed this move. An additional \$1.6 million will be saved when licence plates are completely re-issued which happens every seven or eight years traditionally in the province.

We've also incorporated changes to the act concerning driver licence suspensions involving the Medical Review Committee. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles will continue to be legally empowered to suspend a driver, pending receipt of a medical certificate, if the driver is believed to pose a serious threat to the public safety. As well, a section of the act which specifies that a driver who does not have a medical certificate could appeal the Registrar's suspension before the Medical Review Committee is being repealed.

Obviously, the committee could not make a decision to revoke a suspension based on medical reasons, if there was no medical information to consider. Yet the present provisions of the act enable a person to appeal to the Medical Review Committee even though they do not necessarily have a medical certificate. In practice, that's not happening. So, on that basis, we propose to change the act to ensure a practical application of procedures which will protect the interest and safety of all motorists. The changes will correct the inconsistencies which exist between the current legislation and the present practice of the Manitoba Medical Review Committee.

Another amendment has been made in response to the request of the RCMP and the Winnipeg City Police. The amended act will allow red and blue lights to be used on law enforcement vehicles. The existing act only allows for red lights to be displayed on these types of vehicles. The combination of red and blue lights on law enforcement vehicles will make them easier to distinguish from other emergency vehicles for the public. These changes will also bring about a greater degree of national uniformity, since eight jurisdictions in Canada currently have a policy in place to allow the use of red and blue lights exclusively on law enforcement vehicles. I might mention that we've had requests for the same consideration for ambulances and firetrucks, but we have stuck at this point, Madam Speaker, to the national standard which has been agreed to, as of the 1981 Conference of the Motor Transport Administrators and the Ministers responsible, to providing this only for law enforcement vehicles.

In addition, Madam Speaker, we are putting forward a provision that would provide a clear definition of the authority of peace officers to stop vehicles in order to check drivers licences and vehicle registration cards. Random stopping of motorists is often the only means of apprehending individuals who are driving while disqualified. Yet at the current time the law enforcement officers do not have a clear jurisdiction to stop a vehicle just for the purposes of checking the drivers licences and vehicle registration cards. The inclusion of this provision will ensure that such action is justifiable under the Charter of Rights, and we have been very careful in doing that.

Criminal Code offences under The Highway Traffic Act presently call for a six-month suspension for a first conviction and a five-year suspension for a second or subsequent conviction within a five-year period. Some people, who have two or more Criminal Code offences under the current system, are intentionally delaying their court appearances, Madam Speaker, for their first offence in an attempt to have all charges dealt with at the same court appearance, thus avoiding the imposition of a five-year suspension, a technicality that they've been able to work to their advantage.

The amendment would clearly enable the Registrar to treat all persons consistently by imposing a five-year suspension. It's a technicality that they've been able to work to their advantage. The amendment would clearly enable the Registrar to treat all persons consistently by imposing a five-year suspension when a person commits two or more Criminal Code driving offences within five years, regardless of the actual dates of conviction.

This amendment will ensure that the clear intent of the original clause can be carried out as was intended when dealing with these serious convictions. When this provision was brought forward in the act, it is in keeping with the spirit of the original act as it was outlined. These convictions involve such very serious offences as impaired driving and criminal negligence.

It should be noted as well, Madam Speaker, for the members' information that the legislation pertaining to subsequent offences will be applicable to all Criminal Code offences, rather than pertaining exclusively, as it is at the current time, to only alcohol-related Criminal Code offences.

We have also incorporated a new section in the act, which will grant municipal councils the authority to pass by-laws concerning the issuance of parking permits. Councils will have the right to issue parking permits, which exempt residents of specific streets from parking restrictions on that particular street, but the general parking restrictions may apply. This particular amendment responds to requests made by the City of Winnipeg and particularly by the City of Brandon, which is very interested in having a by-law that would allow residents to park on their adjacent streets, regardless of the general prohibition on parking that may exist according to other sections of the act.

Changes are additionally proposed for transporting livestock. Under the amended act, producers will be permitted to transport livestock for other farmers to and from a farm, pasture or agricultural exhibition or fair, provided the combined weight of their vehicle and livestock does not exceed 13,500 kilograms.

This change reflects requests by producers who appeared before a livestock inquiry conducted by the Motor Transport Board earlier this year. I am sure members are aware, a number of agricultural organizations and individuals had expressed the desire to have this provision included, as is the case with other agricultural commodities, where a farmer can assist his neighbour in a neighbourly way for the cost of actually carrying out and offering that service, but not for profit. But the compensation could not exceed the costs of carrying out that particular operation.

What we are including here for the Member for Arthur, who is not listening, we are including livestock that would be transported to the farm from the pasture and

from fairs and exhibitions, which was -(Interjection)- as the Member for Arthur has stated, Madam Speaker, from his seat, has been taking place in this province illegally and actually inadvertently insofar as it not being consistent with the law throughout the province for a number of years. So what we are intending to do as a result of this hearing is to legalize this practice, which we believe is reasonable and in the public interest.

In addition to that, Madam Speaker, in an effort to eliminate ambiguity, the definition of compensation as it applies to motor carriers has been broadened to clarify the authority of the Motor Transport Board with regard to carriers. I think that is an important change and clarification with regard to the definition of compensation.

Another new clause in the act will grant the Motor Transport Board the power to sanction operators of heavy trucks over a registered weight of 4,500 kilograms - that's really anything over a half-ton truck - should they breach provisions of The Highway Traffic Act for offences such as misuse of plates. At the current time, the Transport Board does not have that jurisdiction and, in essence, is not able to enforce violations in that area.

Should an operator be in violation of The Highway Traffic Act, the Motor Transport Board would have the power to require a show-cause hearing and to direct the Registrar to cancel vehicle registrations or to refuse to register vehicles for the offending individual. The board could also impose a fine that is consistent with other fine provisions in the act of up to \$5,000 for these offences.

Since the Transport Board exists to provide general supervision of truck transportation in the province, it is the appropriate body, I believe, to deal with all violations involving trucking.

It is anticipated that this new provision will allow for more effective enforcement of economic and safety regulations pertaining to trucking within our province. I might point out, Madam Speaker, that the trucking industry generally supports this move.

Last year, the Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program was introduced into the act. This enabled the introduction of a compulsory inspection program for commercial vehicles which has started May 1, 1987, of this year, just a little over a week-and-a-half ago. Present legislation stipulates the Registrar must notify those commercial vehicle owners who will be inspected by an individual letter to each of them each time they are going to be inspected.

Extensive administrative work has already been carried out in preparation for this program, and it has now been determined that it would be much more advantageous for fleet owners and the government if the program was operated on a regular-interval inspection basis rather than on a mail call-up notice from the Registrar. The amendments will ensure that this is the case.

What they will provide for is an inspection for all truck-tractors in the province every six months and tractor semi-trailers once a year. So that will be an inspection program that will take place and that will be put in place for all vehicles. The onus will be on those fleet owners to ensure that their trucks comply.

That will mean, Madam Speaker, that we will have a program that will largely cost the province nothing,

because what we have done is certified various mechanics and shops throughout the province in the private sector. They will conduct the inspections and will be charged by the garage owner or the mechanic for the services of the inspection. In the case of the individual owners who have their own shops, they can be self-certified. Therefore, a major trucking firm, for example, can do their own inspections under this system. We believe that will be a system that will work well and is long overdue.

I might point out to the members of the Opposition that this is pursuant to an agreement, the Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program, that was actually signed in 1981 and is being implemented now in this province after a lot of administrative work that took place before it could be put in place. It also will be consistent, Madam Speaker, with the major provisions that are going to be put in place over the next two years with regard to the National Safety Code that all provinces have agreed to.

I will be bringing in amendments, Madam Speaker, to facilitate that in the next Session of the Legislature, to facilitate the introduction of the National Safety Code.

In concluding, let me emphasize that many of these amendments have been incorporated to ensure the safety of the motoring public and to facilitate the delivery and administration of vital programs provided by the Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation. We believe that all of these amendments are being made with due consideration and in the public interest, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to ask a question of the Minister, based on page 3, where the random stopping of motorists is going to be coming under the bill. Can the Minister indicate whether he's got a legal opinion on it, and would he maybe be prepared to table that legal opinion on that portion of it so that we can be assured that it qualifies under the Charter of Rights or the human rights aspect of it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Madam Speaker, we have consulted extensively with the Attorney-General and his department, and are advised by the Attorney-General that the legal advice that he has is that this will comply with the Charter. If there is a formal written copy of such an opinion, I would be prepared to provide that to the members of the Opposition, provide it to the critic, if that would be sufficient.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Gladstone, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 24 - THE CORPORATIONS ACT

HON. A. MACKLING presented Bill No. 24, An Act to amend The Corporations Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les corporations, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

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

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, the present Corporations Act was brought into force on November 1, 1976. This act is similar to the Canada Business Corporations Act and was recommended to this Legislature by a non-partisan special committee composed of some of the most knowledgeable corporation lawyers in Manitoba.

Among other things, The Corporations Act was designed to streamline unnecessary corporate procedures for the public, the business person and the solicitor; and to make more uniform the laws applying to corporations in Canada. These objections have been, to a large extent, realized. This is borne out by the fact that most other Canadian jurisdictions have now enacted similar legislation.

The bill I'm now presenting to this House helps to maintain uniformity with the Canada Business Corporations Act, as a number of sections are being amended in order to keep step with the federal act. As well, provisions are being added to the act to allow corporations, which have received their incorporating documents in English or French, to be reissued the documents in the other of those languages.

Further, the investigative powers which exist under the act are being given exclusively to the director appointed under the Corporations Act. This is in keeping with the federal statute and is more appropriate, as the director is the person who is charged with other administrative duties under the act. I can assure the House that a more detailed explanation of the provisions will be available to members during consideration in committee.

I have given the whip for the Opposition the spread sheets of the proposed legislation and a copy of my remarks; and I certainly commend this legislation for all members of the House to give their consent.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 27 - THE REAL PROPERTY ACT AND VARIOUS OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT ACT

HON. R. PENNER presented Bill No. 27, The Real Property Act and Various Other Acts Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biens réels et diverses autres lois, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: The Member for St. Norbert is familiar with the background of this bill and, accordingly, I will not be long in my explanation. In fact, I made a few remarks on introducing the bill for First Reading.

Some members may be aware that our Land Titles system, in a sense, fulfills several roles, one of which is, in effect, a debt-collecting agency. It is that because it is possible for anyone who secures a judgment or has a lien to register that in the Land Titles Office in something called the General Register. The difficulty is that those registrations were by name and bore no reference to a specific piece of land.

The difficulty that follows is that there are so many names which are similar, and Manitoba that it is I think especially true. I mean members, and the Member for Emerson will know, as well as I do, how many Dietrich Friesens there are in the Province of Manitoba. So we have Dietrich A. Friesen, Dietrich B. Friesen, Dietrich H. Friesen, and on and on it goes.

Now if somebody comes to register a judgment in the General Register, it is the procedure that any registrations thereafter of a transaction involving land, whether a conveyance or a mortgage, is to be made subject to any judgment. But often a conveyance was held up and said, well, there's a judgment against Bill Smith, and it turned out that was some other Bill Smith. So then they'd have to file an affidavit - no, I'm not the Bill Smith, I've never been that Bill Smith; I don't have any debts, I don't have any hypothecations, I don't owe the bank any money; it's not me - and it was an expensive process.

We attempted to deal with that by amendments to The Real Property Act in '82-83, which put more of an onus on exact-name registrations, but the difficulty with that was that there were other provisions of The Real Property Act which cumulatively had the effect of making lawyers, who were handling transactions, potentially at risk if it turned out, not through any fault of theirs, that a registration went through.

They reported to a mortgage company that everything was okay, that their mortgage was a first charge against the land, and then it turned out that in fact this chap who got the benefits of the mortgage proceeds was in fact a judgment debtor, only that didn't emerge from the General Register, and potentially there is outstanding against conveyancing lawyers a substantial risk.

In order to deal with that, we are in fact -(Interjection)- It's sometimes hard in this House, isn't it, Madam Speaker? -(Interjection)- I know they do. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology is not interested in real property conveyancing anymore, but one day he may be. He may be.

But in any event, Madam Speaker, what we're doing, in effect, is adopting a recommendation of the Law Reform Commission made in 1980. We're getting rid of the General Register in its present form, but we want to make sure that we're not prejudicing anybody's rights.

So there's a delay of two years during which the General Register will persist, but it will be phased out. After two years, you can still use the Land Titles Office to enforce a judgment, but you have to register it against the land. That's what happens.

So if I get a judgment against the Member for St. Norbert - and one day, if he doesn't talk nicely about me, I may have to sue him for libel or something like that - and he has a piece of land registered in his name, I can file it as a judgment against his land. But I can't just file a judgment up in the air in -(Interjection)- Well, if you're like me, you'd probably transfer it to somebody else. But in any event, Madam Speaker, that is the gist of the bill.

I'll conclude by saying we've consulted with the Real Property Section of the Manitoba Bar, with Mark Schulman and Alexander Morton of the Real Property Bar. We've consulted, indeed, with the Canadian Bankers' Association, which had some concerns, and now recognize, although they might prefer to keep the General Register in its present form, the justice of what is being done.

And accordingly, Madam Speaker, I commend this bill to the House and am prepared to deal with it in more detail in committee.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, I'd just like to ask one question to the Attorney-General for clarification.

In requiring that a Certificate of Judgment be registered against the land owned by a judgment debtor, is the Attorney-General and the government committed to providing a form of property owner's registry which a creditor could have access to and thereby be in a position to be able to file a Certificate of Judgment against specific property owned by the judgment debtor?

Without that sort of property owner registry, I think this bill, while certainly helping some people, does not particularly help creditors.

HON. R. PENNER: I thank the member for that question. It's my understanding that when the automation of the Land Titles system, which is presently under way, is completed, and that is not much more than two years away, in fact, it will be possible to supplement the usual sources of information as to whether or not someone has property by reference to the automated system in the Land Titles Office.

MR. G. MERCIER: I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 28 - THE HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE ACT

HON. G. LECUYER presented Bill No. 28, The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act; Loi sur les déchets radioactifs de haute activité, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Madam Speaker, last spring, Cabinet adopted eight environmental management

principles to provide present and future framework for the protection and enhancement of the environment of our province for the benefit of all Manitobans.

While this legislation, Madam Speaker, supports those principles generally, there are three which are worth perhaps repeating here, and they are the principles of leadership, prevention and stewardship.

By introducing this legislation where the government is providing indeed leadership not only to those Manitobans who are concerned about leadership, because Manitoba is the first jurisdiction in Canada to introduce this type of legislation and perhaps the only one where it needs to be introduced.

The legislation will prevent a problem that could emerge in the future and, in that sense, is a clear statement of our intent to protect and maintain our ecological processes, including our watersheds, free from human-generated nuclear contaminants and therefore supporting our stewardship role.

I want to be clear at the outset, Madam Speaker. What this bill intends to do is basically allow to happen what is happening now in Pinawa, and that is research. Inasmuch as the Canadian society allows the use of nuclear energy to be used to produce our electricity or for other uses, it has a responsibility to make sure that research is undertaken to deal with the by-products; that is the waste that this source of energy produces.

Much of that research, Madam Speaker, currently takes place in Canada, especially the underground nuclear research which is now taking place near Lac du Bonnet, and this will allow that to continue to happen. Other types of research occur in Pinawa, which eventually is aimed in the medical field or perhaps other fields of genetics and plant growth, etc., and that will not prevent that from happening.

