



**First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

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37 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
<b>ALCOCK, Reg</b>	Osborne	LIBERAL
<b>ANGUS, John</b>	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BURRELL, Parker</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>CARR, James</b>	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
<b>CARSTAIRS, Sharon</b>	River Heights	LIBERAL
<b>CHARLES, Gwen</b>	Selkirk	LIBERAL
<b>CHEEMA, Gulzar</b>	Kildonan	LIBERAL
<b>CHORNOPYSKI, William</b>	Burrows	LIBERAL
<b>CONNERY, Edward Hon.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.</b>	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
<b>DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>DOER, Gary</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James Hon.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Herold, L.</b>	Niakwa	LIBERAL
<b>DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>EDWARDS, Paul</b>	St. James	LIBERAL
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>ERNST, Jim, Hon.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>EVANS, Laurie</b>	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
<b>EVANS, Leonard</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary, Hon.</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FINDLAY, Glen Hon.</b>	Virden	PC
<b>GAUDRY, Neil</b>	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
<b>GILLESHAMMER, Harold</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>GRAY, Avis</b>	Ellice	LIBERAL
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HELWER, Edward R.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>HEMPHILL, Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>KOZAK, Richard, J.</b>	Transcona	LIBERAL
<b>LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.</b>	Inkster	LIBERAL
<b>MALOWAY, Jim</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>MANDRAKE, Ed</b>	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
<b>MANNES, Clayton, Hon.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>MCCRAE, James Hon.</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>MINENKO, Mark</b>	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
<b>MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.</b>	River East	PC
<b>NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.</b>	Rossmere	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte Hon.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald Hon.</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PANKRATZ, Helmut</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>PATTERSON, Allan</b>	Radisson	LIBERAL
<b>PENNER, Jack, Hon.</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>PLOHMAN, John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>PRAZNIK, Darren</b>	Lac du Bonnet	PC
<b>ROCAN, Denis, Hon.</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>ROCH, Gilles</b>	Springfield	LIBERAL
<b>ROSE, Bob</b>	St. Vital	LIBERAL
<b>STORIE, Jerry</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>TAYLOR, Harold</b>	Wolseley	LIBERAL
<b>URUSKI, Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>YEO, Iva</b>	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, September 22, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** I wish to table the annual report for 1987-1988 of the Workplace Innovation Centre.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### Free Trade Environmental Report

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Today, 86 environmental groups from across this country, representing thousands of concerned Canadians, released a devastating report on the Canada-U.S. free trade deal with respect to the environment.

It states clearly in this report that acid rain, abatement programs, the protection of our water, self-sufficiency in energy, reforestation programs, agricultural viability, the increased use of pesticides, the increased presence of U.S. waste in Canada will all be negatively impacted by this particular deal. In light of that information, is this First Minister still convinced that this is a good deal for Manitoba?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I am aware of the report that has been released, as I understand it, by the Canadian Environmental Law Association. As a matter of fact, a letter was written to me earlier today by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer), citing that particular report. I am attempting to obtain the report to ensure that I am able to review the evidence upon which they make their judgment and the information that it contains to see whether or not the concerns that they raise are ones that have been or can be addressed, and to seek legal evaluation of the suggestions they make.

\* (1335)

We know that the Liberals and the New Democrats are opposed to the Free Trade Agreement. We know that there are other groups in society who are associated with these parties or who have, on their own initiative or for whatever reason, taken positions opposed to the Free Trade Agreement. We also know that every empirical study that has been done of the Free Trade Agreement by independent groups says that it is good for Manitoba, that it is good for Canada, that it will lead to long-term benefits for our nation and our province.

Mr. Speaker, I will be interested to see this particular report to evaluate and see what the responses are to

the information in the report and, after that, I am prepared to discuss it further.

**Some Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

### Environmental Standards

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). I am prepared to certainly provide him with all the negative studies that I have read if he will provide me with all the positive ones he has read.

This report states that harmonizing standards will create new pressures to move to the lowest common denominator of environmental regulation. Is it the policy of this Government that the lowest common denominator of environmental standard is the acceptable standard for Manitoba?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, absolutely not. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has not read reports, for instance, from the Economic Council of Canada, has not read reports from the Canada West Foundation, has not read reports from various institutes across this country, Fraser Institute and others, all of which do empirical analyses of the agreement and suggest looking at all things, taking into consideration all balance with no bias on any particular area, that the Free Trade Agreement is a tremendous opportunity for the future of this country and the future of our province.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, those are the kinds of third-party judgments that have convinced her colleague, Senator Doug Everett, the Liberal Senator from Manitoba who is a businessman, who is a person who has invested and created opportunities and economic benefits to this province. He has said that he cannot support the Liberal position because he sees so much good for our province in the Free Trade Agreement. I wish she would talk to him.

### Environmental Impact Study

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), will the Premier immediately order an independent evaluation of this report by the staff of the Department of Environment, and will he table that study in this House so that Manitobans can have access on the potential environmental impact of this deal?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I am surprised at the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) asking for yet another study. When we tabled our Throne Speech, she said all we were doing was study, study, study, study. That is all we were doing. That is what she said. She said that this Government was studying too much,

that what we needed to do was act. Mr. Speaker, we have acted. We have evaluated all of the information available on the Free Trade Agreement, and we have said it is good for Manitoba—12,000 net new jobs under free trade for Manitoba, more investment, more job creation, more opportunities for diversification in our province. We think it is good for our province and, therefore, we support the Free Trade Agreement.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** It is regrettable that the Government is unwilling to look at data provided by other sources.

### Rafferty-Alameda Project Water Quality

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). The Minister has repeatedly been saying that nothing but good will come from the Rafferty-Alameda Project. In fact, he has been saying such things as more water—

\* (1340)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable First Minister, on a point of order.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, because in the preamble the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is addressing a former issue to me with a preamble to the Minister. On a point of order, I said very clearly the opposite, not that I was unwilling to but that I would take the opportunity to have this report evaluated by experts on the Free Trade Agreement to ensure that I understand—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Filmon:** —what is being said and the response to it. Let her not put on the record something that is incorrect.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, with a question to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). The Minister has repeatedly been saying that nothing but good will come from the Rafferty-Alameda Project. In fact, he is on the record as saying more water and better water. The facts are very clear. There is going to be less water and it is going to be poorer water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency takes the position that the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers study is flawed and that the project will be harmful to North Dakota. The EPA has advised the U.S. Government not to sign the agreement. My question to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) is very simple. If the project is not good for North Dakota, if the water going through North Dakota is going to be of a poorer quality and there is going to be less of it, why would it be good for Manitoba who gets the water after North Dakota?

**Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Honourable Leader

of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has been listening to what has been said in these Chambers. You have to really wonder at how well she has been listening. It appears to me that there is an impairment on the opposite benches.

I have said continually that we are in the process of negotiating an agreement and we are part of those negotiations. We are negotiating or attempting to negotiate better qualities and better quantities than what we have today or what we are guaranteed today. We are today guaranteed, by way of the 1959 apportionate agreement, a certain amount of water which we accepted in 1959, which we would like to enhance if we can. Those negotiations are going on at the present time. We are assured, under the 1909 agreement, the agreement which established the International Joint Commission which assures us of water quality. Those assurances we have. We have an assurance in a letter that I received from the Honourable Mr. McMillan yesterday, which indicates—and which I tabled, by the way, yesterday—very clearly that our concerns will be addressed.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** A supplementary question to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), will the Minister immediately contact his counterpart in the Province of Saskatchewan, to whom he has been depending for advice about this project, and ask him to explain the statement by Mr. Devine's appointment to the Souris Basin Development Agency, Mr. George Hill, who said that despite what EPA says that this project should take place come hell or high water?

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, there are certain words that I have taught my children not to use in public and one was just used in this Chamber. I am dismayed at the terminology that is necessary to describe agreements.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

\* (1345)

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, I was quoting a Member of Premier Devine's staff, and I am concerned about that quote because it implies very seriously that Saskatchewan is not the least bit interested in protecting the environmental rights of Manitobans.

**An Honourable Member:** Will you rule on the point of order?

**An Honourable Member:** Was that a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

The word which was used is a term, I am sure, that we all use, and I believe that I have 56 of the sharpest minds in the Province of Manitoba right here in front of me. I would, therefore—

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It is a term that I often use and refer to quite often. Therefore, the Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, in reference to the question that was posed, no, we are not taking advice from Saskatchewan. I have continually stated that we are negotiating in the best interests of Manitobans. We want to assure ourselves of better water qualities and quantities than we have under the 1959 agreement, and that is what we are negotiating.

### Environmental Protection

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a final supplementary to this Minister, this Minister has stated that this deal is weak. When will this Minister insist on strong, iron-clad protection for the environment of this province of which he is the Minister responsible, along with the Minister responsible for the Environment (Mr. Connery)?

**Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources):** In the positions that Manitoba has put forward during the negotiations and the positions that our negotiators are today negotiating in Ottawa, we are going to have not only assurances that our quality will be increased over what we have under the 1959 assurances, we will have as a matter of fact more water coming our way. We will also, at the same time, then establish a management board which will manage the water flows of the entire Souris Basin, and that is the position that we have put forward. That is what we are negotiating today, and I think the EPA paper that was released yesterday will support us in those negotiations.

### Free Trade Environmental Report

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is, too, to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). The Environmental Law Association has produced a report today, a report by the way that has been in the works for the last month in terms of its consultation with other environmental groups and law groups across Canada for the past month. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, some 80 environmental groups in Canada have endorsed the contents of this report, stating that it will be devastating for Canadian environmental interests across this country and indeed it has been endorsed in terms of Manitoba. On September 14, his Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) stated, and I quote: "Nowhere in the free trade is there any indication that our environment will be affected in any way. I am convinced and I have read, in total, every line, every word of the Free Trade Agreement."

In light of the fact that the Environmental Law Association has stated that this deal is about the environment in a way that no other economic constitutional or legislative event in Canada history has ever been, and it goes on to quote acid rain, natural resources, energy, recycling, waste disposal. Mr. Speaker, who are Manitobans to believe, his Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) or 80 environmental groups across this country?

\* (1350)

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the so-called "comprehensive and substantive" report was put together in one month of research by people who, I might say, already had their minds made up because the environmental groups of this country have opposed the Free Trade Agreement from Day One.

I can tell him he was out with me and the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) at Canada Day celebrations at Assiniboine Park earlier this summer on July 1. The environmental groups were out there. They were out there campaigning against free trade, handing out pamphlets with their opposition of free trade. Their mind has been made up on this issue for a long time. Their position has been well known.

I looked at the report and it talks about "likely effects" of the agreement. It does not come up with substantive legal documentation of what the legal aspects of the agreement call for in terms of effect. It talks about "likely effects"; it talks about "maybe." I will be happy to have this analyzed and I will be happy to have the evaluation being done by the legal experts, the trade experts who have been involved in this agreement to see whether or not this is indeed a report that is new and factual, or whether it is just a way of justifying the position that the environmentalists have already taken.

### Environmental Report Analysis

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** This report, when drafted, was reviewed by 80 organizations after it was worked on since the report was tabled.

My question to the First Minister, in light of the fact that this report is very important in terms of the future of Manitoba's environment, will he commit to this House that his analysis will take place within the next week, because the Free Trade Agreement must be ratified in the next three months, and put it on an urgent basis? Will it be reviewed by independent people and will he table this report in the next month and the next week? If that report indeed backs up the 80 environmental groups, will he reverse the position of his Government and the slavish position in supporting Mulroney and his ridiculous trade agreement?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, as an example—and I thank him for providing me with this copy of the report—it repeats the same allegation that was put forward by the NDP and the Liberals that somehow our water is going to be taken away from us by the Americans under the Free Trade Agreement.

When every legal opinion, other than perhaps that of this group, and I do not know if these are legal opinions or just simply a consensus of the environmental groups whose minds have been made up for more than a year on this issue, suggests that again our water somehow is going to be at risk under the Free Trade Agreement and says that the Bill that was put forward in the House of Commons that the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) said now protects our water rights, they suggested it was not good enough anyway.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we will be evaluating this report. Yes, we will have legal experts and trade experts evaluate the report, and we will satisfy ourselves that there is or is not substance to the allegations and the claims they make.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why the Government opposite acts like Pavlov's dog when it comes to dealing with the Prime Minister and the Free Trade Agreement. This is a very, very major issue following on the energy analysis that we tabled in this House.

My question to the First Minister is, will he table that independent review of this report in the next week and, if it supports the 80 environmental and legal organizations across this country, will he commit himself to reversing publicly the position he has taken today in terms of this trade agreement and its impact on Manitobans?

**Mr. Filmon:** With respect to the latter part of the question, it was a hypothetical question which clearly is not in order in our Legislature.

With respect to the earlier part of the question, we asked for analyses and reports when he was in Government and it took them months and months and months and in most cases we never did get it. So let him not try and put some sort of phoney pressure on us by saying that we have to have it within five days. Mr. Speaker, they did nothing to try and put forward legal opinions or analyses of the Free Trade Agreement and, when we came in Government, we found that every study that they had done said that free trade was good for Manitoba.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Concordia, with a final supplementary question.

\* (1355)

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, we have tabled three legal opinions on energy. We now have a legal opinion on the environment. There are other legal opinions on tariffs from Mr. Clark. My question to the First Minister is, will he agree to table this urgent issue—it is an urgent issue. I know that they have taken weeks for the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Proposal. Will they table in this House their independent analysis that he has agreed to do within a week and will he agree, if that independent environmental analysis supports this report assessment, to reverse his position?

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member's question is repeating in substance a question which was previously asked and is therefore out of order. Would the Honourable Member kindly rephrase his question?

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear, because of the yelling and screaming from Members opposite, your position.

**Mr. Speaker:** Your question was repeating, in substance, a question which was previously asked and

therefore out of order. The Honourable Member for Concordia, would he kindly rephrase his question?