Madam Speaker, we're talking about legislation here which will prevent the storage - underground disposal - pardon me - of nuclear waste. We've taken that stand. We made that stand public at a number of occasions in the past, more specifically, roughly a year or so ago when sites, potential sites, were being considered in the United States, at which time both myself and the Premier made our stance known; and, more recently, in front of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons, I again reiterated the stance of Manitoba.

Now that the research has been taking place for a fairly lengthy period of time, now that other nations are also involved in that research, we sought assurances and guarantees that Manitoba would not be chosen as the site for final disposal of such waste. We were provided with some assurances but only limited guarantees; and, as I say, because of the fact that that research has been taking place for some time and we're getting closer and closer to the day when validation and hearings, perhaps, on that research will be taking place, the fear is ever present, and because of the involvement of Japan, United States, etc., as part of that research, Manitobans continue to fear that there will come a day when it will be said, well, why not go a step further - we feel that it's safe enough - use the site for the disposal of nuclear waste, and that is what we want to prevent, Madam Speaker.

I will say, at the outset, we do not benefit from the production of the energy through the use of nuclear fuels and, therefore, Madam Speaker, we do not feel

we should be assuming the burden of having to deal with the waste produced.

Madam Speaker, this legislation doesn't stand alone. It is one more step in a comprehensive approach to protecting the citizens of the province from the risks associated with the disposal of high-level nuclear waste.

Members of this House, Madam Speaker, will recall the incisive intervention in the U.S. site-selection process when potential sites were proposed in the U.S. section of the Red River Valley which drains in Manitoba. The Premier himself took a lead role in that particular intervention.

We believe that because nuclear waste is being generated by other jurisdictions, ultimately safe disposal methods will be necessary. However, as I said, because Manitoba neither generates nor benefits from nuclear power, we feel we should not be put at risk by it.

Three provinces essentially use it: Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. There are seven other provinces who do not - included among those is Manitoba - but of those seven, only Manitoba carries the responsibility of that research and, therefore, of all the provinces in Canada, perhaps there is only one that needs to make that statement, that clear statement, that it does not want to see disposal within its own boundaries nor within the drainage basins that drain within our boundaries.

We have repeatedly sought assurances, as I said, but we're only been given limited guarantees. The new act is designed to address the concerns of Manitobans. It should exclude Manitoba from future site-selection processes for high-level nuclear waste disposal facilities.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: How can you guarantee that?

HON. G. LECUYER: The Member for Emerson asks from his seat, Madam Speaker, "How can you guarantee that?"

The legislation, Madam Speaker, is only valid for as long as it's on the books and legislation is only as good as the will of the people of the province and the lawmakers who are sitting in this Legislature at that time. The member knows that; so he's got his answer. He knows the answer.

The Manitoba Government has been consistent in its policy of support for nuclear waste research at Atomic Energy of Canada because there we have one of the world's class research laboratories; but we are opposed, and continue to be opposed, to the disposal of high-level nuclear waste within our borders and near our borders in drainage basins that drain into our province.

Madam Speaker, I believe it is an appropriate time for us to embody our stance in legislation - our policy of supporting research into disposal methods but not accepting the actual disposal facility itself - and this new act will make it a violation of provincial law to do so; that is to dispose nuclear waste in Manitoba.

The act does, while prohibiting the disposal of nuclear waste, Madam Speaker, continue to ensure that research will continue by providing for safe storage of high-level wastes being used in research activities or produced by medical research or treatment centres in Manitoba.

Secondly, it requires that this waste be stored above ground to permit retrieval and provide for continuous monitoring.

Thirdly, it prohibits the storage of waste not intended for research purposes in Manitoba.

I'd like just to touch briefly on the background of Atomic Energy of Canada's research activities in Manitoba. The Crown corporation has had a research establishment in Pinawa since the early Sixties and scientists have long been attracted to the idea that since particular rock formations have remained stable for millions of years, they would provide an excellent medium in which to dispose of high-level nuclear waste.

If, in addition, such rock body was homogeneous and minimally fractured, it would be an even better candidate and, of course, the Canadian Shield is peppered with just such deposits called plutons. Pinawa, in fact, is located in the middle of a huge pluton known as the Lac du Bonnet Batholith. Atomic Energy of Canada decided in the mid-Seventies that, because of these features, this geologic disposal method was not only promising, but so attractive that it would be the only alternative to be seriously researched in Canada. That I find, Madam Speaker, a little distressing, because I think that we've, perhaps as a country, put our eggs all in the same basket in terms of long-term developments in terms of energy.

I would hope that in the future, more research funding by the Canadian government is going to go into alternative sources of energy such as biomass, wind energy, solar energy as potential sources that do not present the risks, the longstanding risks that nuclear wastes present. In that sense, perhaps Canada can be faulted.

But inasmuch as we are using nuclear energy and are producing wastes which will last for centuries or milleniums, we have a responsibility to address what we'll do to deal with the wastes produced.

In 1981, Atomic Energy of Canada, as we all know now, signed a 20-year lease with the Government of Manitoba on approximately one-and-one-half sections of Crown land about 15 miles northeast of Pinawa, to construct an underground research laboratory known today by most people as the URL. The AECL chose this location mainly because it is part of the Lac du Bonnet Batholith, which is completely exposed, with very little surface cover - easy to get at, in other words.

Then they have sunk a shaft, 250 metres, with rooms excavated where they can conduct that research. Recent interest from the United States likely will mean that this shaft will be deepened to twice its current depth for study and research at much deeper levels. As well, as I mentioned before, interest has been shown and probably funding will be forthcoming from Japan.

So ultimately we know in Canada there will be a need probably for long-term disposal of high-level nuclear waste, and it's prudent for us to be examining possible options now in advance of the urgent necessity. In fact, a second lease was entered into which permits regional ground water study associated with the URL research. That was entered into in 1986. As I said, though, the catch is one that has troubled Manitobans from the very first time AECL began discussing the deep geologic disposal concept in association with its Pinawa operation. The catch is this: once the research is over, there will be indeed temptation to use this repository as a permanent disposal site. Why go elsewhere and start the site specific investigations again will be undoubtedly the question.

Our scientists respond, that in this area, to conduct a full research program, the rock will be disturbed, perhaps more than it would be in site specific investigations in the future once the basic knowledge has been established. In essence, the more holes you drill, the less suitable the site becomes for a natural waste repository. So too many potential pathways to the environment have been opened up. That is the way I feel this site, once the research has been completed, would be left, the situation in which it would be left, sort of a Swiss cheese-like rock formation. It would not be suitable as a disposal site.

Nonetheless, the question has troubled the Government of Manitoba and many of its citizens, but not necessarily the scientists involved in the nuclear waste research program. Their argument is that if the disposal method is proven to be safe, why worry about its use in Manitoba.

That brings us to an interesting point, Madam Speaker. The moment scientists use words such "safe" and "acceptable," they are talking the language of values, but values in a democratic society are not determined by scientists. Science can help us understand relative risks but it is our society which determines in each particular instance what is an acceptable level of risk and who bears that risk. That, Madam Speaker, is a socio-political decision which we, as lawmakers, have to make in consultation with the citizens we represent.

The disposal of nuclear waste in crystalline rock will bring some risk with it; there's no doubt about that. Even the most ardent supporters of the concept agree that each component of the disposal system will bring with it some degree of risk, if not the actual disposal, which we can't guarantee, then there will be risk for sure in transportation, in handling, in packaging, in storage, and other components which may be added later. So, risk there will be.

Since water is the transport mechanism for potential contamination, that risk will be borne by the watershed in which the disposal system is located, and we all know that this particular site is in the heart of a fairly heavily populated area. It is an area which is highly prized for recreational purposes as well.

So, Madam Speaker, it is certainly not an appropriate site for these further reasons; but the primary one, of course, is always and remains the one, is that who benefits from the production of the energy needs to assume the responsibility of disposing. Again, therefore, I say Manitoba does not benefit from the generation of the energy produced from the use and, therefore, should not be asked to bear the risks associated with the disposal.

Taking this stand on nuclear waste disposal does not mean, however, that we, as a government, are holding out the false prospect for Manitobans of a risk-free involvement. As a society, we attempt to do just as we do as individuals - not expose ourselves unnecessarily to large or unnecessary risks which outweigh the benefits to be gained.

Manitoba does accept the risks associated with non-nuclear hazardous wastes it generates. For the benefit of the Member For Emerson who keeps moaning and groaning from his place and raising that very point, I repeat: Manitoba does accept the risks associated with non-nuclear hazardous wastes it generates, and

our Hazardous Wastes Management Program was developed to address that very problem.

In this case, we benefit from the use of the products which result in hazardous wastes and, therefore, we have to accept the risks associated with the treatment and disposal, and we are. That is why we passed The Hazardous Wastes Management Act, Madam Speaker, and that is why we are proceeding to implement its full operation.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would just like to note that in February 1987, I reiterated Manitoba's position on nuclear waste disposal to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Forestry in Ottawa. At that time, I announced the government's intention to proceed with actions which would ensure that a nuclear waste disposal facility would never be established in Manitoba.

The Manitoba High-Level Nuclear Waste Disposal Act represents our government's intention to deal with this issue and permit those involved in Canada's High-Level Nuclear Waste Disposal Program to exclude Manitoba once and for all from any future site-selection processes.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member For Assiniboia, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 29 - THE CONDOMINIUM ACT

HON. M. HEMPHILL presented Bill No. 29, An Act to amend The Condominium Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les condominiums, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, when the condominium legislation was first introduced in Manitoba, it was in 1968, and it was two years before there was any condominium built in the province. Since that time, we have had very dramatic growth in our condominium development, and we're expecting even greater.

In 1970, there was only one condominium building with 100 units, and in 1987, we have over 200 with 15,000 units. It is clear that there is a great deal of interest. Most of the apartments that are being registered now, Madam Speaker, are being registered as condominiums just in case the owners want to convert them, down the road, to condominiums. It's an indication that in both the building of new condominium units and conversion of existing apartments that there is a great potential for condominium growth to match all of the housing growth that we're experiencing in the province of Manitoba.

The act has a couple of purposes, Madam Speaker. We want to make sure that condominium buyers are

adequately protected and we want to make it easier for condominium managers to manage their projects. So our amendments are arising out of concerns that were raised by condominium owners, developers and vendors. We consulted with a number of people: the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Condominium Institute, Consumer Affairs and . . . - (Inaudible)- to come up with these changes, Madam Speaker.

One of the changes that we're making requires that condominium owners have input early on in the management of the property through an elected board of directors. Currently, Madam Speaker, the developer decides when to turn over the control of the project to the owners. What we are saying is that as soon as 50 percent of the units have been sold, that a new board of directors must be elected so that the unit owners and the people can begin to get or have control of the development project that they are sharing.

We're also instituting a reserve fund, Madam Speaker, and this is to allow the orderly maintenance of the project where they're not faced, after a period of 10 or 15 years, with tremendous costs. They are allowed to put money into a reserve fund for large repairs. They have three years to reach 5 percent of the value of the project and they can go beyond that if they decide that the amount of the reserve fund should be larger and if the majority of the unit . . . - (Inaudible)-

One of the major areas that we're changing, Madam Speaker, is the requirement for buyers to be given all relevant information. When you're buying a condominium, it's not as simple as buying a private house, and we're making sure that they're given additional information about the project's budget and the management before they agree to buy the unit.

We have also required that they have to be given detailed information about the reserve fund and the management agreement 48 hours before the execution of the purchase agreement, and we are also building in a 48 hour cooling-off period after the signing so that if the purchaser gets home and reads all the fine print and finds out that there were things in there they are responsible for, that they are not aware of, they are able to remove themselves from the agreement up to a 48-hour period, Madam Speaker.

We're also trying to keep people out of court, Madam Speaker, by setting up an arbitration process when there are disputes between the developer and the unit holder. The Department of the Landlord and Tenant Affairs branch can mediate disputes with them through an arbitration process that they will agree to that, hopefully, will eliminate, as much as possible, disputes and difficulties on minor matters without requiring them to go to court to resolve these minor matters, Madam Speaker.

We are saying that they can amend the condominium declaration when they have a vote of 80 percent of the unit holders instead of the current requirement of 100 percent of the unit holders. It allows them to make decisions when the majority of the owners agree, because there have been previous problems, Madam Speaker, when just one owner was absent and they weren't able to make changes.

We are also allowing a proxy vote so that they can, if the unit holders do not show up, receive their proxy vote on the issue.

We're allowing the condominium corporation to enforce the Assessment for Common Elements

Expenses. Now they have to go to court to collect any defaulted payments. The change will give the corporation greater authority in collecting these payments, Madam Speaker.

Just in summary, I think that the changes are recognizing that there are going to be an increasingly large number of condominiums in the future, that we want to protect the rights of the people buying condominiums and the ability of the managers to manage the projects. We are also dealing with questions of consumer protection in this legislation, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Madam Speaker, a couple of questions for clarification to the Minister.

Does the proposed act clarify as to who owns or who has the right to the money that is in either the reserve or contingency funds? It's always been a debate as to whether it belongs to the corporation, because they often take it as part of common element fees, or is it a revenue or an interest by the unit owner that's really being held, you know, in sort of trust for them? Does the act clarify as to who actually owns it?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, the reserve money is in the fund and is, the allocation and distribution of it will be determined by the majority of the unit holders. However, if the individual decides to sell their unit, that is one of the elements that is part of the negotiations. It's part of the settlement for them to determine what money is in the fund and it's agreed to between the buyer and the seller.

MR. C. BIRT: Then I'm taking from the Minister's response, then, that the share of whatever special reserve fund it may be called, or contingency fund flows to the unit, so if it is sold it is taken then as adjusted like you would adjust anything else in a sale. The Minister is nodding her head, yes?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: One other question for clarification.

It's always the responsibility of the corporation or the unit owner to do certain things, i.e. repair a leaking faucet or who should put the insulation in the attic. The old act set out certain rights and the agreement that you entered into when you bought also specified it. But there was never any final adjudicating authority to say this is really corporation's responsibility or tenant's responsibility. I know I've advised both corporations and individuals as to what I think their particular rights are under a circumstance.

Is there a mechanism where they could go, say, to the Rentalsman or someone like this, you know, an independent tribunal without going to court, because the courts, quite frankly, don't want to be bothered with a simple little question. Yet it may have a \$300 or \$400 implication to the unit holder or to the corporation. So, is there some sort of mechanism in place that would allow sort of a third party independent adjudication of, whose obligation or rights are they?

I think it flows much from the issue that the Minister was referring to as to as to certain rights and certain obligations such as to pay common element fees. There are some changes there. But I'm wondering if it will go further to define who will have to do what.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Madam Speaker, that is also included.

I think what we have recognized, that almost every dispute and every problem that was created in the past, whether it was the unit holder wanting to have what they thought were their rights or the owner collecting things from the unit holder that they thought they were responsible for, that where there were disputes they almost always had to go to court. There was no other recourse for either party. What we have done in this act is designed in a number of areas, that wherever there are disputes of that nature, that they can have a mediation, they can choose to have a mediation/arbitration process that will, possibly, if they agree to it, settle the matter between them with a third party adjudicating, and remove the requirement to go to court.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. R. NORDMAN: I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Garry, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 15 - THE CROP INSURANCE ACT

HON. B. URUSKI presented Bill No. 15, an Act to amend The Crop Insurance Act, Loi sur L'assurance-récolte, for Second Reading. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

MOTION presented.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to make a few general comments with respect to the Crop Insurance Program and some specific comments on the amendments to the Crop Insurance Act that are now before us.

By way of background, I should remind members that the program began in Manitoba in 1960, making this our 28th year the program has been in existence. Manitoba pioneered the program in this country, Madam Speaker, with test areas established in the southwest area of the province, comprising of the Rural Municipalities of Edward, Arthur, Brenda, Albert, and Pipestone, the area that was considered the most risky as far crop production was concerned.

Other areas involved in the test during the first year were in the south-central area, the area considered to be low risk, comprising of the R.M.'s of Grey, Dufferin, Thompson, Roland, Stanley and Rhineland.

The medium-risk areas involved two areas: in the north, it comprised the R.M.'s of Dauphin, Gilbert Plains,

Grandview, Boulton, and Silver Creek; and West Red River, involving the R.M.'s of MacDonald, Morris, and Montcalm.

Just over two years ago, Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the program, I attended a reception at Melita, the constituency of the Honourable Member for Arthur, the former Minister of Agriculture, where we honoured those farmers who had been continuously insured with the Crop Insurance Program since 1960.

We singled out Mr. Grant Andrews of Coulter for special recognition because he had the lowest active contract number of all insured farmers. His contract was No. 4. This made Mr. Andrews the longest continuously insured farmer in the program in Canada, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to advise you that Mr. Andrews continues to be insured today. This will be his 28th year with the Crop Insurance Program.

Unfortunately, Mr. Andrew's health has required him to retire from farming this year, but he continues to be insured as a landlord. The corporation has made arrangements for him to retain his current contract number. I'm sure that all members of this Assembly will join with me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Andrews well in their retirement.

Madam Speaker, many farmers have benefited from the program over its 28-year history. Mr. Andrews told me that it didn't take long for the program to prove itself to him. In 1961, just the second year of the program, all of the Prairies suffered from a devastating drought. I'm sure that every farm member in this House will remember 1961; but Mr. Andrews was able to get his investment back because he was insured. Most farmers weren't insured in 1961 and they had to absorb their losses on their own. Mr. Andrews was a young man back then. Although he had a poor crop, he did receive his investment back, through his crop insurance indemnity and was able to continue farming. We'll never know how many other young farmers in 1961 had to quit farming, because they weren't insured and weren't able to get their investment back.

The same situation, Madam Speaker, holds true today, perhaps even more today than it did in 1961. Today, farmers have to purchase most of their inputs, fertilizer, herbicides, diesel fuel; all require a cash outlay.

In 1961, the major input was the farmer's own labour. If he had a poor crop, he might get by, by tightening his belt and relying on his garden, and his pigs, and chickens and his cows; but that's not how it works today. The labour input is now a relatively small proportion of the total input cost. If the crop is lost, it's still necessary to pay all those bills.

Even if a farmer has a garden and livestock to feed himself, he won't be able to keep farming unless he can pay his bills. That is why I think crop insurance is even more important now than in 1960, when it first started.

Madam Speaker, it occurs to me that "crop insurance" possibly isn't the best name for the program; "cash investment insurance" might be a better description of what the program is really all about. That is what the farmer is insuring - it's his cash investment; that's what he wants to protect.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about financing of the Crop Insurance Program, because it's the very key to this piece of legislation.

As you know, crop insurance is financed by the farmers, Federal Government and the province. The farmers and the Federal Government each pay half of the total premium, while the province picks up all the administrative costs. This arrangement works well and has resulted in a significant increase in farmer participation, since this arrangement was negotiated in the early 1970's.

Madam Speaker, there have been indications that the Federal Government wishes to change the sharing arrangement. It has been suggested that the province should pick up a larger share of the total cost. Although no official proposal in this regard has been made, this has been suggested as, what I would call, "a trial balloon."

Madam Speaker, I think all members of this House should be united in trying to shoot this balloon out of the sky. If the Federal Government is allowed to offload the cost onto the provinces, of all the various programs that have been suggested; and in many cases, implemented - whether they be crop insurance, health or education programs, any other major programs of the Province of Manitoba - it means we will have an exaggeration of the difference that already exists in the standard of living between the provinces.

Richer provinces, such as Ontario, will continue to be able to provide a high standard of services, while poorer provinces, like Manitoba, will not be able to provide that service, or if we do, it will certainly have to be at a lower standard.

Madam Speaker, we must not allow this country - our country of Canada - to develop in this way. All members of the Legislature must be united in demanding that we retain a strong federal contribution to these national programs. The Crop Insurance Program has matured in this province, Madam Speaker. Although there is still room for expansion, the majority of our crop land is now insured.

In 1985, a number of program changes were introduced. Since then, insured acres have increased by 700,000. In 1986, the dollar coverage in place had increased by \$113 million, an increase of more than 35 percent. Nine new crops have been insured in the last three years, and those, just for the Honourable Members' information, when we discussed them in Estimates: winter wheat, pedigreed Timothy seed, honey, onions, parsnips, soya beans, pedigreed alfalfa seed, carrots and rutabagas - I'm sure the Honourable Member from Portage appreciates some of those crops that we have put under the program.

In addition, Madam Speaker, the Livestock Feed Security Program has been developed and expanded to cover all Manitoba municipalities. This expansion all took place during a time of budget constraint, Madam Speaker. The corporation has received an annual increase in appropriation averaging just 2 percent over the last four years. This is a tremendous achievement at a time when we all must find ways to do more with less.

The corporation has also made significant strides in reducing the time required to pay claims and to reduce the paperwork needed to run the program. All of this progress gives me much pleasure and I'm sure is appreciated by many Manitoba farmers. For example, the average number of days to pay post-harvest claims has decreased by about 22 days during the last three

years. Previously, an application for a contract could have required up to seven documents to be completed. Now, only one is needed.

Also, the proof of loss form has been eliminated. This was a form a farmer had to sign and return to the corporation before he or she could receive their cheque. The corporation now sends a cheque with a statement directly to the farmer, with an indication that endorsing the cheque constitutes an agreement and the matter will be settled. This puts the farmer to much less trouble and gets the cheque to him about 10 days faster than it would otherwise have been possible.

As far as the future is concerned, the corporation has been busy rewriting virtually all of its computer programs. It now has an on-line capability and will be testing the feasibility of utilizing computers in its field offices beginning in January of 1988. If this develops as expected, it will mean further improvement in service to Manitoba farmers.

Another priority for the corporation is to develop and implement a system of individualized coverage adjustment. I think we are all aware, Madam Speaker, that there are considerable differences in the productivity of different farmers. It is necessary that the program recognize this fact when coverage levels are established. The current program, of course, already recognizes differences between farmers. The maximum increase above basic coverage for wheat is three bushels per acre; and the maximum reduction below basic coverage is six bushels per acre. In addition, premium discounts and surcharges can result in farmers paying 25 percent more, or 25 percent less than the basic premium for the area.

So, Madam Speaker, the present program does make considerable effort to sort farmers out by increasing or decreasing their coverage and by increasing or decreasing their premiums.

The problem with the present program is that it does not distinguish between poor management and poor weather. If a farmer has a poor crop and all other farmers have a poor crop because of a drought, they will lose coverage and have his or her premium increased. This could be considered unfair if the loss is clearly due to weather. On the other hand, if weather conditions are very favourable, a farmer could obtain an increase in coverage and a decrease in premium, even though his management is only average.

The present program makes adjustments in coverage and premiums based on experience, which is a function of both the management of the farmer and weather conditions in the area.

What is needed, though, Madam Speaker, is a system that focuses more on management. It would be desirable to index a farmer's production to that of others in his risk area on similar soils. His coverage should be increased or decreased above basic levels, in a way that relates to how his production compares to others who are farming in the same environment and on similar soil.

Such a system could truly be called a management-sensitive coverage adjustment program. If we are able to do this, we could probably de-emphasize premium discounts and surcharges and place relatively more emphasis on adjusting coverage. After all, if a farmer is a good manager, this will manifest itself into higher yield averages and his coverage should reflect this fact.

If he has increased coverage, he would have less need for a premium discount.

This change is currently under consideration by the corporation. It has not been implemented as yet, because it is a major development and must be done correctly when it is implemented. It could also be very costly. It would be necessary to have yield levels from all farmers each year, so that the farmer's yields could be indexed against all other farmers. This would result in a tremendous increase in workload for the corporation and would have a significant impact on the corporation's budget. As such, it will be implemented only if a cost-effective procedure can be worked out.

Madam Speaker, the amendments to The Crop Insurance Act are designed to further enhance the efficient running of the corporation. Perhaps indicative of the emphasis placed on reducing the amount of paper generated by the corporation, the new act will only be about half the length of the old act.

In large part, most changes simply clarify and shorten the act to make it more readable. The major change is to alter the present requirement, to have premium rates and coverages for each crop, on each soil type, in each risk area approved by regulation each year.

Madam Speaker, I'm sure you will understand, and I'm sure some members opposite who have served in Cabinet, will understand that it is almost overwhelming - the volume of material that has to be approved by regulations each year, simply because of the requirement contained in the current act.

Because of the volume of material that Cabinet must approve each year, I sincerely doubt that all the changes contained in the regulations get the fullest attention that they deserve. Effective control can be lost if Cabinet is required to consider and approve large volumes of detailed information.

Madam Speaker, what the new act will do is require a regulation to be approved for each crop insurance plan. There would be one plan for the all-risk program, which would spell out how premium rates and coverages are to be established for each insured crop. For example, the plan might say that basic coverage for a risk area is to be established on the basis of average reported yields over the last 25 years, indexed in accordance with the technology adjustment factor, for each of the 10 soil classifications in each risk area, in that risk area.

Another plan would exist for the Livestock Feed Security Program and would spell out how premium rates, coverages, and indemnities have to be calculated for it. Another plan would exist for the Honey Program; another for the additional Part II Hail Program; and another for the Forage Program.

These plans, Madam Speaker, would spell out the formula for establishing premium rates, bushel coverages, and how indemnities are calculated. It would be, I guess one could describe it, something like a recipe that the corporation would have to follow. The board of directors of the corporation would be responsible for making sure the formula or the recipe was being followed. They would approve specific premium rates and coverages for each soil type in each risk area as long as the calculation was done in accordance with the regulation.

If the policy or the formula for establishing premium rates and coverages was not changed in a particular

year, there would be no need to have a new regulation. The corporation would simply add, in the crop insurance experience from the most recent year, in accordance with the formula spelled out in the regulation, to come up with a new premium rate and bushel coverages for each quarter section in the province.

The advantage, Madam Speaker, of this approach is that Cabinet would only have to approve changes in policy of the corporation, changes in the formula or recipe, if you like. Cabinet would be relieved of the task of approving the calculations that result from implementing the formula, something that I believe that Cabinet has not, and is ill equipped to do so.

Madam Speaker, I think this approach enhances Cabinet control because it requires Cabinet to consider relevant matters, the policies of the corporation. It relieves Cabinet from the responsibility of approving the arithmetic done by the corporation's staff.

This new arrangement will benefit the corporation by reducing the amount of material that has to be prepared for Cabinet consideration. The corporation will of course have to calculate premium rates and coverages. This new arrangement will benefit farmers because it means the corporation can get the program approved and made available to them earlier than would otherwise be possible.

Madam Speaker, another significant change is to remove the \$2 million ceiling on working capital advances that exist in the present act. I want to say that no control would be lost, because Cabinet would still be required to approve in advance before the money is made available to the corporation.

The advantage of this change is that it would provide an avenue for the corporation to make indemnity payments to farmers in the event the reserve and reinsurance funds are depleted and interest-free loans are required from the province and the Federal Government.

I want to state, Madam Speaker, that our neighbouring province, the Province of Saskatchewan, got caught in this predicament in 1985 when it suffered from its second significant crop loss in a row. Its reserve and reinsurance funds were depleted and it couldn't get its money from Ottawa in a timely fashion.

This had the result of delaying payment to farmers. Without the change being proposed, Madam Speaker, Manitoba could not advance the corporation any more than \$2 million while it waited for federal funds to be transferred. This would not be sufficient if the province suffered a similar crop loss situation like the one we had in 1980.

Madam Speaker, you might say this is a pre-emptive action. It is moving now to avoid what might be a problem down the road. And, of course, Madam Speaker, we don't want to put Manitoba farmers in a situation whereby they have to wait for payments from the corporation simply because the Federal Government money, which was required by way of the Crop Insurance Agreement, has not yet arrived.

Madam Speaker, the Member for Virden earlier today raised questions about contingency plans, and in my remarks today, I covered really two significant areas: the one I have just now covered with the \$2 million advance, which is a pre-emptive move in the event that we do suffer from a drought or huge claims, which will allow us to pay claims in a timely fashion with no

limitation on the reserves that may not be available should claims exceed those reserves.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, unlike 1980 or 1984, the years where there were federal-provincial ad hoc programs for drought assistance for feed supplies, we have, and the members now know, in 1986 brought into place a province-wide Feed Security Program which, in fact, now does away with the need for ad-hoc programming for feed supplies.

Those two measures are the pre-emptive measures and the contingency plans that we've talked about in terms of covering the needs of farmers both on the livestock side and on the grain side. There may be other measures that we may have to look at from time to time, but those two largest ones that we have had to contend with as governments, both present and previous, have in fact been covered off by amendments in this act and changes in program as a result of federal-provincial agreements.

Madam Speaker, another change is to make it clear that the corporation does have the authority to administer other programs related to agriculture. It is now administering a compensation program for damage done by migratory waterfowl, on behalf of the Federal and Provincial Governments. It also does crop loss adjusting as a service to Manitoba Natural Resources in the big game losses, Madam Speaker. These are logical extensions of the services offered by the corporation and it is appropriate that the present ones be clearly authorized.

There may be, Madam Speaker, other programs which come up in the future for which Crop Insurance is the logical implementation agency. It is necessary to have a means whereby these can be administered if it makes sense to do so.

The Crop Insurance Program, Madam Speaker, is an important component of support network to Manitoba farmers. It is necessary to ensure that program develops and adjusts to the changing nature of agriculture today. The proposed changes in this act will ensure that it continues to meet the needs of Manitoba farmers.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank honourable members for giving me this opportunity to bring this bill before the House. I would also like to, for all honourable members, provide a number of copies for the Clerk's Office and for Members of the Opposition - I have provided two copies for our own caucus - of what is normally called the spread sheet, which outlines the existing provisions in the act, the proposed changes, because most of those changes are technical, and the explanation sides.

So I would ask the Pages to provide the necessary copies for the Clerk and the remaining copies for Members of the Opposition.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Emerson, that debate be adjourned on this bill.

MOTION presented and carried.

MADAM SPEAKER: Second Reading on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Government

Services, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye - stand? (Agreed)

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of Education.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: The committee will come to order.

We're considering the Estimates of the Department of Education, page 54, Resolution 51 - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I believe the Minister was going to get some information from yesterday's discussions wherein he made reference to, I believe, that the amount of property education, or the taxes from education, had dropped to about 42 percent. He was using some figures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: I believe I gave you that.

MR. C. BIRT: Was that on that large sheet?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, yesterday when we were discussing the whole question of technical training, especially the movement of the community colleges into the sort of community settings, the Minister made reference to a number of facilities throughout the province and there was quite a number of them in the various schools. In the regional schools as to the, you know, in other words we were very rich as far as facilities were concerned throughout the province.