**Mr. Doer:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the report and analysis that the First Minister has conducted on an urgent basis, given the fact that I assume it will be tabled in this House, will it include a legal and independent analysis of water? Will it include a legal opinion of natural resources? Will it include an independent analysis of energy? Will it include an independent analysis of acid rain? Will it include an independent analysis of reforestation, and will it include an independent analysis of the waste disposal systems in this country, yes or no?

**Mr. Filmon:** I have already answered the question before. The report will be analyzed and evaluated by legal people, by trade people, and we will assure ourselves that the information we have with respect to the Free Trade Agreement is valid and that the information we have with respect to the Free Trade Agreement is information that the public of Manitoba must have in order to have a full and complete understanding of the Free Trade Agreement and how it will affect Manitoba.

I might say that despite the many allegations that he has made for months and months and months about the Free Trade Agreement, nothing that he has put forward in the past indicated that the Free Trade Agreement was anything but positive for Manitoba.

### **PCBs Safety and Storage Portable Destruction Units**

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour and the Environment (Mr. Connelly). The communique at a recent Special Conference of Resource and Environment Ministers in Ottawa stated the federal Government would finally carry through in its long-standing promise to buy portable PCB destruction units.

Well, one will be set up in Goose Bay, Newfoundland, way down east. A second unit has received funding approval and will be set up on a federal Crown land site yet to be announced. The second site, however, will be in Ontario or Quebec, as stated yesterday by McMillan, down east again. The federal Environment Minister also stated yesterday that Ottawa is intent on destroying PCBs under its jurisdiction, but expects the provinces to work toward the same goal with their own accelerated efforts.

The question, Mr. Speaker, if I could have some order on the front bench here, the question is, will the Minister tell Manitobans what specific steps he has taken since September 7 to bring a portable PCB destruction unit to this province?

**Hon. Edward Connelly (Minister of the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health):** Mr. Speaker, naturally they are portable machines and the whole intent of the program that we discussed in Ottawa is that it would move from area to area to destroy the PCBs. They are going to destroy the PCBs where they

are in their greatest volumes right now. Manitoba has less than 2 percent of the total volume that is in Canada. That portable machine will come to some place in western Canada. Whether we are going to have it situated in Manitoba or situated in Saskatchewan to do for both provinces, that machine will come to Manitoba and we will destroy the PCBs that are here.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley, with a supplementary question.

**Mr. Taylor:** Ottawa has made the offer of the rental of such units. The Minister is well aware of this. The question is when. There are long-term solutions five years down the road for permanent destruction facilities, so-called plans that this Minister has told us of. We are not sure of those plans being solid, we are certainly not sure of interim solutions. When, Mr. Minister?

**Mr. Connery:** We do not have an exact date that it will be here. We are not even sure that the portable unit will come to Manitoba or to Saskatchewan. As the Member knows, there is a permanent disposal unit in Swan Hills in Alberta. They have about a three-year supply before they have destroyed all of their PCBs. There is a good chance that we will be moving our PCBs to Alberta. We are in consultation.

Following the Session, I want to take advantage and go to see the unit in Swan Hills so that I will be fully appraised of how it works. Whether they keep us here till next March, then it will be next March that I will go. In the interim, we are ensuring that all PCB storage sites are safe. I took an opportunity last week to go to another site.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley, with a final supplementary.

\* (1400)

### Site Locations

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** Considering that Ottawa wants to clean up its own PCB mess first and has in effect left the provinces out to dry on this matter, the provinces that have most of the problem, will the Minister tell us just what federal assistance will be available, if any, in other fashions? Also, has his department developed any interim solutions as he discussed? Also, have they developed the revised regulations which he rightfully but reluctantly concluded were required? Could we have responses on those please.

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health):** The regulations, we were discussing them this morning. We were looking to get them forward to go to Cabinet. I said to our staff, let us make sure the regulation is very accurate. One thing we do not want to do is go for it too quickly with a regulation that is not going to be effective. We are working on this regulation. As soon as it is ready to go forward, and it will be very soon, that regulation will be brought into place.

We are concerned that all PCB sites be identified in Manitoba and to ensure that they are stored safely. Our staff are continuing to do that. By the end of this month, we should have all storage sites -(Interjection)- Mr. Speaker, the Member opposite should know that the reason for the regulation is to ensure that people out there know that it is their responsibility to report all holdings of PCBs to the Government. Then we can ensure they are being safely stored. Otherwise, why would we be putting in a regulation if we knew where all the sites were?

### Transportation Job Losses Federal Action

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** Earlier today, I had the opportunity to attend and meet with a number of concerned Manitobans. Unfortunately, their jobs and their lives have been put in jeopardy through the closure of two major transportation companies in Canada. The direct impact on Manitoba families and Manitoba workers is fairly obvious and a fairly sensitive issue. We are well aware of the importance that transportation plays in the development of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), and it relates to the apparent precipitation of the closure of these businesses by the federal Government. On sensing that the company was experiencing financial difficulties, they moved in and seized money that the company had sitting in bank accounts which was an initiating action. My question is, was the province consulted, and were we not concerned about what the federal Government's action would have on these employees? Why did the federal Government not consult the employees in relation to a solution which would be in the best interest of the company and particularly in terms of Manitobans?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I am not certain about what monies the federal Government was attaching. If the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) is suggesting that the federal Government ought not to take payments for UIC, CPP and income taxes from the employer when in fact legally they have to pay those to the federal Government, and that we should say to the federal Government they should not take their money so that the people will not have pension, UIC benefits and income tax being properly paid, well I would have difficulty with that suggestion on his part.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), with a supplementary question.

**Mr. Angus:** The question in reality was I do not know why the federal Government swept in and took the money, but it precipitated the closing of these companies.

The question, Mr. Speaker, through you, to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is, was his Government made aware of this precipitous action? Were they concerned about the impact this action would have on the closing of these companies, and was any action taken in relation to protect these employees and perhaps offer them an option to keep their business going?

**Mr. Filmon:** There is an obligation on the part of the Member to find out a little bit of facts as to what the federal Government was attaching. But if it was money for UIC, CPP, for income tax payments that had been deducted from the employees but not passed along to the federal Government, well clearly there is a legal obligation on the part of the company to do that. The federal Government would have been totally acting within its rights and responsibilities to protect the funding of the pensions and unemployment program of this country.

I hope he is not advocating that the federal Government just simply not make those collections, not follow up and not do any of that. I can tell him that our provincial Department of Finance was not made aware of it, and they would not be made aware of it if it is in the normal course of the collections that the federal Government makes on payroll deductions.

### Transportation Industry Provincial Assistance

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), with a final supplementary question.

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** I appreciate what the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has said. They were not made aware and they did not know. But now that they are aware, would he do a couple of things? Would he instruct the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to contact the receiver and find out when and where these people are going to get their back pay in relation to The Corporations Act of Manitoba? Would he instruct the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) to immediately move in and assist these 450 families in jobs, in relocation, in retraining, in redeployment of things? We have got 450 people who are very severely affected by this, and I think that we would like to see some action from the First Minister in this regard.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** We are always concerned when jobs are lost in Manitoba. We are always concerned, unlike the Members opposite, when businesses have difficulty operating in this province. We are trying to create a better economic environment. That is why we have removed the payroll tax from about half the employers who are currently paying it in Manitoba. That is why we have not had any increases in personal taxes or in corporate taxes in the first Budget of our administration. We are committed to hold the line on taxes to ensure that our spending is under control so that we reduce the deficit and the burden on businesses so that more people can be employed in this province.

There is in place a procedure whereby the following through on behalf of the employees and their rights takes place. I will make sure, by virtue of contacting the relevant departments—Labour, Attorney-General, whatever—that these people are indeed given their due attention under the law, their due recourse under the law, and make sure that whatever protections are built into the law are used to their advantage.

### Provincial Assistance

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** My question is to the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), or the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery). It deals with the same issue that we have just been discussing.

This past week we have seen over 300 Manitobans thrown out of work as a result of deregulation and the privatization process, a scandalous privatization process, of CN Route Canada, which was conducted by this Mulroney Government, a Crown corporation privatized, a fraudulent process in which Toronto - (Interjection)- I would say it was a fraudulent process in which, Mr. Speaker, a Toronto purchaser acquired \$80 million worth of real estate for \$29 million in a trucking company, with no requirement for performance guarantees. This process of privatization and deregulation perpetrated by successive Liberal and Conservative Governments in this country, including Lloyd Axworthy who led the move to deregulate while he was Minister, where he seems to have a miraculous change of heart in the last couple of days—

**Mr. Speaker:** And the questions is?

**Mr. Plohman:** My question to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) or the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) is this: have either of these Ministers met with these employees, these dependent contractors who are dependent upon the major trucking firms? Have they met with these workers to determine whether there is anything that the province can do to assist and to provide support to these workers as a result of this scandalous action that is taking place on behalf of the federal Government through its policies?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the statements made by the Member for Dauphin, I think he should be very careful when he makes those kind of accusations about scandalous actions and fraudulent actions because—I would like to indicate that it is sad when two major transportation companies have gone broke for whatever reasons, and that the people are out of work. My staff have been looking at the implications of it, but there is a very small role we can play other than to make sure that in the areas where services had been provided in the North that those services will be continued to be provided. We are looking at exactly the implications of it, and I will be working together with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) in terms of seeing whether there is anything we can do as Government.

### Provincial Assistance

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Dauphin, with a supplementary question.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** The question was, have they met with these workers? It seems obvious that they have not even bothered to meet with the workers who are affected.

Will the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) admit to the insanity of the federal Conservative policies with



regard to privatization, which has resulted in this kind of action on these families as a result of this closure? Will he write his federal counterpart, Mr. Cadieux, immediately demanding immediate action to ensure fairness to these families affected and to demand that they undo this mess that they have created in this scandalous sale of Route Canada?

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the words of the Honourable Member. His words are the words that are scandalous, but I can assure you that our department will work with the federal Government to do whatever we can to assist these workers to find a new job. Obviously, they are going to have to be redeployed, and our departments will work together cooperatively to do the best we can for these workers.

\* (1410)

### Independent Truckers Deregulation Impact

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Dauphin, with a final supplementary question.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** It seems, Mr. Speaker, that this Minister does not consider that kind of a sale where \$80 million worth of assets went for \$29 million as scandalous.

I want to ask a question, a final supplementary, to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger). In view of this tragic closure which has cost a loss of these jobs, over 300 at CN Route Canada alone, and because of the threat of more closures because of the deregulation policies of the federal Government in its privatization policies, will this Minister undertake immediately, the Minister of Transportation, to direct his officials to draw up legislation that would provide protection for owner-operators, such as these who are affected in this particular case, requiring minimum contract standards to protect these dependent contractors? Will he press for similar legislation at the federal level to ensure that this kind of approach which has resulted in the loss of these jobs will not happen for men and women in the trucking and transportation industries in this province?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I find it most amazing the comments coming out of the mouth of the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman). He is the Member who was the Minister responsible when he signed and agreed with the federal Government in terms of the legislation that was brought forward in terms of deregulation. The position that we are taking, without really knowing the full impact of what deregulation will do, we are trying to use to the maximum the time allowed in terms of viewing and gradually deregulating. That is the Minister who was responsible and agreed to the signing of those things.

**Mr. Plohman:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), on a point of order.

**Mr. Plohman:** Clearly, there was only one voice of reason in this whole country while the federal Conservatives were trying to push deregulation—

**Mr. Speaker:** On a point of order.

**Mr. Plohman:** —and the former Liberals trying to push deregulation down the throats of Manitobans. That was the Conservatives across this country who were pushing it, and it was the New Democratic Government who spoke up against it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please. A dispute over the facts is not a point of order. Order, please.

### McKenzie, A.E. Co. Board Appointments

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) will have time for one final question.

**Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa):** My question is to the Minister responsible for McKenzie Seeds (Mr. Downey). In view of the criticism of the union leader and the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans), could the Minister clarify the appointment of union members to the board of McKenzie Seeds?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for McKenzie Seeds):** To the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) who is interested in the affairs of Manitoba and particularly western Manitoba, let me say that the appointment to the board of McKenzie Seeds of those employees was done by the Government as was our prerogative. Contrary to the Member for Brandon East and the labour union leader who was opposed to it, there was a vote of the membership following that appointment which fully endorsed those appointees of the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and this Government.

### Meech Lake Accord Public Hearing Advertisements

**Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge):** I have a question for the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have recognized the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**Mr. Carr:** I have a question for the First Minister. I understand that many Manitobans have indicated their desire to appear, with the Clerk's Office, to give expression of their views on the 1987 Constitutional Accord. I also understand that it is traditional in these cases in order for people to be allowed to speak that they make their registration to the Clerk's Office known. I ask the First Minister if he would instruct his staff today to take out advertising spots in Manitoba's many media outlets, so all those who are interested in making representation can do so at an early date.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I can assure the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) that the normal procedures

will apply with respect to public hearings on a matter such as this, on the meetings that will be held by the committee that will be appointed by this Legislature. They will follow the practices and procedures, I am sure, that have been followed in the past. They will set their own rules with respect to the order of appearances and how they will deal with it.

I can tell him that in the past committees have chosen to allow people from out of town, who might not want to stay over for another day's meetings, who might be put in hardship, to make their presentation before others. They did not necessarily follow the strict order in there. They have gone through the list from time to time and regone through the list. They have used great flexibility to ensure what we want to ensure, and that is that these hearings will be the most open, complete and thorough hearings that the people of Manitoba want to have on the Meech Lake Accord.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. James McCrae (Honourable Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

### CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa):** I call the committee to order on Community Services. On item 2., Registration and Licensing Services, we are on Section (b)(1) Salaries, \$288,000.00. Pass?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** I have some information that the Members were inquiring about last time we met. This is to do with, in regional operations, Government fleet vehicles.