Keeping in mind the debate we were entering into about trying to cooperate and, in fact, use some of the facilities that might be under utilized, has there been a position in the department then to cap or at least put on hold any new facilities that school divisions might be requiring in the way of technical training or job training so that we can ensure we're using what we've got in a better way than in fact, perhaps, adding more to the system?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, some months ago, shortly before actually the announcement of the High School Review, I met with the chairperson of the Public

Schools Finance Board and indicated, and we went through a list of projects that had been submitted by school divisions and projects that had been previously approved, and tried to isolate those ones which were necessary and for which approval had been given and work undertaken.

The rest of them, there was a decision made to only deal with the emergency items, necessary upgrades and so forth, and that the rest should be put on hold, in effect, until such time as the High School Review made its report and made its recommendations, specifically with the expectation that the area of vocational education, industrial education, would be dealt with in that review.

MR. C. BIRT: In reading the annual report and some other documentation, the system seems to treat industrial arts separate from, what I would call regular technical training.

Is it not merely just another aspect of the technical training; I mean, shouldn't it be considered as one? Why the distinction or is that being changed?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, the industrial arts area is that part of the curriculum that's implemented in the junior high level - essentially from the 7 to 9 level - and the nature of the experience of individual students is that is very short-lived; in other words, they rotate. I believe in most industrial arts areas, they would probably have four different sections in a given year; and they would include home ec, metals and drafting, something like that. The student would spend a fairly short period of time in each different area, and really, it's more a life-experience kind of opportunity than trade preparation or vocational-education preparation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: So I take it then that this aspect isn't in the 10-12 grade category. It's only a junior high phenomenon. Okay, thank you.

Yesterday we were talking to a degree on the involvement of the Department of Education in the whole question of Manpower training. They require a fair number of spots at the community college.

Does the Department of Labour have its own sort of educational advisory bodies, components? In other words, do they set their own educational programs or standards, or do they rely on the Department of Education?

HON. J. STORIE: The Department of Labour is responsible in the main for the Apprenticeship Programs and they, along with representatives from Industry, Labour and Education, set the parameters for those particular programs, but that really is their only involvement in the apprenticeship area.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is there any duplication of effort and services because they, I believe, require the college to deliver a certain type of service or educational standard to meet their Apprenticeship Program? So I'm just curious.

Do they have then their own sort of educational arm within their department that would be paralleling something that the community colleges would be offering, or the Department of Education would be offering?

HON. J. STORIE: Not really, because the criteria for the curriculum are established, as I said, in a joint way with participation from the Department of Education and really the colleges implement that program. So the colleges' responsibility is to develop the material, prepare the instructors, offer the instruction; rather than meeting with industry and outlining the need.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, when I look at the annual report, which is a year old, but I look at the employment, or at least the staff numbers referred to in that particular report, and I'm looking now at page 52 dealing with the Red River Community College section. It says there are 650 full-time and 350 part-time staff dealing with so many students. Yet, when I compare that with the component that's in the supplementary financial things, granted there's been a slight reduction in the number of staff years, but we're dealing with 739 as opposed to either 650 full-time or almost 1,000 total staff.

What is the correct figure and why do we have the two different figures?

HON. J. STORIE: It would probably reflect the fact that there are contract staff involved that offer some programs, evening programs, etc., so that could account for the discrepancy.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, then the SY's that are referred to in the supplementary, are they the full-time positions, not contract?

HON. J. STORIE: That would be the full-time total.

MR. C. BIRT: Well, Mr. Chairman, there's still even a fair discrepancy of 100. In the '86-87, there were 748, and the annual report shows 650, just for the Community College.

HON. J. STORIE: The 739 figure is not just full-time. That is comprised of 662 full-time, 42.75 term, and 34.1 contract. Mr. Chairperson, I think the more comparable figures would be at the bottom of page 52 in the annual report. It references 650 full-time and the numbers I've just given you of the full-time this year. The others, the rest would be part-time staff, including evening classes.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, then if we look at the bottom of page 75 in the supplementary, where they show professional fees, then these are the fees that are paying the part-time, the 42 term and the 34 contract. Is that how I would read that?

HON. J. STORIE: You're referring to the 271?

MR. C. BIRT: Well, I'm looking at page 75 of the Supplementary Estimates . . .

HON. J. STORIE: And Professional Fees?

MR. C. BIRT: There's Professional Fees down there. I just realized that they can't be, because across for,

let's call it 739 positions, whether they be full time or part time, there's a salary component of some \$26.5 million. So then, what would be covered in the Professional Fees of 271 down below?

HON. J. STORIE: Just so we're clear, we're talking about the 271 that's referenced across . . .

MR. C. BIRT: The Professional Fees for this coming year.

HON. J. STORIE: Professional Fees.

The Professional Fees includes organization memberships, honorariums that are paid out to, I guess, people who offer services of one form or another, not contract teachers but individuals, guest lecturers and so forth.

The largest share of that, approximately \$130,000 represents student fees for Manpower students, in other words, fees that we collect and then pay to the Students' Association. So it's a transfer from Manpower to the college to the Students' Association.

MR. C. BIRT: Then, Mr. Chairman, on that last \$130,000, would there not then be a negative somewhere on that line to show a payout? Of the 271, if there's 130 being transferred out, there should be a negative someplace.

HON. J. STORIE: That would be federal recoveries, I imagine.

MR. C. BIRT: Oh, okay, all right.

Mr. Chairman, the Assiniboine Community College, the number again does not square with what is referred to in the annual report. So perhaps could the Minister give me the breakdown of full time, part time, or contract, because it shows 184.51 . . .

HON. J. STORIE: That figure, the figure in the Supplementary Estimates book would be 152 full time, 24.46 term, and 8.05 contract.

MR. C. BIRT: Then what would be the number for Keewatin College?

HON. J. STORIE: The equivalent staff would be 96 full-time, 19.43 term, and 8.3 contract.

MR. C. BIRT: Going to page 53 of the annual report, there's a paragraph that says, "The number of college programs which will accept General Education Development test and certificates of Grade 10, 11, and 12 equivalency was raised from 14 to 38."

What is the GED test and what are they referring to here, to 10, 11, and 12?

HON. J. STORIE: The GED test is a test that was developed, not developed but initiated for use in Manitoba in the early Seventies. It's called the General Educational Development test. It is a general knowledge test that equates roughly, based on a score, to Grades 10, 11, and 12. It's a standardized test. It's used in Manitoba and many other provinces, and other jurisdictions in North America.

The reference there in the annual report is to the fact that for a lot of different reasons, people are forced to, or do drop out of school. I believe the test can be written by anyone over the age of 19. They have to have been out of school for a year. Basically the test gives them an equivalency. On the basis of that test, colleges will accept those as credentials for entry into, rather than 14, a larger number, 38 or whatever it was this particular year.

It's simply a recognition that people, because of life experiences, develop skills and knowledge and ability and it's unfair to penalize them for their lack of high school credentials when they have the ability. This test is a measure of that ability.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, two questions: I take it that the school then tests and grades, or is it a departmental function? Do they get some sort of a certificate for it?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, they are graded by the institution and they get a certificate of equivalency, in effect, which says, you have a Grade 10 standing, or Grade 12 standing.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, after getting that certificate of equivalency, do any of these students, or are they students likely to end up in the adult basic ed. courses that we were referring to yesterday, or is there no correlation?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, if they have attained a general GED test score which indicates they have a Grade 10, 11 or 12, it is generally accurate unless there is some specific deficiency in writing skills, or something, I don't see that as being necessary, although most of those students would also be targets, I guess, for observation by the teaching staff and by the resource personnel so that if there was a problem, assistance would be offered in one way or another.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the next paragraph on the same page says "the percentage of targeted students in College programming, exclusive of Developmental Studies and Apprenticeship, was about 20 percent."

What does the "targeted students in College programming" refer to? What does 20 percent mean; can I have an explanation of what it's all about?

HON. J. STORIE: The category, the target - that would obviously be the disadvantaged, native students, physically disabled, handicapped of one sort or another. If I can just refer back to my earlier comments, the member asked about upgrading for people who had taken the GED test.

Obviously, if there was a specific subject that they required at the Grade 10 or Grade 11 level they may, in fact be offered remedial assistance or have to take upgrading for that specific subject, or if they scored a Grade 10 and a Grade 11 level was required, they might have to take upgrading for that particular year.

MR. C. BIRT: Is there - the reference here to 20 percent obviously refers to the number of students in that

particular category. Is there a certain percentage the college is aiming for, like 33 percent, or is this just merely a reflection of the numbers of the total student population.

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, I think there are no quotas. It is simply a recognition of the college's efforts to serve the larger population to make sure that students are accessing the college's services.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I've been advised, and it relates to a Nursing Program that was offered, I believe, up at Keewatin College, that once the number of graduates were passed through they couldn't be licensed or registered. Is that correct or is there any thing to that?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson. There was a rather unfortunate set of circumstances surrounding some communication between the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses and the community colleges. Those differences and those misunderstandings have been cleared up. There was never really any danger that those students would not receive accreditation for their effort. I don't want to be critical of the situation. It was a misunderstanding, I think, that could have been avoided but it was resolved amicably.

MR. C. BIRT: Without getting into the specific actors and players and that, what was the nature of the problem that was ultimately resolved?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses has some statutory responsibility for sitting down with community colleges and developing programming and approving the certificates that are going to be offered, I guess. Because the program that was being offered in Keewatin was a Red River-approved course, there was some concern about its applicability.

I think the key point is here and the concern of the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses was that these people would be graduating and they needed something extra because they may, in fact, be working after graduation in Northern Manitoba. But, of course, KCC is a provincial institution and they may be working anywhere in the province, just as Red River graduates may be working anywhere in the province.

The Registered Nurses Diploma is a national registration; so really, there was some serious misunderstandings about the role and the responsibilities of the organization and its relationship with the colleges - perhaps some overenthusiastic action on the part of some individuals.

MR. C. BIRT: I take it it has been ironed out and there's no problems, as far as the students working and being accepted.

HON. J. STORIE: It created some unnecessary trauma, but that's all.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, looking at page 80 of the annual report, there's reference here - and again we're

going back a year - of expenditures related to capital that shows the Red River Community College was underexpenditure by \$232,000.00. Why was there the underexpenditure then and was there any underexpenditure in this past year?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that there should be no difficulty in spending the capital that is allocated this year; obviously, things change.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is that capital lost or was it not committed and then just expired, or it just wasn't expended by March 31 of '86?

HON. J. STORIE: That could be as well but any money, any funds that are not expended by March 31 are lapsed and there has to be new authority given for that. So the particular projects that may have gone ahead with that particular capital will be part of the capital for this year. It's a revolving fund, if you will.

MR. C. BIRT: Was this for some major construction at the school or general maintenance?

HON. J. STORIE: It was for equipment.

MR. C. BIRT: Well, was the decision not to acquire the equipment? What caused the underspending?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the underspending could have been equipment that simply was not purchased. It could have been part of the details or part of the reduction, general repriorization within the department. So it was just money that was part of the total allocation and there was a Cabinet decision to slow down expenditures. It's something that's happened in every department.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, although I don't have last year's Estimate, would the line I would be looking at for this year, that we've just made reference to, be 8.(a)(i), where the capital shown is \$843,300.00?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: So, in theory the previous year's Estimates would have referred to 1 million-plus and then of that only some \$800,000 was expended?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: Point No. 4 on that page refers to the Canada-Manitoba Skills Growth Fund. Is that something that is terminated? In our debate of discussing things yesterday, that name wasn't mentioned.

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, that program is terminated.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, on the next page, page 81, there's two references to Limestone Training, one in 16-5(q), I think it is, and then 16-8(c). Why do we have two separate categories for Limestone? I've seen it in other instances as well.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the difference is that one is capital and one is operating.

MR. C. BIRT: With capital being the smaller one, then?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, dealing with the question of aid for students to the community colleges - (Interjection)- Can we pull a vote on this?

HON. J. STORIE: I think it would work.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I move that this be a smoke-free room and all cigarettes be put out.

HON. J. STORIE: It's against the rules.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I remind committee members that there is no smoking allowed in committee. The Member for Fort Garry.

HON. J. STORIE: Thank you for clarifying that, Mr. Chairperson; if you'd only stop now.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, students going to the community college, there's a number showing on page 102; those who got loans and the total amount of the loans and bursaries and what not. Are the loans available to those who come under the purchase agreements through the Federal Government? Are they entitled to loans or is it just to those students who are coming on their own volition, or their own hook?

HON. J. STORIE: Those people that are sponsored have a living allowance, I think as we discussed yesterday; so normally would not be eligible.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is there a formula or some mechanism of being able to allocate a certain sum of monies to the colleges, I mean here we're dealing with the universities, as well as the colleges and other specific areas. But is there a certain amount, sort of like guaranteed to the community-college segment or is it a first come, first served; whether you're a university student or a college student, whoever gets their application in first, gets the money?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there is no differentiation. The post-secondary students are all treated equally and they receive their allocation of support on the basis of need.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions in the Supplementary book and then that will probably conclude my questions as it relates to this particular portion of the Estimates.

On page 71 of the Supplementary Estimates, there is reference of communications of \$46,800.00. Why do we need a communications budget in the financial and administrative section, and what's it for? And don't tell me "it's communications" - I'd like to know what it's being communicated on.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, it's a mixture of advertising for staff bulletins, job bulletins, program information, those kinds of things.

MR. C. BIRT: Is there a rough breakdown as to the amounts?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes. It's 15,000 for Staff Advertising and \$31,000 for College Program Advertising.

MR. C. BIRT: What's the Program Advertising?

HON. J. STORIE: You may have seen in the papers from time to time, evening programs, other offerings, special events at the college, those kinds of things.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I note in all of the divisions or sub-appropriations, there is a communication allotment. If that relates to course offerings, why wouldn't that be included in the budget, say, for Red River Community College or Keewatin College, or something like that?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, part of the advertising that is done for all of the colleges is coordinated centrally. The colleges do have their own budget for postage and telephone and a small budget - about \$4.70, Gary tells me, for local advertising.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, on page 73, again there's a communication commitment of \$41,900 and it's Financial and Administrative Services. What do they need a communication budget for?

HON. J. STORIE: The majority of that, I understand, is postage, telephone. Again that's a central payment of services.

MR. C. BIRT: There's a note at the bottom. It relates to the other line, Other. It says "Reduction in general operating expenditures, including printing, stationery, computer-related charges and support for special programming at colleges which did not fully materialize."

It would appear that there was something being contemplated and that it didn't follow through, so there's a reduction of \$65,000.00.

Was it a decision to do away with it or did something not occur that it had to be cut back? What's the explanation of the reduction of \$65,000.00?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, just minor reductions in a whole host of things, as the note indicates, simply a tightening of the expenditures for administrative purposes, I guess.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, going to the next page, page 74, where it says, "Expected Results: Maintain or increase level of full- and part-time enrolment." And that's referring to the Red River Community College. In looking at the stats provided in the back of the book, it would appear that the population at the colleges is declining and has been over the last four or five years. What is the intention of the administration to either maintain or increase the level of full-time or part-time, because there seems to be a trend downward?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm told by staff that full-time enrolment is stable at the colleges, and

that part-time is in fact increasing. I think we went over some of the numbers yesterday or the last time we met. I'm not sure what numbers the member's referring to.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, if you look at page 63, there's a graph there. It says, "Manitoba community colleges productivity analysis," and it shows enrolments, which is about halfway down - 1982-83, where it's 36,000 and by 1985-86, you're down to 31,900. It shows a reduction, in a global sense, of approximately 4,200 students.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the enrolment is somewhat misleading. I think if you looked at the training days, you'll see that they've actually increased.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the training days, which is the next one, there's a reduction of 5,000; so you go from . . .