Regional operations has a total of 74 Government fleet vehicles assigned for field services delivery. Distribution of Government vehicles for field services are as follows: rural Manitoba, 70 (41 are personally assigned for garaging, 29 assigned for use as pool vehicles); and in Winnipeg, four—all four are personally assigned for garaging—to make a total of 74 vehicles. The ratio of Government vehicles to regional staff is as follows: rural regions, 1 to 2.43, 70 vehicles for 170 staff; Winnipeg 1 to 19.5, four vehicles for 78 staff; all regions, 1 to 3.35, 74 vehicles for 248 staff. Vehicle assignment, vehicles are administered by the regional management based on the General Manual of Administration criteria, page 30-01, Section 4.

The primary criteria for personal or pool car assignments to the departments are: 1) that the vehicle is essential to perform the job; 2) there are no other alternate forms of transportation available; and 3) the business kilometres exceed 20,000 per annum.

Utilization: vehicle utilization is monitored by the Administrative Services of the department and by Fleet Vehicles Branch of Government Services. The departmental Administrative Services Branch monitoring ensures that maximum business kilometres are achieved on Government vehicles, and recommends assignments and reassignments based on business utilization of those Government and private utilization reports. Government Services fleet vehicle monitoring is the enforcement of utilization. If 20,000 business kilometres are not attained, then the Government vehicle is removed from the department.

I also told the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) when she asked about the affirmative action weighting system that I would get back to the committee with that information. I have the following. There are four systems used in the recruitment and selection process to weight affirmative action target group members. No. 1, bulletins are written to indicate that affirmative action target group membership will be considered. In certain cases, bulletins will indicate a preference for specific skills necessary to deal with certain target groups, such as the abilities to speak a Native language.

No. 2, in the screening process, candidates are weighted using a point system. Extra points are assigned to affirmative action target group members in order to facilitate their opportunity to be interviewed. The decision on the number of points is determined by the manager in conjunction with the Human Resources Services Branch.

No. 3, in the selection process, following the completion of board interviews, affirmative action target group members are to be given preference over similarly qualified candidates who are not target group members. The final selection decision rests with the manager.

No. 4, waivers of competition may be used in those cases where a manager has identified: a) that a job has been redesigned to suit the disabilities of a particular affirmative action target group member; or b) that a promotional or career development opportunity for a particular affirmative action target group member is desirable.

Also a Member asked a question about which organizations are contacted for affirmative action purposes. The following information I will give to the Member. Organizations and agencies representing the various target groups are utilized for outreach recruitment in order to ensure an adequate representation of persons from the designated groups. In order to maintain a working relationship in these organizations, contact is made and ongoing dialogue is pursued. Organizations such as the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, Canadian Paraplegic Association, Equality Employment, CoreArea initiative, and Native Employment Services are some of the groups with whom contact has been established. Ongoing efforts are to be made to broaden our base

of potential outreach sources and to utilize them in a manner consistent with our departmental affirmative action plan.

\* (1430)

Also there was a question to do with cross-cultural seminars and I will get copies for the Member. It might be useful to have it on the record as well. The Civil Service Commission is responsible for the development of culturally related courses. In the development of these courses, a needs analysis was conducted using the focus group method. Civil servants and the public made up of affirmative action target group members are asked to identify their needs and concerns. As a result, three courses were developed.

1. Managing Diversity, piloted in November of 1987.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide managers with an understanding of intercultural management practices, and an opportunity to develop skills to manage effectively in an intercultural environment. This course is part of a series of courses exploring the implications of organizational culture and ethnicity in the workplace.

Course content:

- (1) To examine critical managerial processes from an intercultural perspective; e.g. Communication, problem-solving decision making, performance appraisal, recruitment and selection, etc.
- (2) To develop effective intercultural management skills to manage organizational culture and ethnic diversity.

2. Instructing Across Cultures, first offering December 1988.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide trainers in Government with an opportunity to examine intercultural learning and training issues and develop skills to provide effective intercultural training.

Objectives:

- \* To develop an understanding of intercultural training issues.
- \* To examine personal views including beliefs, values and expectations on the role of a trainer.
- \* To develop skills to provide culturally appropriate training activities and manage intercultural training issues.

Content:

- \* Basic intercultural transaction concepts, discrimination, prejudice, racism, pluralism, assimilation, integration, culturally distinct identity, etc.
- \* Impact of critical social, legal and historical policies and events on cultural minorities.
- \* Intercultural learning, teaching and training phenomena, and effective management of intercultural training situations.
- \* Professional intercultural training ethnics, and application to training activities.

3. Communicating with the Native public.

Purpose: To provide information and awareness of Manitoba Natives' historical and cultural background

with a view to improved understanding and communications.

Objectives:

This course will enable participants to:

1. Develop an understanding of Native culture, and the values and communication patterns important to Native persons.
2. Develop an understanding of the Native persons view of the "System" of Government services, traditional, historical, contemporary and its impact and effect on Native persons.
3. Recognize the effects of "culture clash" and identify ways to enhance service that is culturally relevant to Native persons.
4. Understand the "service role" as the link between the Native person and the system, and the key to more effective communication with the Native public.

Content:

- \* Classification of Native Groups
- \* Family Structure, values and communication
- \* Native people and the system
- \* Culture Clash
- \* Culturally relevant service

All courses are offered on a demand basis. Any department, individual or work group from Winnipeg or the rural and northern areas can make a request to the Civil Service Commission who will schedule and deliver the program.

There was a question, I believe it was last day we met, regarding provincial employees' day care. I would like to advise that my staff have checked with the provincial employees' Care For Kids Co-op Inc. There is a waiting list of 100 children. The Member should also be aware that waiting lists are reported at a number of day care centres within the same area as provincial employees' Care for Kids Co-op Inc. The other centres within the area report waiting lists of over 70 children. Parents often place their names on several lists and therefore many of these could be duplicates. Within the same area, three full-time day care centres have a total of 17 openings, and parents needing care can be referred to these nearby centres.

I would also like to table copies of the cross-cultural seminar information that I just put on the record.

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** Just a few questions which arise from the information that the Minister has tabled. She has mentioned a number of the courses that are available. Are there any in line with the affirmative action? Are there any courses that are available that specifically deal with women in management and the role of women in Government and how that role is emerging and changing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are a number of them. The Civil Service Commission organizes these courses.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, do some of these courses at all deal with stereotypes that occur within public and private sectors and how one learns to overcome that?

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**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, they do. The Member could probably get a more complete answer during the debate on the Estimates of the Civil Service Commission.

**Ms. Gray:** I am just wondering if the Minister would be aware, do those courses as well get into talking about gender-neutral language.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have not looked at all the courses. There is a possibility but, as I say, you could maybe get more complete information on it through the Civil Service Commission Estimates.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister as well indicated the four systems that were in place in regard to waiting, and she also mentioned that the decision rests with the manager. I recall earlier on in Estimates that I had asked, where two candidates were equal and the job was identified that there could be an affirmative action candidate for that position and where all things being equal, where was the final decision or would we automatically assume, given all things equal, the affirmative action candidate would get the job, and she indicated, yes, they would. I had raised that question because there have been concerns in the past that a particular manager or supervisor can still overrule that. Now I hear that the final decision does rest with the manager. Perhaps she could clarify that for me.

**Mrs. Oleson:** These are monitored by the personnel manager to make sure that all the rules are abided by but it is, in most cases, the manager who makes the decision, but in consultation with the personnel manager.

**Ms. Gray:** Based on what the Minister has said then, it could be possible that a particular supervisor or manager could decide that in fact they did want to choose the candidate who was not the affirmative action candidate for whatever their reasons might be.

**Mrs. Oleson:** The final decision must be vetted through Human Resources, so that if there was a discrepancy there it would be picked up.

**Ms. Gray:** Would or could Human Resources then overrule that manager's decision if the decision was made not to hire the affirmative action candidate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would bring it to the attention of the most senior manager, but I would remind the Member that no system is perfect. But these things are monitored.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, in the implementation of the Affirmative Action Program—I certainly appreciate that it is within the Civil Service. I am wondering, however, has there been a move toward ensuring or having some of the objectives as outlined by the Affirmative Action Program also applied in the Community Services Department when Community Services staff are hiring, not civil servants, but are hiring casual staff or contract staff.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to me if these affirmative action guidelines then would apply when casual and contract staff are recruited through Community Services? I think specifically, one example which comes to mind is respite workers. Are these positions bulletined in many of the community and ethnic newspapers throughout the province?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The casuals would not always be bulletined that way, but the regional managers would be aware of their needs and of the needs of the community. They would all be working toward the goals set down for affirmative action.

\* (1440)

**Ms. Gray:** In regard to the Residential Care and Licensing, I will move on to that area. I have a few more questions based on our discussions yesterday, or the other day.

I was wondering if the Minister could indicate to us, given that there are a fair number of residential care facilities throughout the province, and given there are not a large number of Residential Care and Licensing Branch staff, could the Minister indicate to us whether she feels the staffing ratios based on the mandate that Residential Care and Licensing is to carry out is adequate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Based on current standards, it is adequate.

**Ms. Gray:** Have there been in this past fiscal year or in future fiscal years any requests from Residential Care and Licensing to add staff years to their branch?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No.

**Ms. Gray:** In reviewing the discussion the other day about Residential Care and Licensing and some of the difficulties that arise in regard to the aged and infirm care facilities, the Minister indicated that this was something that the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) would be becoming involved with. This parallels as well to the discussions we have had before in regard to the jurisdictional disputes that may arise again amongst two departments, Community Services and Department of Health, in regard to care of the aging, mentally handicapped or care of child welfare or a child who may require home care.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us, given that it would appear to me that within the two departments, Health and Community Services, there certainly are a number of directorates established. There is the expertise in the individuals who I would think would be able to sit down and discuss these issues and come to some type of resolution. Could the Minister indicate why has her Government felt it necessary to involve a third party, a Department of Seniors, which at this point does not have a mandate nor does this department appear to have any staff?

**Mrs. Oleson:** At the moment, the Department of Seniors is involved in a coordinating role and has asked

every department of Government to supply it with a list of programs that affect seniors. So when I said that they were involved, it is in a coordinating role to see what there is for seniors in every department of Government. From then, the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) can provide information to the Member in that regard.

With the review of the Department of Community Services and Health, we are also looking at an overlap of services and trying to come to some way of ensuring that we do not leave somebody out in the mix or that there are no duplication of services. It is a preliminary overview at the moment but we would be working on it in much more detail later.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated that the Department for Seniors will assume a coordinating role. Could she perhaps clarify the nature of that coordination?

**Mrs. Oleson:** As I indicated before, it partly will be to identify overlaps and also identify needs.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister saying that the Department of Community Services is unable to adequately identify the needs of the target populations they already serve?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Serving all seniors is not part of the mandate of Community Services. I said to the Member just now that the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services are looking and identifying where there is overlap, where there is some need. The Member was identifying some problems the other day when we were discussing this about aging seniors who may be not quite caught up in the system well enough to adequately supply their needs. That is one of the things that we will be looking at.

**Ms. Gray:** In this coordination role that the Ministry of Seniors is assuming, could the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) indicate to me, will this coordination also mean that the Department of Seniors will actually be taking initiation and moving towards a resolution of some of these issues which we have identified?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Their job is to ensure that these needs are being met.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us if that role—and I appreciate it is another Ministry but it certainly ties in very closely to the Community Services Department, particularly when we are talking about aged and infirm individuals where it has been identified that in some cases they do not have advocates within the system or without the system. What expertise is contained within the Department of Seniors to provide and to ensure that these needs are met?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is no one department that is completely mandated to look after every aspect of this, so there is a coordinating role there. I cannot really give the Member a satisfactory answer about the staff of the Minister in charge of Seniors (Mr. Neufeld). When

that Estimates debate is on, then the Member can certainly ask that of the Minister. It is his prerogative to answer questions with regard to his staff.

**Ms. Gray:** Does the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) not have concerns that with some of these jurisdictional disputes where part of the difficulty is because we are dealing with two departments, that by bringing in a third department we are going to actually create more chaos rather than actually move toward solving problems?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, I do not see the problem because no department has been clearly mandated to—as I said before, we are in a preliminary stage. The Department of Seniors is providing a coordinating role and then the mandate will be clearly defined. I repeat that it is in the preliminary stages. The Member herself and her Leader have been asking for services to seniors and this is one way of identifying and coordinating so that there is no overlap, so that people are not left out of the system who need our help.

**Ms. Gray:** Certainly there has been an indication from the Liberal Party and from our Leader, and certainly I would agree that there is a need for the needs of seniors to be dealt with. However, the last thing that I would ever be doing would be having the Department of Seniors get involved with jurisdictional disputes within the Department of Health and Community Services because I do not see that as a role for the Department of Seniors whatsoever.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to me, does she see accountability then being removed from the Department of Community Services in regard to the aged and infirm individuals with this third department becoming involved?

\* (1450)

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is one of the problems. There is no department clearly mandated to take care of some of the problems of seniors. That is why we are looking at this, and the Seniors Department will play a coordinating role to identify who should be mandated to fulfill these needs. As I said before, it is a preliminary stage. There is no clear identification of mandate and that is why it is being looked at.

**Ms. Gray:** When we are referring to seniors, are we referring to individuals who are over 65?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is what I am referring to. I do not know what the Member is referring to in her questioning, but that is what I am referring to.

**Ms. Gray:** That would be my assumption as well. I asked that question as well because, when we are speaking of seniors, we really can look at a number of groups within the population of seniors, and we have a group of elderly out there where a number of community services—and I do not use that in reference to this department—are available. The types of service and some of the needs and some of the issues to be

addressed are certainly different than that group of seniors who are more aged and infirm where a lot of their care ties in very, very directly with the health system and with the medical system as well. So, as a comment, I would see, certainly with the Department of Seniors, that might want to be looked at as to how that department would deal with those two, in some ways, distinct groups.