HON. J. STORIE: From '82, yes, the increase has been '84-'85 over '85-'86. There's almost 50,000 more training days, and the difference is of course that there are fewer students taking longer courses.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, while we're just on that graph, if you look down at the bottom, it says, "Shared cost receipts include NTA," which would be the National Training Agreement. Then there's VRDP. What's that?

HON. J. STORIE: That was the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Program that we talked about.

MR. C. BIRT: In language instruction?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, that is money that is paid through the Secretary of State for primarily English as a Second Language.

MR. C. BIRT: Going back to page 75, Mr. Chairman, of the Supplementary Estimates, there's a communication budget there of some \$318,000.00. What is that for?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, that includes postage, some \$80,000; telephones, some \$165,000; advertising that we discussed earlier at the time that advertising was discussed earlier, exhibits, publications, magazines.

The exhibits would be where Red River sets up a booth and it is involved in the career symposiums and many other kinds of things.

MR. C. BIRT: I meant to ask this earlier, but just going back up to the staff component of some 73,904, where we got a breakdown of 662 full time, how many would be considered teachers, you know, the support staff, secretarial, janitorial? I take it the managerial is the head and the vice-presidents and things like this, but I'm presuming that the teachers fall within the professional-technical side, and are they all teachers? Or what is the actual number of teaching full time?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 500 would be full time.

MR. C. BIRT: Section 5.(f) is called Cooperative Training Programs and there's a fair amount of money allocated there, especially as it relates to Transfers and Professional Fees. The explanation says to increase the training opportunities at the Manitoba Technical Training Centre and the South Winnipeg Technical Centre, and also to deal with Interprovincial Training Agreements.

Could the Minister explain a little more? For example, there's a grant of \$1.4 million which is constant with last year. Who is it being paid to? What for? That's the sort of an explanation I would like.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the agreements that are referred to, there are the kind of agreements, I think, the member actually wrote to me about an individual student who would have liked an opportunity to go out of province but because the program wasn't offered in the province, we have interprovincial agreements whereby students here are guaranteed space allocation in other jurisdictions, and I think the longest standing example is probably the Veterinary College in Saskatoon.

The \$1.4 million in grants and transfer payments include support for the Interprovincial Training Agreements with other provinces.

MR. C. BIRT: How much would that be?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately \$674,000, and approximately \$729,000 to the South Winnipeg Technical Training Centre.

MR. C. BIRT: Is that for the adult training component of that particular operation?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the professional fees, the 1.489, what's that for?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that's the arrangements we have with the Manitoba Technical Training Centre with Control Data.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister explain exactly what that is for and what they do?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes. The Manitoba Technical Training Centre is really a rather unique program that utilizes the courseware, I guess, of Control Data; and we're working in conjunction now with CEIC and the Department of Education and Control Data. We offer training in many, many different areas. In fact, not more than a month or two ago they opened some additional programming in robotics and hydraulics, which is specialized computer-assisted, computer-managed learning; and the centre is supported as well by contract with the individual businesses.

At the opening, both CN and the Manitoba Rolling Mills have purchased contract spaces at the Manitoba Technical Training Centre. I had a chance to talk to the company and to the workers who are taking the training there and it's been a very encouraging experience. The training, of course, is individualized and it's flexible and quite successful.

MR. C. BIRT: Well, Mr. Chairman, then, do these fees sort of pick then the shortfall of the operation, I mean the costs of operating it less any revenue that they may generate through the contracts the Minister just referred to?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that is almost 100 percent recoverable through either funds from other sources - in other words, the companies that purchase the training - or CEIC. So again, this would be reflected in some other area as Recoverable from Canada, for companies.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, what is unique about this place that it, say, couldn't be operated in Red River Community College? And why did we have to create this special centre?

HON. J. STORIE: The original support for purchasing the hardware and so forth came from the Skills Growth Fund. I guess the decisions that were made were based on agreement between CEIC Control Data and the province at that time.

I'm told by staff that because of the involvement as well, the participation in the advisory developmental sense of the Manitoba Federation of Labour and the Chamber of Commerce, that they were also looking at establishing a downtown centre, another centre.

In terms of the technology and the approach, I think the community colleges are actually doing that, that through the individualized competency based learning modules and the use of technology, that those same kinds of things will be occurring not only at our colleges, but at our regional centres in the near future as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is this the one that was set up in the first phase of the CORE Agreement? Is this the one that flowed from it? I know there was some training centre created, or some where the Chamber of Commerce was involved and a series of people were putting funds into it.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, no, that was the Industrial Training Centre and was a much more hands-on low tech, if you will, training institution.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, if we turn to page 87 of the Supplementary Estimates it deals with a Northern Development Agreement-Canada-Manitoba Post-Secondary Career Development; and it shows Social Assistance in one line, what's that for? I mean, why are we showing it as an expenditure?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think that may be a little misleading in the phrase there. It is student allowances basically - living allowances for individual students.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, up above in the grant transfer payments we talk about \$6 million. What is that for, and who is it going to?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that would be directed to the universities for the purchase of the training payment, I guess, because they deliver the training.

MR. C. BIRT: Is this where the money for the Brandon experiences are, BUNTER, those sorts of things, and then the University of Manitoba, I believe, has something up in Thompson. This is where this money would flow through.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Is it then directly related to staff salaries and costs of delivering those programs?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Are these then recovered or recovered to a degree. It says from Northern Affairs, but would there be a federal payment in there someplace?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, all of the funding that comes through the department from the Northern Development Agreement is part of the cost-shared agreement with the Federal Government, and is 60 percent recoverable.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, if we go to the next page at the top. It deals with the Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Agreement Employment and Training. It says, Administrative Support, 33 staff years of last year, same as this year, but there's a drop of some \$255,000 in salary. Who took the pay cut and why?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the explanation is that the agreement, as the member knows, concluded actually on March 31. It is actually a reduction because of phasing-in, staffing up for implementing terms of the new agreement.

MR. C. BIRT: Then the professional fees that are down at the bottom, what are those for? There's some \$383,000 this year as opposed to about 187 last year.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, could I ask the member what line is he referring to when he talks about the reduction?

MR. C. BIRT: At the top, Administrative Support. Last year it was \$1.1 million with 33. This year it's showing 33 at \$861,000.00. So there's a reduction of about a quarter of a million dollars there.

HON. J. STORIE: I think it would probably be fair to say that while we have been allocated 33 staff years, we have not got to that complement yet. That's the staffing up component. We anticipate lower costs overall because of the staffing up.

MR. C. BIRT: It's not the flow-through, it's not the same staff as of last year, to this year.

HON. J. STORIE: No.

MR. C. BIRT: Then, Mr. Chairman, my next question was then, halfway down you have a section for Professional Fees, which were \$187,000 last year, going to \$383,000.00 What's that for?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to give the member another sheet that staff have just given me.

Those are not the correct numbers. The correct numbers should have been Professional Fees in '86-87, Adjusted Vote \$161,565; that has been reduced to \$107,058.00.

MR. C. BIRT: For this year.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, \$107,058.00. So I'll just pass that along and I think probably it'll clear some of the questions up.

MR. C. BIRT: There's another line, it says Social Assistance. Is that, again, one of those student aid type . . . ?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

The next page on 91, you have grants and transfer payments last year of 1.3 million, this year of 1.2. Where are they going and who's receiving it?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairman, those grants go to school divisions by and large. The largest expenditure is for ESL programming.

MR. C. BIRT: How much?

HON. J. STORIE: \$604,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, would this be the adult as well as student, or is it just one of those groupings or both?

HON. J. STORIE: This would be all adult.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay. The other \$600,000 approximately is for what?

HON. J. STORIE: Various adult education and ESL projects for adults, based on educational . . . It would also include literacy programming in some 20 different communities, door-opening grants for schools.

In other words, we provide \$25 per school as a door-opening grant, to encourage school divisions to use the school, or to allow the school to be used by community groups, particularly education-related groups.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the \$25, is it \$25 per person?

HON. J. STORIE: Per school.

MR. C. BIRT: One school gets \$25.00.

HON. J. STORIE: Per night.

MR. C. BIRT: That's a little better.

I had asked, I think it was yesterday, the amount of money being spent on evening courses, like the pottery type courses. They're not really academic courses, they were more supplementary educational things. I believe I was told that it was included in this. Would some of

that money come from the 1.2 million we've been talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: Approximately how much would be allocated to that?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 243,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you. There's a note on the left-hand page, I guess it's 90, it's says enrolment forecast for ESL, EWP and English at home totals some 4,562. Is there a trend developing or is this sort of a static figure or is this a climbing thing? Are we looking at a much more expanded program or people participating in these programs?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, I think the member may be aware that we actually revised our regulations recently in terms of the support, the organization of our support through continuing ed. Part of the reason was that we have seen a tremendous growth in that area, and really the department had been left with an open-ended bill, in essence.

The rationalization, I guess, of our regulations was to target the money and also to put some limit on it, at least provide us with some way of managing those costs. But I think it's fair to say, there has been a tremendous growth, not only the basic education courses but the personal interest courses as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, when we go down to, back on page 91, Professional Fees at 195,000 - is that the funds then to pay the people who are delivering, like the ESL programs, the 91,000 we talked about with Winnipeg 1, if they brought their teachers into the fold? Is that where these funds are going?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. They also go for things like curriculum development as well. So it's professional fees that would be paid for part time, occasional, casual, and the curriculum development efforts as well.

MR. C. BIRT: What's the breakup, roughly, between a curriculum development and say professional fees for employment, approximately?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 60-40, fees versus development.

MR. C. BIRT: At the bottom of page 90, it says: "Enrollments in distance education" - and here comes that lovely word again - programs increased from 300 to 614 and we're expecting to go to 1,000 in 1987. What are we talking about here? It says, "programs." Is it like English programs? What's the explanation of programs? Is it people taking them? Are they being offered? What is it referring to?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it includes all of the things that we have already previously discussed, some of the programming that's offered through Manitoba Educational Television, some of the

programming that's offered through the universities, the Adult Continuing Ed. Divisions, teleconferencing courses, and those kinds of things.

MR. C. BIRT: So then the grants and payments or the professional fees, some of the money from either of those two would be flowing into the areas that the Minister just made reference to?

HON. J. STORIE: They may be for personnel looking after manning the phones or offering the instruction or the link between the students and the program.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, turning to the next page, 93, dealing with Post-Secondary Career Development - Southern Programs, grants and payments, we're looking at about \$2.75 million. Could the Minister give an explanation as to what that's for, where it's going?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, those programs are essentially structured the same as the other ACCESS programs that we're talking about, and those are fees paid to universities for programs delivered.

MR. C. BIRT: I have one other question on another matter, but my colleague to my left here would like to ask some questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions on student aid and specifically on the special opportunity loans. I had spoken to the Minister about a student whose appeal was successful, but I would like to know what the new policy is for the special opportunity loans. In the annual report, '85-86, it indicates that these loans "... are available to chiropractic students pursuing a program of studies at an approved institution in the United States. This assistance is repaid by practice in Manitoba."

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, really on rethinking that, I guess, the fact is that there is a college in Canada and, since exceptional support is not offered for many other programs for which there is an institution in Canada to attend, in an effort to make sure that we were being fair and consistent, I think we had decided to grandfather, grandperson, grandparent that particular program. We have tried to make an effort to make sure that those people who were given support, their individual circumstances are reviewed, and that we don't leave anyone in the lurch. But essentially it's to make sure that we are consistent across the board.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, how many colleges are there in Canada or how many specific courses like the chiropractic are there where there is only one college in Canada? What other courses might there be?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are probably quite a few specialized colleges. I'm thinking of some to do with ophthalmology. There are not many schools for hearing-impaired clinicians, speech clinicians, those kinds of things, areas of some degree of specialization

or perhaps limited opportunity, surveying. There are a number.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: When the Minister was referring to speech therapy, a number of students in Manitoba go down to the States for those programs. Do they get any special loans?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand that it would be normal assistance unless there were some other loan provisions, but they would not be the same kind as we are talking about here.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder then if the Minister could explain why there was a special opportunity loan for chiropractic students, why that was brought into place for them specifically, if there was a college in Canada?

HON. J. STORIE: I can't really comment on that. I only had an opportunity to review, as we reviewed the entire area of student aid and tried to prioritize, tried to in our own way to provide some consistency and develop some direction and the changes were made. I understand that I have a meeting with an individual from the Chiropractic Association, and certainly we'll be discussing that. I understand the numbers are fairly small and we certainly will endeavour to deal with the individuals involved in a reasonable fashion. But as long as it's understood that this kind of exceptional program won't be extended, I think that's the important thing.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Then the Minister is indicating that special opportunity loans will be no more for any student anywhere?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, when the program is offered in Canada, I think that's the key issue. Again, I believe you've indicated that some special arrangements have been made for one of the individuals. I think certainly through the appeal process there is a tendency to deal with individuals as individuals and look at their entire circumstances. So I wouldn't discard the possibility that people will receive special support in one way or another if they are having exceptional circumstances, but that would be only through the appeal process thing.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Do the students who are going down to the States, do they get the regular student loans that students in Canada get?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, students, as long as they are attending an accredited college or university program and they are not available in Canada, they are eligible to go to other parts of the world, I guess.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The Minister is saying then that you couldn't get a student loan to go to a college in the States if there was a college in Canada?

HON. J. STORIE: Generally, that's correct, yes.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'm referring to the college in Minneapolis, the Northwestern Chiropractic College. I

wonder if sometimes it doesn't make more sense for a student to be able, from Manitoba, to get a loan to go down to the States, not in American dollars but in Canadian dollars, when it's close to home and they get a chance to get home more often than if the school is, say, in either the Maritimes or in Toronto?

HON. J. STORIE: Madam Speaker, I had said I wouldn't want to rule out an individual making that case. I think what should be understood is there would be no special opportunity loan, that in fact they will be eligible for Canada Student Loan, assuming that, for example, they couldn't get entry into another college or weren't accepted for whatever reason but were accepted in this other area. Then the Canada Student Loan is automatically available, I would assume. The question of bursary support would be dependent on the student's financial circumstances, but that would be support similar to what any other student would get.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: But the student, Mr. Chairman, if I understand correctly, would have to apply first to the university that is in Toronto or wherever and be turned down before they could apply to the States and get a loan?

HON. J. STORIE: Normally, that would be correct. I would say that, if there were other special circumstances where moving that far away wasn't feasible for some other reason, again exceptional circumstances will be considered. But the general rule is, yes, that's correct.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Well then, there were some examples that were given to the Minister on the cost of living in, say, Toronto versus Minneapolis. I'm wondering if that wouldn't be considered a special circumstance. Say, instead of a student applying to Toronto where they know that they're going to have to pay more money than they would in the States, if that wouldn't be just taken into consideration right from the start. And I'm looking in this particular instance, because no matter even with the American dollar, this particular student found it and I'm sure it is still cheaper to live in the northern States than it is to live in Toronto.