In regard again to Residential Care and Licensing, the Minister had indicated the other day that, in aged and infirm facilities where there are individuals who are not assigned to a particular worker within a region, that the responsibility for informing Residential Care and Licensing of any problems or difficulties or of reporting any deficits would lie with the care provider. It is Residential Care and Licensing that provides the licence for these operators. Is the Minister then indicating that in fact we are issuing a licence, but we are also leaving it up to the operators to notify Residential Care and Licensing about any problems which may arise?

**Mrs. Oleson:** One of the mandates of the Residential Care Licensing is to report incidents. They also inspect on a regular basis.

**Ms. Gray:** I think we clarified last time, and correct me if I am wrong, that Residential Care and Licensing inspects a minimum of twice a year and that they do not necessarily deal with program standards—that is covered by the regions—but, where there are individuals who are in aged and infirm facilities, they may not necessarily be involved with someone from regional Operations. The Minister did indicate the other day that it is the responsibility of the operator to report any incidents and, I would assume, any deficits that their operation has, and again I am wondering—if we are giving out the licence, why are we leaving it up to the operators to report on those particular kinds of issues and incidents?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think the Member is misunderstanding what this area of the department is responsible for. If she would look at it, it says, "(b) Residential Care Licensing." It does not say "Residential Care and Licensing." They are a licensing body and everyone within these facilities does not have a social worker who is responsible for them. Some are self-placed, shall we say, and able to look after themselves. Others are not, and do have a social worker. There is a great deal of variety within these homes.

This is the licensing body, not the program or a continuous monitoring of the home. This licensing body makes sure that they are safe facilities and they comply with the licensing standards. A manager within a facility would be the best person, or the people that are providing the care, however intensive it is in the residence, would I am sure be capable of reporting if a person was ill and needed assistance.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated that the residential care is not necessarily into continual monitoring. Could the Minister tell us, what is the purpose of granting licences and letters of approval to these facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Perhaps it would clarify it for the Member if I gave her a resume of what the functions are, the monitor and review functions. They are on-site inspections of the facility and the operation carried out minimally two times per year. That is minimum. Inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with the regulated standards and requirements of physical safety, health care and supervision of the residents, physical safety, building and fire safety requirements in accordance with the Manitoba building codes and fire regulations.

Health Care and Supervision: Adequate supervision of residents, medication management, meal planning, nutritional management, monitoring and recording on medical status of residents, response measures for emergencies, assistance with activities of daily living, hygiene, grooming, clothing, recreation, etc.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us how her department would define care and supervision?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I could give the Member the definition. Residential care or care and supervision means the assistance required by a child or by an adult suffering from a disability or disorder which precludes that person from living independently.

**Ms. Gray:** My question for the Minister is, given that the Residential Care Licensing Branch staff visit these facilities minimally twice a year, if we have individuals in a facility who are not assigned a worker from regional Operations, if we have an individual who is on medication and for whatever reasons that medication has been missed a few times a week or improper dosages have not been given, would that information be conveyed to Residential Care Licensing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are staff who work in these homes. There are relatives who visit people. There are visitors who go to visit them, friends. It is not as if these people were entirely alone in this residence.

**Ms. Gray:** I would suggest that the public might be somewhat upset if they thought that friends and relatives were being responsible to ensure that the medication given to a particular individual in an aged and infirm facility was adequate and that all procedures were being followed. Now just to clarify, is the Minister indicating then, if medication has been improperly given or missed for four days out of five, that operator is going to phone up Residential Care Licensing and say, by the way, I forgot to give the medication four days out of five?

\* (1500)

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think the Member is missing the point. I did not indicate that we would not care or this would not be looked after. These are people in these residential facilities who some of them, as we have indicated before, do not have workers. They went in there of their own volition.

Is the Member indicating that the people in my department who license these homes would follow the staff around in these homes 24 hours a day to make

sure that medication was taken? I think the Member has misunderstood the function of this area of the department.

**Ms. Gray:** Who does monitor medication within a home in terms of ensuring that when you give a licence that there are certain regulations to be followed regarding the giving of medication and the recording of medication? Who ensures that a residential care facility is complying to those regulations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** This department monitors and ensures this through licensing and regular monitoring, but the operator is responsible for medication management.

**Ms. Gray:** The point of these questions is really to point out—we know that there are difficulties in terms of the gaps in regard to aged and infirm facilities. I think the concerns involve, as the Minister has indicated, that no one has really assumed responsibility for these individuals. Given that Residential Care Licensing has an overall mandate to ensure that there is appropriateness to the licences in letters of approval that they give—I can appreciate the fact that they are not responsible for monitoring program standards—but where I think there is a gap, and I think it was evidenced in some of the residential care facilities in the past couple of years, was there was a lack of monitoring by someone. No one was accountable for the care of those individuals within the home. Friends and relatives made their concerns known.

It is difficult. Residential Care Licensing, with the number of staff they have, cannot be responsible for being out there on a weekly basis. There seemed to be some indication that someone from within some region of Winnipeg would be responsible to liaise with that particular facility but again those particular staff, as well, seem to be unaware of what their role was, what their responsibilities were, and what we ended up with was a situation where there were allegations of clients or individuals who were not being properly cared for. This causes a lot of concern for families and friends and individuals out there who have a next of kin and they need to find placement for them.

They rely on Government to give them suggestions for residential care facilities and, by asking Government and by knowing that it has been licensed, they are making the assumption that there are certain standards and safeguards within these residential care facilities. What we are finding is that there is a clear gap here.

I do not want to belabour the point, but I think to take this issue and decide that the Department of Seniors is going to start looking at it, I think is inappropriate. I think that there is expertise within the Department of Community Services, there is expertise within the Department of Health, and the two Ministers of those two departments and their senior staff should very seriously sit down and look at this problem and decide who is going to take some responsibility for ensuring that program standards are met in aged and infirm facilities.

Again, we could also go through the same line of questioning for program standards being ensured within facilities for the mentally handicapped.

I understand, as well, in regard to residential care facilities, that there are also resource developers or resource coordinators who have some responsibility for these residences and have some communication with Residential Care Licensing. Could the Minister indicate to us, are there resource co-ordinators in all regions in the province or is this a phenomena only to Winnipeg?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is one in each region in Winnipeg. I just want to hearken back for a moment to the statements that the Member was making a few minutes ago before she posed that question.

We have recognized that there is a gap. There are problems, there are some people who do not fit into any slot, shall we say, in the system as it presently is and has been for some time. I cannot quite make up my mind from what the Member is saying whether she wants a Department of Seniors or not, because that is one of the reasons we set up a Department of Seniors, to address the needs of seniors. But the Member now says that she does not think they should get involved in this particular problem or maybe other problems of seniors.

So I am getting a little confused here as to what the Member is really asking for. Is she asking that we dissolve the Department of Seniors and simply go on the way we have, or is she suggesting that we keep the Department of Seniors and not assign them anything to do with seniors?

**Ms. Gray:** First of all, I am not sure what there is to dissolve within the department other than the Minister.

Secondly, what I am saying, and I will make it clear for the record, is I do not believe that the Department of Seniors should become involved in these issues. As I have said before, there are many issues which impact on seniors. I see these particular issues as being jurisdictional issues that need to be sorted out between the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services.

We could get into a long discussion probably about what the mandate is of the Department of Seniors. Certainly it is not for lack of trying in the House to try to get some answers as to exactly what the priorities are going to be with the Department of Seniors, other than taking inventories, which we know already exist and which is a function of Age and Opportunity. I really feel that these particular issues are best dealt with within the Department of Health and Community Services. Certainly the Minister and her Government have the prerogative to disagree with that.

I was wondering in regard to, again, residential care facilities, as the Minister is probably aware, there have been in the past presentations and proposals made to Governments on behalf of the operators of residential care facilities, citing that it is impossible to provide quality care to individuals because of the residential care rates which they receive.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us if she is aware of these concerns from residential care operators and what her position is. Does she feel that

these residential care rates are in fact adequate and the rates are such that quality care and supervision can be provided by the operators?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I am aware and I have had discussions with people who operate these residential care homes. That is one of the things that the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services will be looking at is to review what the operators are telling us and see if that is indeed the case. I could not give her a definitive answer on that.

I hearken back to some of her remarks as a preamble to her question. What the Member is requesting with regard to aged and infirm and the programs and help for these people does require legislative mandate. It does require programs and it also requires funds so it is something, as I have indicated before, that we are looking at. But I think the Member will appreciate that to draft legislation, put in a program and get the appropriate funds is not something that is done in the very, very short term. It is something that has to be looked at very carefully. The specific needs of a program would have to be identified and needs assessed and then the program would have to be designed.

\* (1510)

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister had indicated that there were resource coordinators, I suppose is the term, in the Department of Community Services who have something to do with residential care facilities. Could she tell us exactly what their role is in relation to the residential care facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Development, recruitment and placement assessment.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister elaborate as to what is meant by development?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Development of appropriate facilities.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, how do these resource coordinators go about, I am assuming, developing or actually increasing the number of residential care facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They screen applicants on a needs basis, for the information of the Member.

**Ms. Gray:** For clarification, is the Minister saying that these resource coordinators screen applications for opening homes or applications for individuals entering into these homes?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Both would be the answer to that.

**Ms. Gray:** What criteria do the resource coordinators have at their disposal to work with these individuals who may be applying to open residential care facilities? What criteria do they use in assisting these individuals as far as what is available and what the standards should be?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would have to meet the criteria set out in the licensing regulations.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us if they have any further criteria regarding program standards which, as we know, are not clearly laid out in the regulations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** This is a weak area and that is why we are looking at it.

**Ms. Gray:** Are there program standards or program guidelines which these resource coordinators have in assisting these individuals in opening group homes?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, not for all programs. The Member must remember that there is a great deal of difference in levels of need and levels of care provided in many of these homes. Many people need different things and some, as I said before, are not—they place themselves in these homes, so they are not under any program. A great many of them do not need any program.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, these resource coordinators, are they responsible for the development, recruitment and screening for residential care facilities in all the categories that we have identified?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister indicating to me that there are not program standards that are outlined by which these resource coordinators have access to or can discuss that information with potential applicants, applicants for opening group homes.

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are program standards for Child and Family Services and for Welcome Home, but the aged and infirm is a weak area and that is why, as I indicated before, we will be looking at it. Mental Health also have standards.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, we have resource coordinators in these regions in Winnipeg and part of their job, I think she indicated, was also screening applications. Could the Minister indicate to us if someone from the community, a next of kin, had someone they wanted to place in a residential care facility, would that application go directly to the care facility or would it, in Winnipeg anyway, go through the resource co-ordinator?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It would go through the resource coordinator. No, not if they place themselves, a private placement would not go through that.

**Ms. Gray:** Do these resource coordinators have any responsibility? I would think there must be some system in place when applications come in. Before they would refer on, they would have to know what the vacancy rate would be in various homes. So I am assuming there would be some liaison with these resource coordinators and homes where even there are a lot of private placements. Am I correct?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, they would be aware of vacancies.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us for what reasons might a residential care operator phone a



resource co-ordinator versus phoning an assigned worker or versus phoning Residential Care Licensing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Chairman, the operators would report monthly to the resource coordinators. If it was a matter of someone who was under the care of a program, they would report to their worker; if they needed to report to them, if there was a problem in some by-law or something to do with the residence, they would contact the Residential Care Licensing department.

**Ms. Gray:** I had indicated earlier that in regard to training I would deal with that in another appropriation but, just to speed up my questions when we get to that area, are the resource coordinators the ones who would provide training to residential care operators?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They have done that in Winnipeg.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Ms. Gray:** No, I have a few more questions. Over the years there has been recognition, I understand, within the Departments of Health and Community Services that there is a wide discrepancy in the per diem rates or residential care rates which are paid to various facilities based on levels of care and based on the type of clientele. Could the Minister update us as to—are there any interdepartmental committees which are actively looking at this rate discrepancy with a move towards reconciling those discrepancies?

\* (1520)

**Mrs. Oleson:** Our department is looking at the rates and has just begun a review of them.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate for us, would it be the general philosophy or the hope of this department that it would be ideal to have a reconciliation of the rates and that the rates would be similar? Is that what the general move would be toward?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That would be the ideal situation, but we will have to review it to see if that is possible.

**Ms. Gray:** In regard to individuals who are in hospitals, who have been in a residential care facility, or maybe who have not but the suggestion from the social services in the hospital or from a relative is that that person needs a place to live and perhaps a residential care facility would be of benefit to the individual, is there any monitoring done to ensure—and given that there are pressures in hospitals for beds—is there any monitoring system to ensure that when hospitals refer someone to a residential care facility they do not refer individuals either back to that facility or as an initial placement which are over the care levels?

I can appreciate the Minister had indicated earlier that of course there is a responsibility on the operator to ensure that they do not accept people who are above the level of care that they are licensed for, but we also know that realistically oftentimes these operators are under a great deal of pressure from hospitals and, out

of compassion and humanity, feel that they should be taking these individuals, albeit they may be at a higher level of care. My question is, is there some monitoring system to ensure that this does not happen and to support the residential care operators in this regard?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The monitoring is done through the resource co-ordinators. We recognize that there sometimes is overcare, but that is one of the reasons a review is taking place. The whole thing has to be looked at.

**Ms. Gray:** For clarification then, are you saying that all referrals that are from hospitals in Winnipeg would go through the resource co-ordinator? They would be screened at that level before they go on to the residential care facility?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, the social services departments of hospitals go through the resource co-ordinator.

**Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns):** First, with respect to the information provided by the Minister on the Provincial Government Employees' Care for Kids Day Care, I appreciate the information about the waiting list and would ask the Minister if, given her comments about the vacancies, given her comments about some question about whether or not those 100 on the waiting list were in definite need, if she would give some thought to requesting, either through her own department or through the day care, a survey of those 100 on the waiting list to determine their needs and their desires with respect to workplace day care.

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is one of the things that will be addressed by the task force. We know that there are waiting lists. We know that all the needs are not being met, and that is one of the things that the task force will look at. However, I remind the Member that under Residential Care Licensing we do not licence day care centres.