HON. J. STORIE: Again, I can only suggest that the appeal board would look at those. As long as the individual was not asking for additional assistance and was within the guidelines of what would be available normally for a Manitoba student attending school elsewhere, that could be a factor. I don't think the appeal board rules out looking at anything exceptional.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I guess what I'd like to see is that, in circumstances like the Chiropractic College in Minneapolis and the one in Toronto, if a student applies and makes the case of the expenses in Toronto, say, versus Minneapolis and being close to home versus being far away, it's quite an expense even for a student to come home at Christmas which they like to do. Rather than have to go to an appeal board, this type of thing could be okayed just through the regular application.

HON. J. STORIE: I think I should make it clear that, for example, the first line of support is through Canada

Student Loan. That has national criteria which includes the requirement that, if there is a Canadian college or university or facility, that be the first choice. So it would mean changing the federal criteria, not that that's impossible, but I think difficult and perhaps unlikely. Then comes the secondary support which comes from the province by way of loan rebate or bursary. So it would require a change on the part of the federal criteria as well.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister consider at some level, suggesting that change because very often these things are looked at in Central Canada where they are very close and they have all the access to most of the universities, and yet it's much closer for students in the Prairies possibly to go across the border. So we're not asking for extra money in this case, but just the same amount of money but let them choose the school.

HON. J. STORIE: The member makes a very good point, I think, in terms of accessibility for our students to other opportunities. It's probably quite true that, in Ontario and perhaps Quebec, access is somewhat easier to all of the different professional possibilities, and it's something that, yes, I would consider raising.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to go back to the particular one. But when I was given a supplementary sheet, there's an area dealing with Personnel Services, I'm thinking. I'm going back now to page 89 which deals with the Winnipeg Core Area Agreement. It showed last year Personnel Services of \$661,000, this year going to \$474,000.00. It's about the only time that we see Personnel Services appear. What's that for?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm told that it's student payroll.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

One final area for my questions, I believe the head of PACE has been vacant. Has it been filled?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it has been filled. The new PACE ADM is Ms. Nancy Sullivan.

MR. C. BIRT: Does Nancy Sullivan come from within the department?

HON. J. STORIE: No, she was employed previously and still is as, a matter of fact, will not be assuming that position until sometime in July, is currently working at the University of Manitoba.

MR. C. BIRT: I would find it surprising that someone from outside would be filling the position. Would you not have people inside the department, and it's a fairly large department, who could fill that particular position?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I think in all cases where there are senior positions to be filled, there are opportunities

to do scans and to look for the best candidate to fit those particular circumstances and that was done. The person who is chosen was chosen.

MR. C. BIRT: Was the job bulletined?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, it was.

MR. C. BIRT: How many applications were there?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 40.

MR. C. BIRT: How many would have been from the Department of Ed. and how many would have been from outside, approximately?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 50-50.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

I'm prepared to pass this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1) to 5.(n)(3), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution 51: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$67,547,900 for Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1988—pass.

What is your wish?

MR. C. BIRT: I understand that in about 10 minutes there had been agreement between the House Leaders to call it six o'clock, and given the fact that we'll be going into a brand new section, maybe we could call it six o'clock now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you wish, six o'clock. Committee rise.

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: . . . Salaries, 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures, 3.(a)(3) Professional Training. The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we could just clarify what procedure we're going to follow. You may recall that yesterday, we were dealing with 16-3.(c) at the request of the Opposition because their critic was not feeling well. I'm wondering if they would like to complete that item and then revert to pick up (a) and (b). That might be procedurally the best.

I'd also like to convey my sympathy to the critic, who's not yet able to attend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister should have extended her sympathies to me, having to carry on.

We can go back to finish up the MDC. I think the Member for River Heights was through with MDC and I think basically I am, except you were going to get information for us and I don't know if that is available. We had asked for a fair bit of information yesterday. It would be nice to have it before we're all wrapped up.

But, yes, we'll go back to 3.(a) and just carry on in the regular process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If that's the case, let me call them through 3.(c) then, with the understanding you will take up 3.(c) first.

MR. E. CONNERY: We've basically done 3.(c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can pass 3.(c) now?

HON. M. SMITH: I was just going to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are the members of the committee willing to pass 3.(c) now?

The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, would it be possible for us to just go to 3.(a) without passing 3.(c), so that the Member for Portage la Prairie can get the information that he asked for, and would maybe have some further questions?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I was standing before to acknowledge that we have the information requested. We'll forward it to the member opposite; and I guess we're quite willing to proceed with (a) and (b); and then you'll have some time to look at the information and then, I presume, proceed to item (c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we're proceeding from (a)?

HON. M. SMITH: Correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just called 3.(a)(1) and 3.(a)(2) and 3.(a)(3).

The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, starting, there is a . . .

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we are preparing a copy of the materials so that there will be two available to the Opposition. There will be some interpretative comments that I'd like to make on that material, and so long as it's understood that there will be a little time before we pass these, so that I can do that. I presume we're on Item (a) now and did you initiate a question, or are you ready to pass Item (a)?

MR. E. CONNERY: No, we're not ready to pass it . . .

HON. M. SMITH: I see, you asked for comment, okay. Mr. Chair, perhaps if I just comment on the variations from the previous year, I think that that will be sufficient and then if there are questions . . .

The salary item, the increase of \$27,500 is again attributable just to the general salary increase increments and salary adjustments, no change in staff complement.

In the Other Expenditures, there's a reduction of \$17,000 because the basic Welcome Home communication materials have been completed.

Under Professional Training, there is an increase of \$20,000 to allow for short-term crisis management

training for operators and staff of community residential care facilities.

MR. E. CONNERY: I guess when we look at the overall increase, it's not that great. Can the Minister tell us why in administrative support, four people - it went from \$86,700 to \$101,700, which is over a 10 percent increase for those people. Can we have an explanation why one group got such a large increase?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think I gave the explanation for the increase in that line. It was \$27,500 on the salary line, a decrease of \$17,000 in the communication and an increase of \$20,000 in the short-term crisis management training.

Mr. Chair, it's the same number of persons and the increase is due to some movement of individuals, if an individual comes in at a higher level on their increment scale. The total salary will show up differently, but each individual again, it's dependent on where they're at on the salary scale. But it's the same staff complement.

MR. E. CONNERY: For only four people, could the Minister tell us who the changes were? We have a change with Ms. Turnbull now being the director - is that what you call it? - of this sector.

HON. M. SMITH: Assistant Deputy Minister.

MR. E. CONNERY: Assistant Deputy Minister.

She won't come under that line. She would be under the managerial or what sector would Ms. Turnbull come under? Or is it not in there?

HON. M. SMITH: The managerial is made up of the Assistant Deputy Minister, the Executive Director of Operations and Executive Director of Programs. The Professional/Technical has an agency coordinator, and the Administrative Support has an administrative coordinator and three clerical.

MR. E. CONNERY: Who is the administrator - can you tell us? - and what his or her salary would be?

HON. M. SMITH: The administrative officer is Olive Handoga, and her salary has gone from \$34,300 to \$35,600.00. Then there are three clerical, C. Wilson, M. Rieger, and P. Case. Their salaries have gone up by the usual increments.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, there's a 17-percent increase of \$15,000.00. Who got the cash? Somebody got it.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we can give you a written answer. There were some people moving in and some out during the year so that, depending on the level that each had, they may have been a part year at one level and - we'll give you a written summary of the breakdown. We have some term time tied in and that's probably where the difference is occurring.

MR. E. CONNERY: So the staff years could be out slightly then is what you're saying with some term people or some extra in there.

There were some changes, Mr. Chairman, and Joe Cels was moved out. What was the reason for moving Joe Cels out as the Assistant Deputy Minister, and what responsibilities was he given after moving out? Is his salary still coming out of this section?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, there were a fair number of moves in this department, including ones I mentioned yesterday. Mr. Joe Cels, who was the Assistant Deputy Minister, his salary is being paid in our department but he is carrying out a government-wide project, reviewing social services administration overall. His particular breadth of experience is going to be of great value to us in carrying out that general review to see if we can get the - because so much of Social Service delivery has evolved over time, often as a result of community initiative and, in time, government taking over part of the operation, but there has never been a comprehensive review of the Social Service delivery. We felt it was timely to carry out that type of consultative project. There would be broad consultation within government and with affected groups in the community to develop a very comprehensive Social Services Administration Act.

MR. E. CONNERY: Can you explain the reason for taking Ms. Turnbull from Child and Family Services into Social Services?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think I commented on that, if it was not yesterday, it was the day before in Estimates. I don't know if we want to follow the practice of repeating questions.

MR. E. CONNERY: That's fine. I think I might have missed that particular part. But I am concerned, and I make this concern very openly, that I think the area that Ms. Turnbull left was in a rather disarray when she left, and I'm quite concerned. This is a very important part of our Social Services, so I would hope that we would see a better performance in this sector. Otherwise, we're really going to have a problem. We've got a problem now. I hope we can see some change.

It does concern me because I've been told - and maybe this is wrong. Ms. Turnbull could tell the Minister if it's wrong or not, but I'm told that her goal is to close institutions. If that is in fact true, then we won't see a proper balance between the services under the Social Services sector. This really concerns me if this is true. If it's not true, then convey that to me.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I shouldn't have to call the attention of the member opposite to the fact that policy is set by the elected officials, not by the department staff. The department staff are there to analyze problems and give proposals and options to the Minister, but it is the Minister and the ministerial colleagues who make those policy decisions. It's always been that way, and it will continue that way.

A second point I'd like to make is I think it's an extremely unwise and unfair practice for the Estimates discussion to focus on particular individuals who are here from the Civil Service. They are not in a position to speak up for themselves. The member opposite picks up rumour and then spreads rumour and ends up

believing rumour without taking time to find out the facts of the case.

I can say unequivocally that I think a great deal of the leadership and the development that has occurred throughout the Child and Family area, whether it is day care, whether it is development of community-based agencies, or whether it is an attack on the entire child abuse area, which was never initiated before, was in large part due to the sensitivity and the commitment and the leadership of Aleda Turnbull in that position. I think in many ways the types of problems that we are encountering in Child and Family and in the child abuse area have been because of the success of the move to tackle major problems that have been left undealt with for decades, and system problems that were allowed to get to crisis state before anyone addressed them.

So I would like to just disassociate myself absolutely from the type of comment made by the member opposite, and I think draw attention to some of the comments made by my colleague, the Minister of Health. But what is supposed to be under review in the Estimates process is the policy and programs of the government and, as such, the staff are here to provide factual information. They're also, throughout the year, responsible for implementing programs and policies that we, at the political level, have developed and approved.

So I really think there should be a distinction made in terms of who is responsible for what and I do hope that this Estimates process will focus on the policies and programs for which I, as Minister, must be held accountable.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, the Minister knows very well that Assistant Deputy Ministers get into an awful lot of decision-making and every decision is not made by the Minister and can't be made by the Minister. Also Assistant Deputy Ministers and Deputy Ministers also influence the Minister and rightly so, it should be, to influence the Minister. I'm concerned about the type of influence.

Getting down when we look at the structure of the Social Services, we have the Executive Director of Winnipeg C.S. and Health. Who is the director of that?

HON. M. SMITH: The director of the Winnipeg Region is John Robson. But I must revert to comment on what the member has said, that the ADM makes decisions and that the Minister is influenced by the Deputy.

The process that we follow in government is that our staff are responsible for analyzing problems, looking at options, giving the pros and cons and respecting the right of the Minister, and the Minister working with colleagues in Cabinet to make decisions.

They naturally have information and they have ideas to propose and they have leadership qualities but they very clearly recognize that they are not the final decision-makers or policy setters. I think that is the relationship that I like to have with staff and certainly I think that those are the respective roles that they understand and respect.

MR. E. CONNERY: Could the Minister tell us what section or area the funding for the various advisory

groups and that come from, what sector? Who does the paying out or allocating to advisory groups such as the ACL, St. Amant and that sort of thing?

HON. M. SMITH: The various advisory groups in the provincial and regional teams, the volunteer members function as volunteers, they are not paid. The only place where there is any money given to any organization is where there is a purchase of service. That may be what the member is looking for.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, yes, you've got purchasing of services, also the Association for Community Living, the Manitoba Council gets money, the sanatorium, well, that's a little bit different one, but where does the direction, when you're getting support services and regional implementation support - these are paid - what department does that come from? Who is the charge of that?

HON. M. SMITH: The staff persons in the regional teams are paid by us. The Health and Community Services operate together in the regions but Health is responsible for the staff people who deal with public health, home continuing care and so on. Community Services deals with the mental retardation workers and the vocational rehab.

MR. E. CONNERY: In the Welcome Home Program, well, no, we should get - did you have any more questions in this section? We'll move out of here into (b).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year when we voted on subappropriation 3.(a) the salaries were in fact \$269,100 and a staff component of 7.5. Now we have gone to \$372,900 and a staff component of 9.26 and obviously that happened sometime during the year because there was an Adjusted Vote. But what we are dealing with now, Mr. Chairman, is an average salary in this particular unit of \$40,269 as opposed to \$35,880 which is a very substantial increase from one year Estimate material to another. What has happened in this department to bring about that kind of a major change in its adding to staff and adding, quite frankly, to the salaries they're getting?

HON. M. SMITH: The first question first, Mr. Chair. There were adjustments made during the year. The salaries increased by \$85,300 from \$269,100 to \$345,400 due to transfer in of two SY's from agency relations 093B, and our reason for doing that was that the agency relations had often dealt individually with each agency rather than in connection with the program area that they were dealing with. Part of our attempt to get expenditures and budgets given to agencies for the purchase of service under some kind of overall coordination and planning has been to move the sort of separate functions under a program responsibility area.

The other expenditures increased by \$6,400, from \$91,800 to \$98,200 due to transfer of operating expense

from the same account, in other words, the support service. So it's really a rearrangement of persons. The actual increases in salary, again, follow the same pattern as what I discussed yesterday. There are general salary increases that are negotiated through collective agreement and then workers are entitled to a certain number of increments for satisfactory performance in their early years of work in the job but then those increments cease.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: The Minister in her opening remarks made reference to crisis management in residential facilities as being the thrust of the professional training for this particular year. What kind of program of training does the Minister have in mind here?

HON. M. SMITH: The comprehensive training that was started in '86-87 has several components. There's orientation for volunteer boards, skill instruction, upgrading for government and non-government staff and implementation support to help recruit and develop new community boards. During '86-87, the following training was provided to boards and service providers of residences and workshops for the mentally handicapped through funding arrangements with the Association for Community Living and the Manitoba Council on Rehabilitation and Work.

In board orientation, there were 25 residential board members and 76 workshop board members included. There were 80 residential staff under the Service Provider Orientation Program; and under skill development, 75 workshop staff and 120 residential staff.

Both agencies also provided on-site program development support on request to all regions. As well, the department offered 20 courses in the advanced studies in the mental retardation program, with a total of 120 participants, including both provincial and community staff.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Does the department have professional trainers or do they go out and in fact buy courses from agencies like the universities or whatever that might offer appropriate training?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is a combination of training approaches. The advanced course is delivered by expertise; the residential training was done by subcontract to the Association of Community Living; and the training of workshop personnel was done by the Council of Rehabilitation Workshops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: Before we move on - just if the Minister - I know she won't have it with her today, I doubt, the department funding to the two organizations, the Manitoba Council of Rehabilitation and Work, and the Association for Community Living, what various work they do for the government, what various programs and what they get paid for these various programs. If the Minister could get that for us for another day, unless she has it with her now, but I imagine it would be fairly lengthy.