**Ms. Wasylcia-Leis:** The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) will be pleased to hear that I do not have a new line of questioning there.

Just to quickly follow up on the information provided by the Minister at the start of the Session, would it—I realize that on a number of occasions the Minister has said that the task force would be looking at some of these issues but, given the time pressures with respect to this particular request and the commitment made by the previous administration for an expansion in this regard, would the Minister give some thought to a way of surveying those 100 on the waiting list and perhaps a quick survey through the Civil Service Newsletter of needs for a workplace day care in advance of the task force, so that it could be included in the spending for this year's budget?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We have indicated on many occasions that this Government is interested in workplace day care. As I indicated, the task force will be looking at it. The staff advise me that the issue of that centre is being looked at right now and the board will be advising us about the numbers.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am not sure exactly what that means, but could I ask one final question then? Is the space in the Weir Building being held until a decision is made?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I will just repeat the answer that I gave several times when we last met and discussed this subject. It is under active consideration.

**Mr. Chairman:** On item (b)(1) then, shall the item pass?

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am still asking questions. We are in for a long haul, I will tell you right now.

Thank you for those answers. The Minister can repeat that answer many times, but it still does not give me any indication that the space, which was designed for or set aside for a day care in the Weir Building, is being held and maintained for the purpose of the expansion of the Provincial Government Employees' Day Care.

On to Residential Care Licensing, could the Minister indicate her Government's views about the adequacy of the regulations and standards pertaining to those homes that fall under regulations in this section?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I will indicate and I have been concerned about them for some time, and that is why we have them currently under review.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister suggesting then that they are not tough enough or too tough?

**Mrs. Oleson:** When we review them, we will identify that. I am not in a position until I have had a really good look at them to really identify whether or not they are tough enough, not too tough, mediocre. I would like to have more of a chance to review them.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Why would the Minister be reviewing them or recommending a review if she does not know if they are too tough or too lenient?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There have been concerns raised and there have been requests for changes. The whole thing needs to be looked at. I have not been in the office long enough to really have a good handle on that, I must admit, and I do want to have a look at it because different concerns have been raised to me over the years.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Are the concerns coming from groups that are concerned about regulations and standards being too stringent, or from community groups worried that they are not stringent enough?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Both sides of the issue have raised concerns to me, people who operate the facilities, people who use them. There is a growing population of elderly, as well and, as I understand it, these regulations have not been reviewed since 1981. So I think it would be a good idea to review them in the light of items that have been raised with me and the very fact that things do change over a period of time and everything needs to be updated from time to time.

\* (1530)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Would the Minister indicate which homes or which groups are expressing concerns about the regulations as they now stand?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are various operators, users, relatives of people who use these facilities. I cannot give her a specific list of all these people.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister provide her Government's policy with respect to regulations in the area of residential care facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** When I am finished the review, I would be in a position to indicate that, but not at the present time.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is a deregulation a base for the review as well?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We have an open mind to these regulations. I want to review them and, as I indicated, the information would be available after review.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** When the Minister says she and her Government have an open mind, does that mean open to both regulation or firmer regulations, as well as deregulation?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I certainly have never made any indication that I was wanting to deregulate. I have never had anyone come to me and suggest that.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The Minister mentioned in a previous answer a total of some 709 facilities that are licensed in this section under this provision. Could she provide a breakdown of the 709, not in terms of homes, of the types of homes which she has done already, but in terms of both private and non-profit, as well as voluntary and mandatory?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have the information, first of all, on the provincial rural, and these of course are adult residences. In private residences, licensed in '87 for mental retardation, 13 and in 1988, 14; number of beds in '87 for mental retardation, 102 and in '88, 106; under Letters of Approval, in '87, 207 and 209—all the ones I am giving you now are mental retardation—beds in '87, 398, and in '88, 400; continuing with mental retardation under non-profit, licensed in '87, 52 and, in '88, 56; beds, 363 in '87, 383 in '88—there is no indication under the approvals and beds for that area—under mental health, private, licensed in '87, 12 and, in '88, 12; number of beds in '87, 68 and, in '88, 68. Letter of Approval is 83 in '87 and 73 in '88; beds, 149 in '87 and 134 in '88; under non-profit in the same category of mental health, licensed in '87, four and, in '88, four; and total beds in '87 for mental health, 45 and, in '88, 45, no indication of numbers under Letter of Approvals.

Infirm aged, under private licensed, two in '87, two in '88; beds, 71 in '88 (sic), 39 in '88; and approvals, 12 in '87, 10 in '88; beds in '87, 19 and, in 1988, 20; none listed under non-profit.

Mixed in private, two in '87, under licensed that is, and two in '88; beds, 14 in '87, 18 in '88; Letter of Approvals, 56 in '87, 61 in '88; number of beds, 119 in '87, 134 in '88; no licence under non-profit, none licensed, and of course then no beds; and under Letter of Approval, one in '87, one in '88; total beds, three in '87 and three in '88; then giving totals for the private of licensed, 29 in '87, and 30 in '88; number of beds, 255 in '87, 231 in '88; under approved, 358 in '87, 353 in '88; beds, 685 in '87, 688 in '88; in the non-profit under licensing, totals, 56 in '87, and 60 in '88; in beds, 408 in '87, and 428 in '88; approvals, one in both years, '87 and '88; and beds three in both totals in both years. That was the rural.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On a point of order.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member for St. Johns, on a point of order.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** In making the request, I did not realize it was in such a detailed format. I was looking for simple totals in terms of overall private and non-profit in each of the major categories as provided previously. I would suggest that the Minister table the information if she is willing.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member does not have a point of order.

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Member asked for categories. If she just wants the totals, I could give her the totals. This is in Winnipeg, under private licensed, in '87, 28 and, in '88, 34; beds, 476 in '87, and 465 in '88; Letter of Approvals, the total of 100 in '87, and 96 in '88; number of beds, 193 in '87, and 189 in '88; under non-profit totals, licensed, 31 in '87, 36 in '88; beds, 201 in '87, 222 in '88; under Letters of Approval, 22 in '87, 30 in '88; total beds, 57 in '87, and 69 in 1988.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I had also asked about the voluntary-mandatory question. Does "Letter of Approval" mean voluntary, that are licensed on a voluntary basis or under the non-regulated aspects of the branch?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I can give the Member the information on voluntary licensing. Under current legislation, only certain types of facilities providing residential care require a licence to operate. This does not include such facilities which provide residential services to the physically disabled, post-mentally ill, women's transitional centres, alcoholic treatment facilities, probation half-way houses and medical receiving homes.

Some of these facilities, because of the need to meet certain licensing standards required by the placement agency, have applied for a licence on a voluntary basis. In 1985, the mandate of the branch was expanded to include the licensing of these facilities on a voluntary basis. The following are licensed to date and that is, total: licensed, 13; approved, 0; number of beds licensed, 276; and approved, 0.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I think we will have to extend this line into the next day's sitting after I have read all the

information and digested it but, for now, let me focus on some general questions, first pertaining to the first piece of information I requested on the breakdown of private and non-profit. First an overall question, could the Minister indicate how many of the current total, 709 facilities, are in breach of the regulations or standards?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They are all licensed.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Obviously they are all licensed. Among those that are licensed, are there those that are working to meet and improve the physical standards of their buildings to be in line with the regulations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are none at this time. They have all met the standards.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** So of the 709 facilities, there is not one which the department is presently working with and negotiating with in terms of improving its fire and safety and physical standards?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Not that we are aware of at the moment.

\* (1540)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Does the department operate by way of offering provisional licences when a facility has been notified of some problem, and has made a commitment to improve the standard and regulation?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Where alterations or renovations are required, there is a conditional licence provided in the interim.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** How many of the 709 are now under conditional licence?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is always somebody doing something to their facility so there could be as many as six at the moment, but there may be anywhere from two to six.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The Minister mentioned that they would be under conditional licence because they are making some alteration to their structure. Would alterations be at all related to requests from the department about meeting standards in a better way?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They could be something that the department has requested. Most of them are of their own volition. They decide to do some renovations.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** In other words, does the Minister have a different response to my earlier question, which was how many are actually not living up to the full standards or regulations? It would seem, based on the Minister's last answer, that there could be some.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Right now, they meet the current standards. To our knowledge, there is no one that is not living up to the standards.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** How many new requests come into the system? I do not know on what basis to ask

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this. Perhaps the Minister or her staff have some statistics that would help. How many new requests come to the department for licensing?

**Mr. Chairman:** A point of order, the Member for Arthur.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs):** I would suggest, if the Member is looking for information, she could develop her own questions without asking the staff or the department to do it for her.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member does not have a point of order.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** My question still holds then.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are you finished?

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Yes, that was my question.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Approximately 25 a year.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister provide a breakdown of private and non-profit for those approximate 25 per year?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We do not have that information available at the moment. We could get that later.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Thank you, I would certainly appreciate that. Could the Minister indicate whether there are any regulations now, any legislation, that prohibits further licensing of private firms?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, there is nothing that prohibits.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is there any provision in legislation or regulation to prohibit the involvement of foreign private firms?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We have passed that question along to the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. We do not think there are, but we are having them look at it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister, since we last talked about the question of the possibility of American firms entering this field by way of management services for institutional social services—and certainly this is a relevant line to be raising this question again—has she had an opportunity to read the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Not in its entirety.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister had an opportunity to inform herself or be informed by staff about the specific reference in the trade agreement to management services for social service institutions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I indicated to the Member a moment ago that I had referred the question of regulations to IT and T. They will also be looking at that issue as well.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister been informed by the staff of her department or her colleague, the

Minister responsible for the trade deal or staff of his department, about the ramifications of the agreement in terms of institutional social services and whether or not the provincial Government will be allowed to prevent U.S. firms from providing management services to social service institutions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Staff have not indicated any concerns. That is still being looked at by the Department of IT and T just to make sure.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister been able to determine through discussions either with staff or colleagues, or confirm other analyses, previous statements, about U.S. firms being allowed to provide management services and the fact that the provincial Government cannot require that these firms establish a local presence as a condition of being allowed to provide the service?

Does she have any concern about the well-documented open door for U.S. management firms to embark upon the provision of services and the establishment of facilities for homes for the mentally retarded, for the infirm and aged, for mental health patients and so on? Has she been able to concern herself at all with the fact that not only will there be an open-door policy but that American firms do not even have to establish a local presence?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I would repeat again that the issue has been referred to the Industry, Trade and Tourism Department. I have not had concerns raised to me by staff, but we are anyway having that looked at by IT and T.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister not asked her staff to look into this matter in order to provide some advice to her colleague?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I just indicated to the Member that staff have referred the matter to IT and T. They are the ones, as we discussed many, many moons ago, I think it is, at the beginning of these Estimates, that is the department that is involved with studies of trade agreements and the whole realm of industry.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Given that the Minister has said she is not sure that current legislation prohibits foreign private firms from embarking on the provision of management services in this area or the establishment of such homes, could the Minister indicate if she is concerned at all about the possibility that the trade agreement may open up the door to involvement by U.S. management services in the social service institutional field?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have not seen anything to date that would indicate that there is a problem. As I repeat once again, the matter has been referred to IT and T, because we certainly went to look at every aspect of the Free Trade Agreement and its impact or non-impact on Manitoba.

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**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister at all concerned—and I think this point was raised previously in the legislative Chambers—that the province does not have necessarily legislation or standards to protect confidentiality of client information held by social services and, hence, would add a further problem to the question of an open-door policy vis-a-vis the Canada-U.S. trade deal?

**Mrs. Oleson:** These types of things will be taken into consideration in our review of The Social Services Administration Act.

With regard to the reference to the Free Trade Agreement, I have already indicated that those concerns will be dealt with by IT and T.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister indicate if she has specifically asked her colleague, the Minister responsible for IT and T (Mr. Ernst), to look at certain aspects of the trade deal? Has she raised any concerns? Has she asked her staff to prepare any memos to forward to her colleague? Could she table anything that would indicate to us a follow-up to these concerns?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have indicated that I want information and direction on the Free Trade Agreement with the Department of IT and T. I am not about to table interdepartmental memos in the committee.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister indicate what time lines have been set with respect to reviewing the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement from the point of view of management services for social service institutions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** IT and T will be looking at it and getting back to us before January.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister not concerned that January may just be a little bit too late, given the fact that it has been clearly documented and stated that it would be incumbent upon the province, if it has a desire to restrict provision of social services to Canadian firms, that it would have to introduce such restrictions prior to January 1, 1988?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is what I was referring to. We want to be sure that any concerns that may be raised—and I have not had any indication that there are concerns—we want to be sure that if there are that the report would be in before January.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister explain how her time line for the report to be in is January 1, when any regulations that have to be introduced would have to be by January 1?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I must indicate to the Member that the review is being done and, if any action needs to be taken, it could be taken before January. We would have the information in time to do it by January if we needed to do it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am certainly getting more and more concerned about whether or not this Government

is seriously reviewing the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement from the point of view of the impact on our universal social services here in the Province of Manitoba. I would like to know if the Minister can give us any sense of her own feelings or her Government's policies with respect to opening up this area to American management services that may not even be based here. Does she have any concerns? Does her Government have any concerns?

The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) is suggesting, by shaking his head, that there are no such concerns. Could the Minister verify that there are no such concerns?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I could verify that I have not had any indication or concerns, but I also will repeat that the whole issue has been referred to the Department of IT and T, whose mandate it is to study and advise on the Free Trade Agreement.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister at all concerned then, if she is prepared to leave responsibility for this very important area to her colleague and to leave it on a time frame that is probably too late to do anything about it? Is she at all concerned about the impact that this trade agreement may have, by virtue of opening up the door to American management services, on her branch's capacity to respond to the licensing provisions in this area? Has she any concern about increased costs in resources that may be required by virtue of this provision? Does she at least have a concern from the point of view of her own budget and her ability to stay within her budget?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think by indicating to the Member that it has been referred to IT and T, the Member said why would I put it into that department or seemed to have cast some disparaging remarks on putting it into that department. That is where the expertise is on the Free Trade Agreement. As I indicated earlier on in these Estimates long, long ago, that is where the expertise is; that is a body that is mandated to study the agreement. It would not be really productive to have experts in every department all studying the same things.

I have referred the matter to IT and T. I have not had any expression from them of any concerns. If there are concerns, they will communicate them to me. I am often in conversation with the Minister. But I say today I have not had the concerns raised that the Member is raising. I repeat, if there are concerns, they will be forwarded to us in time for us to do any action, if any action is necessary.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister explain then how it is that under the previous administration, staff of most departments were involved in research planning, analysis of the Canada-U.S. trade deal, at least on a preliminary basis in providing that information to the respective Minister? I certainly know that this was the case in her department. I think some clearer research and analysis was done and her previous counterpart was fully informed of the possible impact of the Canada-U.S. trade deal on the social service

area. How is it that she, herself, has not seen anything in any briefing book, has not been informed by any member of her staff, has not asked for any of that information?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Any concerns, any questions, any research that was done on this before I came on the scene and any concerns that have been raised since at the staff level have been forwarded to IT and T, because this Government has given that department the mandate to look at the Free Trade Agreement.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister then saying, when she was assigned this portfolio, she decided not to look at her briefing material pertaining to the Canada-U.S. trade deal, not to inform herself about any of the concerns but to simply forward that material or those concerns to her colleague, the Minister responsible for IT and T (Mr. Ernst)?

\* (1600)

**Mrs. Oleson:** I will repeat—it has been forwarded to IT and T. This Government decided that one department would be mandated to do that function and report back to other departments if there were concerns regarding issues to do with their respective departments. Naturally, a new Government does things just a little differently and that is how we happen to be operating, that one department is mandated to look at the area of free trade.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** So the Minister is saying it is not incumbent upon her to understand at all what is in the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement, to even have a general knowledge about possible ramifications, to be informed enough to answer questions, if not here in the Legislature, then out there in the community at public events, on open-line programs? Is she not prepared to address this issue at any time, in any way, under any circumstances?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I will be informed when I receive information from IT and T. I have not at this time received anything that causes me to be concerned about the Free Trade Agreement in relation to this department. I think to throw up my hands and panic and start making wild assumptions about what might or might not happen would be just a trifle ridiculous at this time, since I have had nothing to indicate to me that I need to be concerned about it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am not suggesting that the Minister throw up her hands and express concern where there is no concern to be had. I am asking her if she has read the agreement, if she has read any of the analyses of the agreement with respect to her department.

Obviously, she has not read the agreement. She has not read a single article on any of the aspects of this agreement on her department and is not prepared to at least offer a single comment except to say it is up to someone else. Now, I do not think that is responsible behaviour on the part of any Minister of any Government

anywhere in this country. It certainly would not have been good enough, by the Minister's own standards and her colleagues' own standards, under the terms of the previous administration. I do not know why it is acceptable now, and I do not know how long the Minister thinks she can continue to come here week after week after week and not answer a single question on the trade deal.

This is my question. How long is she going to keep this up, and is she not going to commit herself here and now to reading parts of the agreement, to discussing parts of it with elected officials in the Legislative Assembly? Is this not a public policy issue?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Contrary to what the Member is saying, I have read parts of the agreement to do with various aspects of society and business in general. I have discussed it with my colleagues at caucus and Cabinet. That sort of discussion, of course, would not be what I would be uttering here.

I have, as I told her many, many times, referred the issue to IT and T who is mandated to study this. If she is trying to get me to say that I think there is something in here that will adversely affect Community Services, I will repeat to her again that I have seen nothing that will adversely affect Community Services. If I were to see that, I would certainly be concerned and would be willing and anxious to do whatever was necessary to forestall that concern. But, as I say, if she is going to keep this badgering and badgering and whether or not I have read this and whether or not I have analyzed that—the IT and T Department is analyzing the trade agreement with respect to all aspects, be it agricultural, whatever sector, and they will be reporting to each department any impact that they feel may be relevant to their department. To date, I have not seen anything that causes me alarm. I repeat, if I do, then I will be acting upon it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am certainly not trying to get the Minister to suggest that this trade deal will have a negative impact on social services in this province. I am asking for some indication that she has involved herself with this area and is at least studying the ramifications. It is not a matter of subjective view when I or anyone else says that this agreement, because it specifically mentions management services for social service institutions, that is an objective statement that is coming from the agreement. It is an objective statement when I or anyone else says that this agreement, once it is in effect, will mean that the provincial Government will not be allowed to prevent the United States or U.S. firms from providing management services to social service institutions if Canadian firms are allowed to provide such management services. It is an objective statement whether it is coming from me or anyone else when it is said that, if the United States firms are allowed to provide management services, the provincial Government cannot require that these firms establish a local presence as a condition of being allowed to provide the service.

I can go on with the other statements that I have made. These are objective analyses of the legislation.

The questioning has to do with whether or not the Minister has concerned herself with these aspects of the agreement and whether or not she or her Government have preliminary concerns or firmly established concerns or no concerns around those provisions of the agreement, and what their course of action will be with respect to those objective analyses of the trade agreement.

I would simply ask, in a final question on this area, the Minister's views on those objective facts and her Government's views on those objective facts, and to indicate once again that this is not an attempt to badger her to get her to say something she does not want to say, but to simply ascertain the policy of this Government on those objective analyses of the Canada-U.S. trade deal?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I am reminded of a saying when I listen to the Member: "Saying it does not make it so." Because the Member comes here and says these things, it is not necessarily the way it will be.

I will indicate to the Member again that there will be forthcoming from Industry, Trade and Tourism a report to me on the findings with regard to the Free Trade Agreement. If I see anything in that agreement that needs action by this Government, then I will be recommending it to my colleagues. If there is action that needs to be taken, then it will be taken.

**Mr. Chairman:** On item (b)(1) Salaries then, shall the item pass?

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** No, I still have other areas under this line. One final question on the trade agreement, could the Minister then at least commit herself to providing something to the Legislative Assembly around the impact of the Canada-U.S. trade deal on social services well in advance of January 1? Could she give us a time frame that would at least be by November?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The time frame, timetable, will be set by the Department of IT and T and the rest of Cabinet.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I also asked information about those facilities that are licensed under non-regulatory requirements or under a volunteer licensing function. Could I ask the Minister how that actually works? Do group organizations or facilities come to her or her department and seek out licensing? If this is a non-regulated part of the department, how does it work? What parameters are in place in terms of the voluntary licensing function?

\* (1610)

**Mrs. Oleson:** They come to us and request licensing. This is standards of the facility, not the programs.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is it the policy of this branch, this department, then to license on a voluntary basis anyone who comes to the department for licensing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They have to fall under the auspices of the regulations, and I could give the Member the

voluntary licensing overview if she would like it. Under current legislation, only certain types of facilities providing residential care require a license to operate. This does not include such facilities which provide residential services to the physically disabled, post-mentally ill, women's transitional centres, alcoholic treatment facilities, probation halfway houses, and medical receiving homes.

Some of these facilities, because of need to meet certain licensing standards required by the placement agency, have applied for a licence on a voluntary basis. In 1985, the mandate of the branch was expanded to include the licensing of these facilities on a voluntary basis, and I had already given the Member the number of licences to date: licence totals, 13, and approved zero; number of beds licensed, 276; and Letter of Approvals, zero.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has this whole area of licensing on a voluntary basis caused any ramifications in terms of the branch, the department as a whole, in terms of its ability to meet all of the demands in terms of staffing, in terms of mandate, in terms of expectations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Up until now, it has not, but that is one of the issues that are under review.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The Minister mentioned that shelters for battered women were licensed. Does that mean all shelters for battered women in the province are licensed under this branch?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, they are not all licensed.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister explain why some are and why some are not, and how that breaks down?

**Mrs. Oleson:** This is voluntary licensing. If they wish to be licensed, they could come forward to us. This is voluntary licensing.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Which shelters would be licensed then?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Native Women's Transition Centre is the only one.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Do the other shelters fall under the mandatory licensing provisions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister indicate whether or not this branch or her department has any involvement at all with the licensing difficulties facing Osborne House at the present?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Given the difficulties that Osborne House in its present facility have encountered on an ongoing basis with respect to needing the, I assume, licensing provisions then of the City of Winnipeg, but

given the fact that this is (a) a program area for which the department has responsibility, does the department or the Minister have any responsibility for dealing with some of those licensing difficulties?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Not directly. The present Osborne House is licensed under the Boarding Home Licence of the City of Winnipeg.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** As Osborne House meets a program responsibility of the department, does the Minister or any of her colleagues assume any responsibility for the difficulties they are receiving now from the City of Winnipeg in terms of meeting the licensing standards?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, we do. We are actively involved in getting a new facility, a facility that they have needed for some time. We have worked with the City of Winnipeg. I wrote to the city not long after I was made a Minister to ask them to extend the licensing so that we could in the interim, while we were able to get a new facility—because as you are well aware they were in a very difficult situation. The city was not going to allow them to operate because they were in violation, but the city has been kind enough to extend that until we can get the problem resolved.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** There seems to be some more recent concerns as a result of pressure from the, I assume, City of Winnipeg Health Department around the occupancy levels or whatever, and there is some worry on their part that they may be facing fines in the near future. Can the Minister indicate what she can do in terms of her area of responsibility or in terms of any of her colleagues' area of responsibility to resolve this matter?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The problem, as the Member knows, is overoccupancy. I think the Member already knows we are working between the Housing Department and this department, mainly right now the Housing Department of course, in getting a facility and a badly needed facility. At present, Osborne House is under some pressure because of overcrowding. We hope that is soon resolved and that we are able to get another facility for them.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Once an appropriate building has been found and purchased and given that it will take some time to renovate and make ready, can anything be done to ensure that Osborne House will not be facing fines or action against it because of overoccupancy?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We believe that there has now been an accommodation made. The City of Winnipeg has extended the licence. It is not an ideal situation but then it is not a new situation. It has been there for some time and we are addressing it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** If Osborne House was to be fined by the City of Winnipeg and given that this is a program responsibility under the department, will her department or the Government assume responsibility for such fines or any other actions against Osborne House?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Accommodation has been made between my department and the Department of Health and the City of Winnipeg in order that they can operate. I will repeat, we are working diligently to resolve the situation.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On the general comments the Minister made with respect to voluntary licensing and the review, could the Minister give me some idea of what the review actually entails, how broad and far-reaching this review is and why in more specific terms it has been embarked upon and what it hopes to accomplish and what the time lines are?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The review is looking at the voluntary licensing and if they could be accommodated under other licensing. It is being reviewed.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is this the same review that the Minister referred to earlier when I asked about standards and regulations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is part of it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Are there other aspects that are being reviewed? How far-reaching is this review? Is it a review of the entire area, all aspects, and who is doing the review?

\* (1620)

**Mrs. Oleson:** The department is doing the review and it is a review to propose amendments to regulations, a review of standard requirements, developing necessary policy procedures, and consultation with authorities in the area of matters related to building, fire safety and public health.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On what basis was the decision made for the department to do the review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Staff advised me that it was started before I came on the scene and, of course when I came along, I asked them to continue reviewing it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Was there any consideration made to having an external review carried out of this area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It was under the previous Government but it was never approved.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Will the review process that the Minister has put in place provide some avenue for community groups and organizations and interested individuals to have some input into the review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On another area, if I could ask, back to a more general question on the question of regulations pertaining to fees, I realize this branch deals with fire and safety and physical standards. Does this licensing branch also deal with level of fees, or is there such a thing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is no fee for licensing. Could the Member repeat her question? I did not hear the end of it.



**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Sorry, my apologies. I was not very clear. I guess what I am asking about is, is there anything under regulation that limits the amount of fee that a facility can charge a client of any of these residential care facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Under Employment Services and Economic Security, it is regulated under level of care rates. There are private individuals who pay their own in this and there are several different fees involved here by different departments.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Would there be any limit imposed on fees charged by any private enterprise?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is very competitive and there are no set fees. But because it is competitive, then the fees are very similar.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** In addition to the twice-a-year visit, as I understand it, from the licensing coordinators of the branch, are facilities required to submit their books for scrutiny?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Their records are inspected during reviews.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Over the course of the last couple of days in discussions of this whole area, there seems to be general acknowledgement on the part, I think, of the Minister of lack of a recognized mandate for the Residential Care Licensing Branch. Would that be a fair conclusion from the Minister's remarks?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The mandate for the licensing is clear; it is the mandate for some of the programs that is unclear.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister clarify whether that means lack of clarity as a result of having licensing in one part and programming in another within her department, or is it lack of clarity because the licensing covers at least two departments and two policy areas?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Children and the mentally handicapped are clear. There are other programs that are not as clear, and this has not been developed over the years. That is why we have to look at it and make sure that we have a clear picture of the levels of care and be sure that we have programs in place for those who need them.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The Minister has also talked about generally reviewing this area. Is this part of the review we have just talked about in terms of voluntary licensing and other licensing aspects, or is this a separate review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, it is part of it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is this the review that is looking at the whole question of coordination and better coordination between the Departments of Health and Community Services?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The main problem is the lack of policy for the infirm and aged. That is the main problem that we are looking at in the program.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is there a separate review going on with respect to the question of seniors and the aged in terms of coordination and better coordination between the departments?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is what the Department of Seniors will be looking at in conjunction with us.