We're ready to pass (a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(1)—pass; 3.(a)(2)—pass; 3.(a)(3)—pass; 3.(b)(1) Operations: Salaries; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: Could the Minister explain the one person for Limestone, what is that person doing? It's on page 42 of the Supplementary, the two staff year increase, one for Limestone.

HON. M. SMITH: In line with the Affirmative Action Program that the Limestone project has been carrying out in the North to train and employ northern people, there was a thrust to anticipate and indeed try to measure additional social need and to provide some supportive services. There's not a lot of methodology as to how you anticipate increased social need in these areas because it's so rarely done.

However, what we did do was compare the caseload patterns in northern communities and when we looked at Flin Flon, The Pas, Thompson and Churchill we did find a significant increase in the Thompson region again. Thompson serves the area covered by Limestone and in cooperation with the other Limestone Ministers, we have in place two staff who are helping with clinical supervision and general Limestone project needs again, partly feeding them into the appropriate services in Thompson, and just being a bit of an extra resource in that area.

MR. E. CONNERY: Just briefly, could the Minister give us a little bit more detail on what goes on in this particular sector? There's a little bit of confusion between (b) and (d) as to - at least in my estimation - to make sure that we're discussing the right things.

HON. M. SMITH: This is where Regional Services show up and perhaps if I can just throw a bit of history in to indicate why we have Regional Service delivery.

Many social services started with volunteer groups, usually in urban areas, not exclusively, but by and large and they were often services given by local communities or volunteer groups. Over time many of these services needed funding and they went from organizations like United Way, eventually to government for coverage. Over time the equity questions arose, should only those people who happen to be fortunate enough to live where there was volunteer initiative and service, receive the service, or should there be an attempt by someone - and in this case it fell to government's role - to spread that service in a more equitable way throughout the province.

So that in fact is what has happened and what occurred over time was a mixture of volunteer groups funded by government and direct service delivery by government staff.

In the rural areas there are Health and Community service - I think there's seven regions - and the Health and Community Service workers are employed there and some of them show up in our budget and some in Health, depending on whether they're, as I said earlier, ours tend to be the mental retardation workers, the vocational rehab workers and the day care coordinators, although day care will show up in another budget and

then Health has the other side of it. So these are basically, vocational rehab workers, child and family service workers where there's not an agency and family conciliation workers.

MR. E. CONNERY: This is the area that all of these services for the mentally ill and the vocational is provided and of course it's the area where the group homes would be inspected or followed up on and I see there's only an increase of only 2 staff years in this 3.(b) and a very slight increase in salaries. With the extra number of people that the Minister is wanting to put into the community, and this is fine, but I'm also concerned that we don't have the support services in the community presently to properly look after those who are in the community.

How does the Minister feel that we're going to give these services to the people properly, when we're going to be having more of them in the community, more difficult to watch and monitor, without an increase in staff?

HON. M. SMITH: It is complex so I'll just take a little time to outline it. Basically there's been a lot of salary adjustment, or adjustment to the printed vote during the year, as we've transferred persons into the field area. Just to clarify, the group home inspection is carried out by the residential licensing group that we talked about the first day of Estimates, so the inspection is still separate. The actual promotion of and development of community homes and so on and case workers, are to be found in this area.

There were changes in this area as follows: agency relations function was devolved to program areas and 15 staff years that were with agency relations were allocated, two to community social services administration, six to communities social services programs, one to financial services and six to child and family services. One transferred to programs and 16.5 were transferred in from MDC for community support services for the Welcome Home Program. So it is difficult because you're looking at an adjusted vote I think, to appreciate the extent to which we have put extra resources into the community and I think when we talked about MDC, we did say that as we're downsizing the resident population, we have been reducing the staff at a slower rate but a large portion of those staff years, in rare cases is it an individual person but the staff years are reallocated to the community to provide the kind of supports that are needed.

Now there's an increase in Other Expenditures, \$50,000 from MDC to provide operating funds for the 16.5 staff. Operating funds for agency relation staff support were again \$24,800 were reallocated on a sort of pro rata basis, the same way that I describe the staff reallocation.

MR. E. CONNERY: What percentage of the work with this department would be with the mentally retarded, as compared to the vocational? Would it be mostly with the mentally retarded?

HON. M. SMITH: Throughout all the regions - that would include Winnipeg - there are 74.5 mental-retardation workers and 24 vocational-rehab workers.

There's also, in these operations, 12 day-care workers, 55.5 child and family workers, 34 program support workers and 11 family conciliation workers. Of course, Health also has their complement of public health nurses, continuing care workers, mental health workers, and so on; and they work as a multidisciplinary team in 10 regional offices.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, so obviously, as I supposed, the major thrust is with the mentally handicapped. I'm really concerned over - and I'm not opposed to the Welcome Home Program, I never have been, I'm supportive of it - but I'm as concerned about what's happening with the Welcome Home Program, as I am concerned what's happening at the Manitoba Developmental Centre. I've had a lot of people call me; I gave the Minister a letter this morning of a case of a mentally-handicapped person being burnt with scalding water. I've had many other calls and I've done some investigations of them.

First of all, I'd like the Minister to tell us how a person gets to move into the community from the MDC? What process there is, and who's involved in making the determination?

HON. M. SMITH: The first question about concerns when there are rumours or phone calls or concerns raised; and again, I appreciate when members from either side of the House have questions or concerns. What I would ask, though, is that people do call us and try to ascertain the facts of the case, and the current status in a sense; because we are dealing with highly emotional and complex issues and there are often several actors involved; sometimes the law, sometimes the institution, our workers and families. The truth of a matter or the facts sometimes take a while to ascertain because there are varying opinions.

In some cases, we're dealing with abuse by a family; in some cases, we may be dealing with work not fully carried out by a worker; in some cases, we're dealing with policies and programs of an institution or a home; and in some cases, just with very complex needs and changing needs of individual clients, and it takes a certain process to sort that out.

So again, particularly where a rumour or a question is raised with the member, I really would appreciate a direct approach, to see if we can get the information. Yesterday the member did raise the question of a case where there may have been some difficulty and was reluctant to name the town, but actually read the name of the person into the record. I, quite frankly, really implore members, if they can, to take an initial step of asking us to comment, before going public, because there are many people involved and I think we owe it to the confidentiality side of the type of work we do, to at least take the first step in sorting out an issue.

We did check into the case that was raised yesterday, and I have sent a note to the member asking that, because of the stage of concerns in that case, that we not comment publicly. There was another individual referred to yesterday, and again, the information I have on this case is a far more - the facts of the case, as we have them, are very different from the rumoured information.

Again, I would prefer to share the information with the member, rather than reading it all into the record.

If he's willing, I would undertake to do that at the conclusion of the afternoon.

MR. E. CONNERY: The other part of the question that I asked, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, what is the process of a person going from the MDC into the community there? There's a committee; could you explain the process?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I do ask your guidance in this because I think I was asked this question yesterday. I will repeat, but again, I think we should try not to go over the same ground again and again.

The guidelines given were that the provincial steering committee and the regional teams would work on developing the policy and the program and identifying the at-risk people in the community and their needs; the people in MDC, whose families in the regions were willing and able to have them move to the community; and to define the consultative process whereby planning could be made for the individual, and an appropriate set of services available in the community.

The steering committee and the regional committees are the key groups and then, with regard to each individual, there would be the staff at MDC who knew the individual; there would be the appropriate people in the community, so that it's a multidisciplinary approach - family, where they are interested and wish to be involved and staff.

There were some general guidelines that developed fairly quickly that there would be no one moved against a family's will, that we would try to take a cross section of levels of need, rather than just cream off the ones who were lowest level of care. No one would be moved unless there was an appropriate 24-hour support plan in place. So the prioritization and the identification, the approvals of the plans are centered in those committees working with the specific staff and families.

MR. E. CONNERY: When they go out then from the MDC - now before that, Mr. Chairman, is it a fact that, when there's a new group home opened up, there has to be at least one from the MDC or at least 50 percent of them have to come from the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Because the rate at which the government can assume the fiscal responsibility for the buildup of community services, we have to have some criteria in order that there be an orderly process. We have prioritized the Welcome Home clients, the 220 from MDC and the 220 most at risk in the community as having priority. We have also determined, because again the only way we're going to accomplish those goals is to have some policy control over the pattern of residences developing in the community. We have - and again, this wasn't laid on. It was developed by these teams, gone for the 50-50 rule. Now I think it was the responsible way to go. It's also roughly representative of trying to pick up 220 at risk in the community and the 220 from MDC.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well it concerns me a little bit, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister would want a 50-50 ratio, because the people who are at the MDC, while the facility is not as what it should be, at least they're not

at risk, and there could be a lot of people in the community who are at risk and not in the MDC, and they're trying not to have a lot of admissions to the MDC. So I think that having a 50-50 ratio, to me - I don't like ratios - I think it's a method of getting more people out of the MDC. I think that the thrust should be, where is the need in the community, rather than saying they have to come from the MDC. So that does concern me. When they - (Interjection) - Yes, go ahead.

HON. M. SMITH: Well with respect, it's quite within the rules of how we operate that people can have different sets of priorities and policies. We make no apology for the policy line we took. We were faced with a couple extra million dollars in Northgrove out at MDC if we continued at the same level of occupancy. We couldn't keep those people at risk, nor did we think it wise to put \$2 million or \$3 million into upgrading an old dormitory-like building.

So we prioritized the downsizing of that institution and matched the Welcome Home Program with the 220 most at risk, so we weren't downsizing on one side and then having a rapid entry into MDC at the other end. As I said, I think it was a wise and a balanced policy. The member may disagree and he might have done it differently, and I accept that, but this was the path that we charted. Again, I think it was the responsible way to go.

MR. E. CONNERY: Once the 220 have been moved out of the MDC into the community, will that change? Will we then look at who is really in need and maybe change that 50-50 option?

HON. M. SMITH: I think we're open on that. We're evaluating where we're at and what the needs of the community are. We'll certainly be listening to the groups that are taking part with us. I, quite frankly, think until we build up a full continuum of service from the community through to the institution, that it's a responsible pattern.

Remember, we are trying to overcome decades where there was only institutional care or reliance on the family or on volunteer groups who could raise money by various drives. Many of them did heroic work in raising funds. What they always had more difficulty with - and this is true throughout social services. The capital can be a problem, but it's the ongoing operating that is the real expense over time. Invariably, they would come to the public funders and want funding.

We believe that, rather than reacting to the groups that would come to us and sort of having a high buildup of service in one area where there was a lot of local initiative and nothing elsewhere, the way we've gone is trying to get some equity throughout the province and some balance in the program.

Again, you can't make change without setting some policy guidelines. In fact, the 50-50 mix in these homes is working out very well. We're getting good response from the homes that have the 50-50 mix.

MR. E. CONNERY: One of the concerns brought to my attention comes from people who have kept their retarded child at home, but there is very little government support for those individuals. Is there any policy or assistance to those who keep them at home?

HON. M. SMITH: I think that's something I have repeated again and again. We've been building up the service for families from sort of taking a birth on through maturity approach for families with a disabled youngster. We have infant stimulation and peer support group services. We have respite care that is increasing, so the family caretaker, in addition to getting support and advice and social interaction for their child - and by the way, many of those youngsters are coming along much more rapidly than people used to think they could. The respite gives the family some break, and many are wanting to have their disabled relative at home but they get tired and they need a break. So, the respite care is invaluable to them.

Then there's the special needs day care. In addition to mentally and physically disabled children, we are now going to have a small number also of emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children gradually integrating into the day care with appropriate supports. But we've been doing a lot of work on the day care, so the child gets a developmental program during the day and the parents get also a little respite.

Then during the school years, the education system has been making great progress, again not without some local debate, but they are making progress in integrating the children and providing appropriate support systems there. Then we get on to the age 18 and they move into some prevocational or vocational role, and that's where our vocational rehabilitation programs kick in and also the residential care. Some of that is available. Normally, you tend to think of it at the sort of age-appropriate level where young people might want to live away from home at ages 18 or 21. But in fact, we have now the odd example - and one I think that's particularly interesting - of where a group home is developed for much younger children.

In Dauphin, we have one where the parents were not able to cope, but we set up a group home for three children in the neighbourhood. The families provide respite to the staff parents who live in the home. They keep the children involved in local family and community activities. The children go to the local school. The staff parents may come and go, but the home remains with the children. That's a pattern of care delivery that is very hopeful. Many of those children, the only place that would have been available for them was probably St. Amant, although I guess MDC did take them when they were 12 or over.

But it's our belief that, as we build these supports for people when they're younger, we are going to determine over time what the appropriate mix of institutional and community care is. Economic Security pays welfare rates to parents who care for retarded adult children, and then those allowances are also available if they live in residences.

MR. E. CONNERY: Is there a waiting list of people with their children at home who are waiting to get them into day care, some from vocational training? Are all the needs being met by those who are in the community?

HON. M. SMITH: None of the Welcome Home clients are to be moved until there is a day care or a prevocational placement, either immediately available

or within a very short time. There's quite a variety of day programming that is being developed. It's not all workshop-centred. There are still unmet needs, as we build this system, from young people who are at school-leaving age and people who've been living in the community. We're trying to gear up right across the board.

One of the methods we've been using is to work with the Manitoba Council on rehabilitation workshops. They, in cooperation with us, have now developed basic standards and, as their workshops meet those standards, they also become eligible for some enhanced funding.

We're trying to generate this range of supports in the community, but there were not enough there before. There are still more needed. So we still have a way to go. We're hopeful that a renegotiated Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act that we're working on with the Federal Government will enrich the funding available for all these services, because that would help us.

But it's going to be a while before we fully meet all the needs. But we have given priority to the placement of the Welcome Home individuals.

MR. E. CONNERY: A report that I have from the Welcome Home - and the Minister will have it - that the funding levels for sheltered workshops in Manitoba are exceptionally low and well below the national average. So it's obvious that we do have a lack of funding in this sector. Now the Minister can rebut that if she likes. This was prepared by an R. McGinnis. It showed Manitoba well below the seven other Canadian provinces and two American states that were surveyed.

So I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister, once this downgrading of MDC has taken place and the numbers there are more comfortable, we have an activities building at the MDC, will be completed this summer; that she would then look to those in the community before moving more out of the MDC, and filling the needs of the community. Because there is a need out there that definitely is not being filled.

HON. M. SMITH: We can't overcome the decades of neglect in this area. Again, it's not too helpful; we can't overcome it quickly but we are closing the gap. Again, it's hard to lay blame on any government or community for the fact we're in that situation because I think community expectations and standards are changing.

In Manitoba, there are some services which do come lower than the national averages, but we've been building in steady improvement. One of the principles, I think, that we follow in building social programs - we're mindful of the fact that they must be supported by the taxpayer, and that there's a great demand on public resources. So we don't look for a solution which just throws money at an underserved group. I could give you 10 groups and identify the service areas where they are underserved right now. It's not that we're dealing with a system that is mature and just needs a little bit of adjustment or improvement. There are many gaps in the total system.

The policy we've been taking is the slow, gradual participatory improvement. We've worked very well with the Council of Rehabilitative Workshops. They've really

done wonderful service in the past without a lot of public support. We've gradually improved on that and intend to continue. We have standards there now. We are looking at how we can get some improvement in their structures and so on, because a lot of them are dealing with buildings that were okay by the standards of 10 years ago, but aren't acceptable today. Again, I think we have a record of improvement.