\* (1630)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could I try to get this whole review area clear in my own head? We had previously, at the very start of Estimates, asked questions about duplication and lack of coordination between Health and Community Services. It was clearly noted that pertained primarily to seniors. I believe at that time it was mentioned by the Minister that there was some sort of interdepartmental committee looking at the whole area. Is this the same thing as the Department of Seniors reviewing the area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The legislative review is being done by this department and the policy review is being done in conjunction with the Department of Seniors.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could I seek clarification about the differences between what a legislative review is and what the policy review is?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Social Services Administration Act that is being reviewed by this department and, in conjunction with that, then we will involve the Department of Seniors.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Would it not be a less costly and more timely solution to this whole problem to simply try to move the area of infirm aged residential needs to the Department of Health than to subject it to an ongoing review and an unclear relationship with the Department of Seniors? Why is that not being considered as a possibility and a quicker solution to the problems?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The problem is that there is no legislation for infirm elderly, so there is nothing to move to this department or that department. There are no programs, so that it is not a matter of moving things. It is a matter of developing legislation and policy.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Given the mandate of the Department of Health for home care, personal care, continuing care, whatever, for the aged, would it not be a logical move to have the Residential Care Program included in the Department of Health mandate and have it covered by regulations or whatever in that area? Would it not make for a more efficient system?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Member, I think, hit the nail on the head. That is what we are looking for is an efficient system. You see, the Residential Care Licensing—and this department licenses various types of homes, M.R. and children's. You cannot just say, yes, the Department of Health will do this. Presently, this department licenses a variety of types of homes.

That is one option that we would look at, that the Department of Health would take over the part about

the elderly. But presently, since there is nothing in place for this specific group that we are concerned with, there is no program, then that is why we have to take a look at things and the conjunction of the two departments to ascertain which department, one or the other, would handle it or both. The purpose of reviewing is to find out where best to place the responsibility.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Would it not make some sense for this group to be at least temporarily transferred to Health so that there is some co-ordinated, consistent approach beginning immediately?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Then we would have Health licensing our facilities. That is the reason for taking a look at this, to see where it should be, if it should be split up. Those decisions will be made later when we take a look at it.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** If I understand it, it is the Department of Seniors that is doing the review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They are looking at the policy area. This department is looking at The Social Services Administration Act.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is it part of this whichever review, whichever policy analysis is going on to actually have the Department of Seniors considered as a program provider?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That might be an option but, at this point, no.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** What would the time frame of this policy review be?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is ongoing.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I am wondering though—the Minister has indicated a review has been set up to look at this problem of some lack of clarity in terms of rules and responsibilities, particularly for the infirm elderly, and the fact that there is licensing that takes place in one department of the physical facility and there is programming responsibility in another department. She has indicated that needs to be resolved, the mandate clarified and responsibilities clearly divided and co-ordinated. So I expect that she is operating under some deadline, some time frame by which her Government is prepared to resolve the matter and put in place an appropriate option.

**Mrs. Oleson:** The time frame for The Social Services Administration Act is the end of the fiscal year, just to clarify that. But this situation did not happen yesterday or even the day before or two months ago. This has been the case since 1981. So to get a rigid time frame and say that we should have it done immediately is just expecting a bit too much.

**Ms. Gray:** The comments from the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) bring to mind a few questions that I would have as well. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us—the Member for

St. Johns has mentioned some of the difficulties between the Departments of Health and Community Services in Residential Care Licensing and talks about a transfer to the Department of Health.

I am wondering if the Minister has—it is historic information. I am wondering if she could indicate to us if she is aware, during the previous administration when this Residential Care Licensing came into being, one of the concerns that was raised at that time by Residential Care Licensing and by regional staff was the fact that who would monitor program standards. Who would look after the aged and infirm facilities. That great debate was never resolved, and yet the program went ahead and was implemented. I am wondering if the Minister has any information as to why—and I can appreciate it was not her Government—it would be allowed to have a program implemented where the jurisdiction of the aged and infirm facilities was never resolved.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I cannot answer for the previous Government. I do not know why there was no program for the aged and infirm.

**Ms. Gray:** It was suggested that perhaps some of this jurisdiction be transferred to the Department of Health. Does the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) think this is a good idea? Would she have any suggestions as to who within that department would then pick up that workload?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That could be better answered after we have had a review. That is why we are having a review.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us if she is aware, when one looks at the Department of Health and field staff, we have a Home Care Program, we have a Public Health Program and we have a Mental Health Program. Does the Minister have any comments as to how appropriate it would be to move the aged and infirm category to any one of those three programs?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Those are all options and we have to look at all options.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Back to the question I asked earlier about a time frame for this review since I think that, based on the Minister's comments and concerns she has expressed, there must be some time frame by which she hopes to address the problem. It is fully recognized that the problem has been outstanding for some time and certainly was recognized by the previous administration.

I asked specifically for a time frame and tie that to my comments about a transfer to the Department of Health since it is my understanding that, under the previous administration, negotiations were under way between her department, the Department of Community Services and the Department of Health about transferring this client group to the Department of Health.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I wonder, would the Member tell me what she would want to be transferred, because there is no

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program to transfer. Maybe the Member could indicate exactly what she is transferring and to where?

\* (1640)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I was hoping the Minister would be giving us some of these answers about the nature of this area. We have talked about the client group, the aged infirm or the infirm aged, and the fact that there is licensing responsibility in her department. But by the nature of the way in which Government is structured, there is a gap with respect to programming and responsibility for that programming, in that the present situation is not conducive to dealing with the gaps around the programming for this particular client group.

That is my understanding of the need for clarification of the mandate and some placement of responsibility in one of the two departments. It is my understanding the Minister has previously said it does not fit anywhere, really. This area has fallen between the cracks. I do not think anyone would dispute that fact. So on the basis of that and the basis of the fact that she said this is under review, I would like to know what perhaps is being considered, and what time frame has been set to try to resolve it.

**Mrs. Oleson:** This is a very complex issue. All options are being studied and it is not something that you can look at quickly and resolve quickly. It is of long standing. If there was not any problem, there would be nothing to review.

This area that we are debating here, Residential Care Licensing, does not involve itself with programs. We should be discussing this under another line anyway. But I assure the Member that as soon as we possibly can, we will have this review done and we will have some suggestions to make as to how we will resolve the problem. It has been of long standing. As I say, it is complex, it is not something you want to do in a hurry. You are not going to slap a band-aid on and the problem will go away. It is something that will require probably, and almost surely, a great deal of money. And so of course that has to be looked at. We have not gotten to that stage yet.

So we are reviewing and would be identifying what exactly the problems are, how they can be resolved and what would be the cost of resolving them. It is not something that a Government, in the short term that we have been in here, can resolve and it is not something that can be resolved tomorrow. So I assure the Member that it is being reviewed.

I will have more time myself to look at it when the Estimates process is finished and that sort of thing. As the Member can well appreciate from being a Minister herself, there is not a lot of time lying around unused, particularly in this department.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister clarify why any resolution of this matter would automatically or necessarily cost a great deal of money, where the cost would be?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is no program, so that would have to be identified and prepared. There is a growing

number of seniors. That would have a bearing, of course, on the cost. There are a great many variables, so it would be hard to identify, definitely impossible at this point in time, to identify the financial need.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has the Minister received any recommendations around this whole area, this difficult matter from the Association of Residential Care Homes.

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, not recently.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Will the Minister be seeking advice or input from this group or any other group involved in this field?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They are an active group. I have not heard from them lately, but we are listening to all groups that wish to have input into this.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister, together with her colleague, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) and I guess the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), putting in place a consultation process around reviewing this policy area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We will be.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is there a time frame for that process?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I am targeting the end of the fiscal year.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** To clarify then, so the end of the fiscal year has been set for both the review of The Social Services Administration Act and for the policy review of this whole area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is tentative, yes. Definitely we want to have The Social Services Administration Act completed, the review completed by the end of the year.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister indicate, in a general way—I realize that this may be a matter before the courts—if the claims and terms of Windell Homes, is that still before the courts? If not, could she comment on it?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is inappropriate to make any comment on that right now.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** To seek final clarification on the different reviews pertaining to this area, would it be fair to conclude that there is a review pertaining to the mandate generally of the Residential Care Licensing Branch in terms of its full mandate within the department and its relationship to programming aspects within the department and, included in that, if there is a review of the adequacy of standards and regulations and a review of which way to move with respect of voluntary licensing? Then there is another whole review with respect to coordination and duplication between the two departments or three departments, Seniors, Health and Community Services?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** On item 2.(b)(1) Salaries—pass; item 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures, 27,500—pass.

Resolution No. 31: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,353,900 for Community Services, Registration and Licensing Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

The hour being almost five o'clock, it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

### SUPPLY—INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

**Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko:** I call this subcommittee of the Committee of Supply to order. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. The committee is now considering item 5.(b), Marketing, under the Tourism section. The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** I understand there was some discussion during last week when I was not able to be here. I did not have an opportunity to review it. If it is repetitious, I would ask the Minister to say so.

There was a general discussion under Marketing as to the strategy of the Government insofar as tourism marketing this fiscal year, insofar as the increase in expenditures here, whether there will be a greater emphasis on marketing, what form it will take, and what the plans are for promoting Manitoba this year in this particular section.

I would also like to ask the Minister, as well, whether there is funding for the Tourism Industry Association of Manitoba, TIAM, whether they will be involved in any increased marketing program.

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Chairman, I guess the Member was not able to be with us at the last meeting. I would just like to point out we are proposing an additional million dollars in tourism marketing this fiscal year. In terms of the marketing strategy, that strategy was pretty much set by the time we took office and there was not an opportunity really to do any changes to that specific strategy. So that strategy has continued unchanged since that time.

Our expectation is because we believe an increase in marketing is required. In general terms, we want to prepare ourselves for 1989 in a different strategy which we feel may be more suitable. That strategy is in the process of being developed at the moment. In order to prepare ourselves for that, we need to do some market research; we need to do some background information materials. We need to spend some money in order to prepare ourselves to run a new marketing program next year, hopefully, an increased marketing program over and above what we have spent this year. Again, that will not come until the next series of Estimates, but the expectation is, in order to prepare ourselves for next year's increased marketing thrust, we need to do background preparation. The additional

monies put into the budget will be for that background preparation.

With respect to TIAM, we are consulting regularly with TIAM on a number of issues. Both from a marketing point of view and in terms of next year's marketing strategy, we will consult extensively with them. We are consulting with them on a number of other issues related to the tourism industry and have had—I suppose I have met with TIAM board members more often than anyone else so far in my term of office. We are regularly involving them in the process.

**Mr. Plohman:** I thank the Minister for that answer. I wonder if he has provided an explanation as to how he intends to spend precisely a million dollars as much as possible, the extra million dollars that is in this year's budget. Obviously, he is saying they are developing a new strategy for next year and there are some costs associated with that. I would not expect that it would cost a million dollars to prepare for next year. So what we have then is a considerable amount of extra dollars that could be used for marketing. In what form will that money be spent? Could he give us some precise examples of where this money is going to be spent?

**Mr. Ernst:** Advertising and Research is approximately \$600,000; Marketing and Promotion areas are approximately \$140,000; Publications and Media Support, \$260,000; and Information Services approximately \$70,000.

**Mr. Plohman:** In the \$600,000 for advertising, can the Minister indicate what new ads or approaches are being taken there? Does this mean new material is being developed or is it just more of the same that was prepared before with a smaller budget?

**Mr. Ernst:** As the Member knows, this budget carries us through until the end of March 1989.

The advertising promotion for tourism in Manitoba must begin by the end of January, usually, for promotions for next spring and summer. Much of that will be spent in terms of increased advertising, media buy. Based on the new strategy, it will be developed over the next couple of months and then materials put into place to meet that new strategy. Of course, there will be, under the \$600,000, an increase in media buy specifically in that period of time between then and the end of March.

**Mr. Plohman:** Will all of this money be spent directly or will some of it be used for purposes of providing funding to other agencies to carry on some of the work that perhaps has been traditionally done by the department? It may mean something like Tourism Winnipeg, it may mean TIAM, or other organizations involved in tourism.

**Mr. Ernst:** We will be working closely both with TIAM and with the new Tourism Winnipeg agency. Whether it is co-op advertising with those agencies, whether it is seeking their assistance in carrying out a program, whether it is simply the consultation process and working towards a common goal, none of those

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decisions have yet been taken. The new Tourism Winnipeg agency is not yet operating, although it has been passed by the city. They are in the process of trying to put it together. We have had extensive consultations with TIAM, and we are continuing to have those consultations with them with regard to what the future holds.

**Mr. Plozman:** I would like to know if the Minister has formulated views on these areas, and preferences, what he is considering; whether he is actively considering the possibility of having an organization like TIAM, which is made up of the private sector, insofar as their concerns about tourism; whether he is considering supporting the various regional tourism organizations to a greater extent, or having them actually in partnership to perhaps carry out some of the promotional work directly under funding from the province. Similarly, does he see that kind of approach being taken with Tourism Winnipeg in order to prevent duplication of effort?

**Mr. Ernst:** It is our concerned view that no duplication of effort ought to take place. We are all in this together. Whether it is the Province of Manitoba or whether it is the City of Winnipeg or whether it is the TIAM regions across the province, we are all in it together for one thing, to bring tourists to Manitoba. That is our concern. We want to see no duplication as a goal. From time to time, it may occur. We cannot have a finger on everything that happens with every organization and with every tourism operator, but our goal is to see that no duplication takes place.

We are talking to TIAM with regard to a number of things that may or may not be able to be carried out.

I know that in the other provinces in western Canada they have involved their tourism associations in a variety of projects that have benefitted ultimately the overall promotion of tourism in those provinces, and we are looking at possibilities of dealing with our tourism association on a similar basis. No decision has been taken, no recommendations have been made; simply, exploration is taking place at this time.

\* (1440)

**Mr. Plozman:** I understand that this is in the formative stages, but I would like to have a little clearer indication. This is a good opportunity, I think, even though it may be early in the Minister's mandate perhaps. Who knows how long his mandate will be, if he indeed has one.

I would like to ask the Minister—he obviously will want to move fairly quickly for next year's Estimates process, and I would just like to ask him whether he, personally, has taken a position with regard to having outside agencies undertaking more of the work that has previously been done by the department. Does he see that as a general trend in the tourism area in his department?