You can compare us with national standards, but it only makes sense, I guess, if you know the history and pattern in each province. We're responsible for improving what we have here. As I say, I think we've taken a responsible and a progressive and a very positive approach to it at a time when public monies are in very, very tight supply. I think we've done it the responsible way.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, the members opposite take great pride in keeping on telling us they've been government for 13 of the last 17 years. So if there's some inequities in the system, then they should accept the major responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, many concerns with the Welcome Home Program and the ACL gave a rundown on what their impressions were and they had some areas of compliment to the government, but they also had a lot of areas that they were very concerned about. I have to say that their concerns are the same concerns that have been conveyed to me from time to time by people with mentally handicapped children. And I think, if we go through them, and the Minister can then see what is being done to improve on it, but it says that several local communities, sponsoring groups, have received inaccurate information about the true needs of a person at MDC, resulting in inappropriate resources being planned and, in some cases, a return to the institution.

Mr. Chairman, an instance that I followed up just recently of two young boys being taken actually from their mother, and I can't say I disagree - maybe it was in their best interests - and put into a home, and there was a mixup with medication. This one boy was an epileptic, and they fumbled around, he had two medications, and they were only giving him one. These medications reacted together; they needed them both. These things go on and this is what the ACL is saying, that they're going into the community and they haven't done their background work at the MDC, and they're put out into the community and nobody is there to make sure that all of the problems of these people are being met.

HON. M. SMITH: Again, No. 1, if there is a particular case, I wish you would bring it to our attention so we have a chance to look in and ascertain the facts, share them with you, and then it would be up to you what you do with our response.

There are people with the responsibility of monitoring, first of all, developing the plans and then monitoring them. We're all working very diligently to make that system as foolproof as we can. We have, at the institutional side, introduced a committee to review procedures for reporting incidents at MDC. We have been requiring reporting, but we've now put in place a committee that will, in a sense, bird dog it much more closely and assess procedures we're using, the

adequacy of our procedures; make recommendations to us if there's any place where there can be improvement, whether there's any ongoing review that we should do. And we're interested in having the same kind of double-check at the community level.

I don't want to adopt an attitude of, oh, well, that kind of mistake is understandable or tolerable. I want to get to a place where we don't have errors that put anyone in jeopardy; but I think again the very fact that our provincial steering committee, which had volunteer groups on it, the very fact that they had an evaluation by an outside group who was known to have a somewhat - how should I say - opinion more at one end of the continuum than the other, they're bound to have stronger criticism.

In a sense, they've been advocacy groups for years and many of them feel very, very strongly that all people should be out of institutions and in community care. They're the ones who sensitize the rest of the community to making changes.

Now, we have the responsibility for building a program and we listen to their concerns and their recommendations. We can't always go all the way with them. We've tried to keep a more balanced, middle-of-the-road approach, but we want to hear from groups, from many different positions. Your own interest in the institutional side of the program, I think, can be beneficial in the long run because you're keen to identify where there might be areas for improvement and I think that's a valuable role.

But I am interested in trying to have a process that gives all the parents and the workers in the field and our department people a chance to build a system that has some integrity. If people are just trying to pit one group against another, or build on rumour and not try to sort things out and ascertain facts. It's going to make the process more difficult, not impossible, but more difficult. So I am interested in hearing constructive suggestions.

I think again, perhaps the member would accept an invitation to come around to some of the group homes and to some of the regions and talk to staff and ask them directly how they go about doing their work and what safeguards exist in a home setting for the individuals because it's in all our interests. It's in all our interests to see that our procedures and practices are as good as we can humanly make them.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, I'm a little discouraged. The Minister keeps on saying, well, you know, give us incidents, and we do bring her some incidents, Mr. Chairman. We're not working on rumour, we're working on fact. People talk to me and they're not rumouring.

But I did spend a couple of hours earlier this spring at one of the Winserv homes and I found it very interesting. I spent two hours with one of the head people from Winserv at this particular home because it was the one where these two people were that there was a concern. And after visiting and listening I am concerned as to the level of staff and the training that they are getting.

I think that they've been put into the community. Their staff who are being hired are not properly trained and as the next item, No. 15 in the ACL - which I'm sure the Minister has read more than once - the lack

of commitment to a 24-hour planning. I think this is where the concerns are. We get people coming in at night to look after them, and are they able to give them their proper medication in a proper fashion?

Are we going to see some other tragic incidents as the one we saw this spring? Because people aren't trained to handle what could be violent people and a lot of them are. If they just miss their medication, they become very violent and very difficult to handle.

So I'm concerned very much that the training by people in these group homes maybe isn't adequate and I don't know if they're being paid the kind of money to get those kinds of trained people.

Is there any minimum salary that has to be paid in group homes? And what is the minimum training and experience that they have to have to be involved in a group home?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is a differentiated staffing pattern. All workers get some training. They are certainly no lower than minimum wage and overtime will improve. Some are above that.

The pattern of care, again, we're all working to improve it, but I think we can say that we are meeting minimum standards. In terms of commitment to 24-hour care planning, I think when you're trying to move a total system along there are always going to be some individuals who need to be persuaded - they've worked under a different pattern - and again the very evaluation that raised that issue gives the regional teams and the provincial committee a chance to zero in and do something about it.

It's that whole participatory willingness to look at the issues, willingness to have many people involved. That's why we want these community boards in there, so that they can take a personal interest and quickly spot things that might go wrong.

In institutional care, I think people have done their best, but there are things that have been difficult to spot or deal with or review there as well. I think what we're trying to do in the entire system is get many more people involved and many more open systems, so that people have access to information, advice and regular evaluation of the placements. I feel that the people who are working in this area have done a very commendable job.

I know, going to the provincial workshops, the first year when we were working on Welcome Home, there was a lot of skepticism and questioning and uncertainty. The last year I couldn't believe the change. There was a huge attendance of 300 to 400 people; a great deal of enthusiasm, knowing that there was a way to go and room for a lot of improvement, but it was just light years ahead of where it had been two years earlier.

There's a great many opportunities now for people to catch that spirit, get the training and build the system. There's a great deal of enrichment in the lives of the disabled people, because of that network and that great mix of people who are now getting involved in their care. If you get a society that has that type of experience and exposure, they're much less inclined to begrudge the tax money, and so on, that's required to share around to see that they get services.

It's this side of the House that's been trying to preach that gospel, if you like, that our tax system is the way

we share the common resources of the community, and we're the ones who say, even though it's tough times, even though there's economic ups and downs, even though taxes can be unpleasant - none of us like to pay too much in tax - but it is the means by which the community helps the families and the individuals who have special needs; and as I say, we're committed to continuing that kind of philosophy, that kind of budget and that kind of policy.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to pass to the Member for River Heights who has several questions, but I would like to just pass on to the Minister one short little bit of advice. We know that we're on a restricted time, that there are time limits for each department to be gone through and if the Minister will give us shorter answers. She wants our information, if we could have shorter answers to our questions, basically we get the same answer to every question - little short and a whole lot of philosophical talk - so if the Minister could give us a little bit shorter answers, then we could get more done. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It gets a little heavy sometimes in Estimates, so I think I should tell the Minister that I don't know what the other members are doing, but I have spent the last year visiting some workshops and visiting some group homes. One particular visit was to a day care centre in Thompson, where there's a young woman who is now working as a day care worker. She, herself, has Down's syndrome and the youngster was working with both handicapped and non-handicapped children. When asked by parents, one little four-year-old, in expressing her interest in this situation, asked about the worker and asked if she could understand the worker, because indeed, the young woman with Down's syndrome does not communicate very well. The reply of the four year old was, oh, they understood her perfectly, she just spoke a different language. So bilingualism can take on many different meanings in our society; in this case we have a situation which is indeed working very well.

My concern is with workshops and it's really a philosophical thing. We pay those who work in the workshops 70 cents an hour or whatever, not much more than that. It differentiates a little bit from workshop to workshop. In almost every case, the individuals in those workshops are on social allowance. Can the Minister tell us if we are in fact going to move to a system where those individuals are paid a minimum wage?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, philosophically, that's a position that I favour. I think that if an adult person puts in an eight-hour day's work, to the limit of their ability, that receipt of minimum wage and then supplementation to meet their special needs is to me a humane way to go. But the reality is that we operate under federal-provincial cost-sharing. We've raised this issue at federal meetings.

Right now, a person either has to receive minimum wage and be in the employment category, or be in the

assistance side and they can get the smaller wage plus their special needs allowances. What we need is some agreement to have a system that doesn't penalize the person, gives them the minimum wage for their own sense of dignity and self-worth, at the same time does not withdraw from them their special needs. Many would be in a very much worse situation if we put them on minimum wage and withdrew their special supports. It varies. There are a few workers who, if they could shift to minimum wage, would be the same, but the vast majority would be worse off if they had to give up the other. So it is a policy issue that involves federal and provincial governments and we look to a resolution in that field.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I was aware that it would involve two levels of government and obviously we do not want these individuals getting less money than they are presently getting.

In terms of the workshop spaces, I would like the Minister to explain if in fact a greater per diem is paid for Welcome Home participants in workshops than is paid for those already in the community at the workshop.

HON. M. SMITH: No, there is not a special rate but, in developing Welcome Home, we are also trying to improve the entire workshop system. As a result, we have gotten them to develop standards and they get some increase when they meet the standards. So that was one factor that people might have interpreted as a Welcome Home, but it wasn't, it was across the board. Then there are also levels of need and people are assessed according to level of need. It may be that one workshop might have seen the Welcome Home people coming in and getting more because their need was different, but it's the same policy, whether they come through the Welcome Home stream or through the regular stream.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I appreciate that clarification and I hope that the department will seek to clarify that with the workshops as well, because in two individual workshops that I visited, they both told me that Welcome Home people got a higher per diem than non-Welcome Home people and therefore they were discouraged from taking those individuals in the community and were being encouraged to take those individuals who were part of a Welcome Home plan. If that is not the case and it is based on an assessment of needs, than I don't think that misinformation should be spread abroad.

In terms of staff turnover of those who are working within the Welcome Home initiative, does the Minister have any figures, which I am informed are extremely high, of workers who are in fact working within the homes, providing care to the mentally retarded, some of whom are part of the Welcome Home initiative and some of whom have come from the community?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I was trying to get some clarification on that earlier, a question, I may have missed your point. What we were sorting out earlier was in the access to workshops, because we still don't have enough spaces for everyone. The Welcome Home were given priority and it may be that perception that led to the misunderstanding, priority for entry.

Back to the other, I think you were asking something about pay levels in the residential homes.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Well, I was asking specifically about staff turnovers but certainly there's no question that if there are big staff turnovers it is a direct result of low pay.

HON. M. SMITH: The staff turnover and pay, we certainly found this in the day care area. Almost all community service areas, when they first start, start barely above minimum wage with some additional pay for the more responsible persons and, over time, they start to move up. It's harking back, I suppose, historically to where teachers and nurses and all were 10 or 20 years ago. So I think, over time, we are going to see a fair degree whether they unionize or just get together in associations that lobby for better pay. I think that's as it should be, but I think there will be a process that goes on for them to catch up.

In terms of the turnover, we found with day care workers, who still are relatively low paid in the total community, when we started putting in some training and some salary enhancement, we started to reduce the staff turnover. They were still relatively low, but they felt the improvement year by year. They felt that their value, as it were, was being recognized and so I think that's the same process we're going to see in this field.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: At the present time that the training is very much on an ad hoc basis, are there any plans to institutionalize the training, in other words, put it into a Red River Community College setting or an Assiniboine College setting, Keewatin College setting, in order that we will get the same kind of training for those working with the mentally handicapped that we now see with regard to day care?

HON. M. SMITH: We are working closely with the Department of Education in training and I think we will see more and more regularization of the training. We have used a variety of Jobs Fund, New Careers, CEIC programs and so on as we've started. We weren't quite sure of the mix of training we would require because to a certain extent the constellation of service delivery has been a bottom-up process, based on the needs of the individuals. But as I say, we do also on-the-job training and workshops and so on and, as we're getting a clearer notion of the demand for the types of training, we are working to develop regular courses at the colleges and so on.

One of the big obstacles that we've had to deal with has been that although the Federal Government talked a lot about the Canadian Job Strategy and some innovative ways of delivering training, in fact, their total allocation for a job training has gone down. The total amount that they have allocated for use to the colleges has gone down even more, so that we're trying to raise the profile and the priority of this particular type of training at a time when a lot of other training needs are being squeezed.

So it's a real problem. I say we will press on, but it would help immeasurably if we had a recognition of the high priority of training by the Federal Government.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister give us an idea of how many new facilities are now in the province that

were not there a year ago for the mentally handicapped? I'm talking about group homes, that type of thing.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we have a long list of those that are in operation and those that have been approved but are not yet operational. What we don't have is the incremental change year-over-year but we can obtain that for you for the next Session.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: We now have, Mr. Chairman, a variety, it seems to me, of placements in the community, I think everything from two in a housing complex to six in a house; many of them, three. Has there been any cost analysis done in terms of which one we're getting the best value for our buck from?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, if it were only that easy. In fact, the people themselves have different needs. What we try to do is establish a framework within which the costing is done, so that in a sense there's a ceiling on what can be made available, and we go along with that ceiling and then if we start to bump into too many exceptions we have to deal with it.

Some of the complicating factors are city zoning rules and we're trying to eliminate some of the hurdles there by agreeing on an administrative procedure, the availability of appropriate housing near the other amenities that we want. We find, as the process is moving along, we're getting quite innovative in that we may find a sponsoring group that is willing to place groups of three, but they need some extra support person to supervise. So we're starting to combine, say, four threes and one supervisor, that type of process, but we started with a best guess, looking at the six maximum. We've made one or two exceptions, in cases where buildings have got halfway along before we introduced this new planning process. But, in general, we're trying to keep them relatively small and, as I say, it's an evolving process, but it's not ad hoc. We start with the framework and go along as far as we can, and then if we bump into a whole series of difficulties; then we take a look at it and see if, with some modification, we could accommodate another group.

I mentioned yesterday two exceptions, where we had seniors out in Altona who were very heavy care, and because the community was willing to put extra in, they were able to accommodate them on our pay scale. Then we also had an extra one in Brandon, where there were extra medical needs and we were able to put in one extra staff to deal with that. So we exercised some flexibility, but the basic framework is quite controlled; and in that sense, it's a cost-benefit analysis that we are using.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister give us the maximum that is spent on any one individual now in the community supported by Community Social Services?

HON. M. SMITH: We have one or two special needs individuals who are operating in the community, about the same per diem as the average in St. Amant, but the average overall is around 50. They're actually on the standard costing and there are very few exceptions, but we have some flexibility.

Wednesday, 13 May, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1) Operations: Salaries—pass;
3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.
The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Connery was to be given some opportunity to ask any question on 3.(c) before we passed that, I think.

MR. E. CONNERY: At this point, from what information I have, I'm satisfied with that.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Let's pass 3.(c) then.

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

MR. E. CONNERY: Do you want to call it 5:30?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott: Committee rise?

MR. E. CONNERY: Committee rise. We'll finish 3.(d) tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, reported same, and asked leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.
I move, seconded by the Member for Radisson, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand there is an agreement to call it six. Accordingly, this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow. (Thursday)