**Mr. Ernst:** As I indicated earlier, no decision has been taken. Some discussions have been held with the Tourism Industry Association as to potential areas that

they can support the marketing of tourism in this province. I think it is only reasonable, Mr. Chairman, that the Tourism Industry Association ought to be involved. They are the people who are the principal benefactors. They are the people out there on the front line. They are the ones who are providing the jobs.

We are looking at the tourism association, in combination with the Manitoba Hotel Association, dealing with the Tourism and Hospitality Council, training council, training of people, giving them some basic training in terms of the hospitality industry. That is an important issue and, quite frankly, it was not dealt with, in my view, effectively up to this point. We are hoping that we can change that around. We have been having discussions with both the Hotel Association and the tourism association with regard to that issue.

There are some other issues that I have had some preliminary discussions with the association about. At this point, because no offer has been made and no firm decisions—we simply had some broad-ranging discussions about the way we can involve the tourism association in the promotion of tourism in this province. I am not prepared to go into any detail on those.

**Mr. Plozman:** Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps my question was unclear. Obviously, successive Governments have worked with the tourism industry, realizing that it is to the benefit of the private industry in this province to promote Manitoba. So we are not differing, or at odds, insofar as that is concerned. Obviously, we have to work cooperatively and work together on that issue and I think Governments have done that.

However, what I was asking is whether the Minister—and I put it more succinctly than—is contemplating having actual delivery of services that have been undertaken by the department farmed out to some of these agencies, such as the Tourism Industry Association of Manitoba, to actually undertake, with funding from the Government, greater amounts of programming, delivery of services? I would take it from the exploratory talks, in his reference to those exploratory talks, that indeed that is what the Minister is considering. He has not stated it that clearly, but I would take it, unless he contradicts what I am saying at this time, that indeed the Minister is considering at this time, with his discussions with TIAM, to have them undertake to actually deliver services that were previously undertaken by the department. If the Minister wants to comment on that, I would appreciate it.

**Mr. Ernst:** Yes, I have had discussions with the Tourism Industry Association about issues such as that.

**Mr. Plozman:** Mr. Chairman, my question then to the Minister is does he contemplate a major shift in this area, or is he at this time looking at relatively minor shifts of programming to the tourism association?

**Mr. Ernst:** No major shifts are contemplated at this time.

**Mr. Plozman:** I understand there was some discussion last week on Tourism Winnipeg and the whole concept

that is being developed there. The question was put to the Minister regarding his position with regard to legislation to enable the City of Winnipeg to put in place a business tax that would raise money for this agency. I understand a budget of some \$600,000, some \$300,000 would have to be raised for this purpose as it is now contemplated.

I would just for the record and for the benefit of discussions at this time, if he indicated that is correct, that the Minister is at the present time preparing or assisting with the preparation of legislation that would support or, pardon me, would enable the City of Winnipeg to assess this kind of a business tax?

**Mr. Ernst:** My colleague, the Minister for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) is in fact, yes, in the process of preparing legislation as requested by the City of Winnipeg in order to allow them to carry out that kind of activity.

**Mr. Plohman:** I just want to ask the Minister whether he sees any contradiction in this kind of a position. He is obviously supporting another business tax assessment, when at the same time he has said that during the election campaign and since that it was absolutely necessary to take this tremendous albatross of the health and education levy, more often called the payroll tax, off the backs of businesses, yet it is these same businesses that are going to be slapped with this tax for tourism purposes. Does the Minister not see a contradiction in those policies?

**Mr. Ernst:** A few things, Mr. Chairman, firstly, it was the request of the City of Winnipeg. It is not an initiative in the Province of Manitoba other than to provide enabling legislation. They may or may not choose to implement that legislation. The second thing, in terms of arithmetic, I would think that \$200 million of payroll tax and \$300,000 of tourism tax in the City of Winnipeg is something a little different.

**Mr. Plohman:** The Minister obviously is in favour of assessing businesses with an additional tax in the City of Winnipeg. My concern in this area is not only with the assessment of that tax for that purpose which is a dedicated tax for one particular purpose, but also with the implications of Tourism Winnipeg on the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau, and I know that this is not the City of Winnipeg we are dealing with. We are dealing with the Province of Manitoba but obviously, if the Minister is going to be engaged in supporting an action of the City of Winnipeg to establish a new agency, a new bureau, he should also then be concerned about the impact it will have on an existing agency, I would think.

I would ask the Minister whether he plans to discuss this issue, or whether he has discussed this issue of what will happen to the employees who are under a great deal of uncertainty at the present time in the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau as to the impact that Tourism Winnipeg will have, and will indeed the bureau cease to exist after Tourism Winnipeg is in place, if this Minister has anything to do with it.

**Mr. Ernst:** I am somewhat surprised at the Member from Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) standing up here in this

House a moment ago and suggesting that I am in favour of taxing businesses, when the alternative is to tax homeowners in the City of Winnipeg. That is the alternative to creating Tourism Winnipeg is to tax the homeowners of the City of Winnipeg instead of the businesses under that business tax amendment.

If that is the position of the New Democratic Party or the position of the Member from Dauphin, then he is entitled to have that position, but, Mr. Chairman, I find that somewhat incongruous in the point that they are prepared to levy a payroll tax against all of the businesses in Manitoba to the tune of \$200,000, and he now would rather have a smaller (sic) amount of money, \$300,000, levied against the homeowners of the Province of Manitoba. I wonder where their priorities are.

In terms of the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau, that is an independent organization. As I indicated in the last Estimates, I happen to be a member of that organization and have been a member for a number of years. But what will happen to that organization, it is a membership-driven organization supported by grants from the City of Winnipeg and from the province. I would assume, and I have had some general discussions both with the promoters of Tourism Winnipeg from the city and with the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau people, but no decision yet has been taken and no specifics have been undertaken with regard to the continued operations of that organization.

Our grant contained in this budget will carry them to the end of our fiscal year, March 1989. Whether the organization continues, because I believe the city's portion of the funding will be discontinued as of January 1, 1989; whether the organization will wish to continue on after that, it is their decision to make. They are a membership-driven organization and it will be the membership who will decide whether they want to continue to carry on or not and how they will do that and under what kind of funding arrangements.

I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that they will not carry on, but at the same time the Tourism Winnipeg operation is presently in the formative stages. They will no doubt require staff. They may in fact wish to consult with the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau with regard to the staff who are there. I do not know; that is their decision not mine. I will be having some further discussions with the people from Tourism Winnipeg in the next while and I will broach the subject with them if they come to any consideration of staffing and the current staff who are presently employed at the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

\* (1450)

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Chairman, I think what is relevant here is not whether my position is contradictory to what the Government has done in the past with regard to business tax. What is contradictory here and what is relevant is the fact that the Minister is taking a position and it is okay at this point in time to levy a business tax on businesses for tourism when he said that he was against attacks on businesses because he felt it

was working contrary to the creation of jobs and so on in this province, an economic stimulation. I think that is the contradiction that I pointed out and that is significant.

Of course, there are other options. The Minister talks about homeowners. The fact is that a hotel tax could also be levied, commonly called a bed tax, for example, to raise this kind of money as well. There are other options that the Minister could indeed be putting forward to the City of Winnipeg before he supports legislation.

Another relevant point in dealing with Tourism Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau is that they receive a substantial grant from the Province of Manitoba. I would like to ask the Minister precisely how much that grant is and if he does not feel that in withdrawing that grant he has indeed assisted obviously in shutting down that organization. It is not up to them. Sure, they are an independent organization, but they rely on funding from the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Manitoba. What he is doing is contributing to their death by withdrawing the funding. So he has an important role to play in that. Does he feel that there is no longer any need for the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau?

**Mr. Ernst:** I think the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) is becoming hard of hearing. I indicated to the Member for Dauphin just a moment ago that no funding withdrawal has taken place from the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau. I said that the normal grant which we provide, \$36,200, is contained in this budget, so we are not withdrawing any money from that bureau and we are certainly not contributing to the demise of that bureau at all.

I said if the City of Winnipeg, I believed, had indicated they would no longer fund after January 1, 1989, that is their choice, not ours. In terms of the tax, the earlier part, we on this side respect the fact that the City of Winnipeg councillors are duly elected people in this province under the democratic process. It was their decision to set up Tourism Winnipeg, not ours. We did not promote it, they did.

It was their choice to do that. It was their choice to choose the funding vehicle that saw 50 percent of it come from general revenue and 50 percent of the money basically coming from the extended business tax levy. That was their choice. We respect that choice. They have asked us for enabling legislation to carry that out.

We on this side are not prepared to dictate to the City of Winnipeg, as the previous Government did on a number of occasions, as to what they may and may not do. They are duly elected municipal representatives and have every right, in my view and in the view of our Government, to carry on the affairs of the City of Winnipeg in a proper and orderly manner.

**Mr. Plohman:** Well, the Minister is obviously sensationalizing in his arguments on this issue. The fact is when legislation is involved, provincial legislation, the province has a responsibility as elected officials. When grants are made to an organization, the province has

a responsibility. So it is not just a matter of the elected politicians at the city level, in this case municipal level, the City of Winnipeg in this case, as to what their whims might be or their decisions might be. Obviously we have a role to play. The province has a very important role.

Well, the Minister indicated that whatever the City of Winnipeg does, that is their business even if it has funding implications for the province. Obviously, when there are funding implications, he has to take some responsibility. And what he is saying is that in fact the funding for the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau this year is in the budget.

But he is also indicating that he is going to be considering, I would think, stopping this funding for future years, or—(Interjection)— Well, that is good. That is an opportunity for the Minister to straighten this out. That is what we are doing here insofar as putting—(Interjection)— No, he did not indicate—(Interjection)— Okay, I will ask the Minister, does he intend to provide duplicate funding, or funding for Tourism Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau? Does he intend to provide funding for both of those organizations?

**Mr. Ernst:** There is no funding in this budget for Tourism Winnipeg.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Chairman, has this Minister been asked to provide funding for Tourism Winnipeg for the next fiscal year?

The Minister is clearly aware that the budget process is already in place. He is aware of what plans are being put in place, what his plans are, I would hope, what the Government's plans are. I would ask the Minister whether he is indeed at this time contemplating providing funding for Tourism Winnipeg?

**Mr. Ernst:** We have had no request for funding from Tourism Winnipeg.

**Mr. Plohman:** The Minister is obviously stonewalling. He is not saying what his opinion is on this issue. He is simply saying there is no request. My question to him is has he considered and is he considering providing direct funding for Tourism Winnipeg out of some of the funding appropriations that he has in this particular budget or in one that he is preparing at the present time?

**Mr. Ernst:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would like to ask the Minister briefly whether he has—and he did not answer this question earlier—dealt with the issue of the employees although he said that some may be coming over. Is he aware that at the present time the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau is in a state of dislocation and apprehension about the major changes that were made? Is he aware of whether or not this organization and its employees were consulted before the decision was made by the City of Winnipeg?

**Mr. Ernst:** I understand that the tentative decision of the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau Board

is to discontinue operations on December 31 this year. The employees of the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau are their employees. They are employed there, presumably until the end of December.

Tourism Winnipeg will be up and running, hopefully, some time within the next month, at least in the position of being up and running some time in the next month. When that occurs, then we will have some consultations both with the Convention Visitors Bureau and Tourism Winnipeg to see what arrangements can be made with respect to existing staff, particularly staff who are experienced and who can provide good assistance to Tourism Winnipeg.

**Mr. Plohan:** One final question in this area, I could assume then from this Minister that indeed by supporting legislation for the creation of Tourism Winnipeg, which he said was the prerogative of the City of Winnipeg, that he—and by implication he has indicated in his statements—insinuated at least that certainly the life of the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau is very limited, that he is indeed supporting the contention that there is no longer a role to play for the Winnipeg Convention Visitors Bureau in the City of Winnipeg.

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, I said no such thing.

**Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface):** Could the Minister advise if surveys have been done as to why tourists come to Manitoba from Canada and the U.S.?

**Mr. Ernst:** I am not sure I understood. Could you please repeat the question?

**Mr. Gaudry:** Have surveys ever been done as to why tourists come to Manitoba from other parts of Canada and the U.S.?

**Mr. Ernst:** A major study was done four years ago; a major analysis was done of Tourism Manitoba. That study is constantly being updated on a regular basis so that we have current information available as to what attracts tourists to Manitoba.

**Mr. Gaudry:** What involvement has this department had in promoting heritage sites for Manitoba?

**Mr. Ernst:** We advertise every attraction. We try to advertise every attraction in the Province of Manitoba. Heritage sites obviously form one of the attractions, one of the visitor sites in Manitoba.

We rely on heritage groups. If they have a heritage site that they would like advertised or be promoted, to advise our department. We do consult with the regions all across the province to determine what sites are available and should be included in various tourism promotions. Space limitations do not allow us to promote every single heritage site. We try and accommodate a number each year over time to ensure that they get their fair share.

**Mr. Gaudry:** Is this done in coordination with Culture, Heritage and Recreation, or is this strictly done through the Department of Tourism?

**Mr. Ernst:** It is done in consultation with the department.

\* (1500)

**Mr. Gaudry:** What marketing is done in Minneapolis and the cost of the number of people attending, the objectives, and the effectiveness of advertising in Minneapolis?

**Mr. Ernst:** First of all, you have to consider where are the major markets for Manitoba? Who are we going to attract here? Who is the closest market? Who will be interested in Manitoba tourism products? Information gleaned from a number of studies indicated that the Minneapolis market, particularly, and Minnesota and North Dakota, in general, are the principal markets for Manitoba. Minneapolis being the principal centre within that market area has had a major focus. I think it was in 1988 we spent \$263,000 in the Minneapolis market and that includes principally newspaper inserts, television and some radio spots.

There was also a Minneapolis blitz, I believe, conducted prior to our coming into Government which saw a number of marketing people and Tourism and Industry people going to Minneapolis to promote our tourism products.

I might also add, Mr. Chairman, that the statistics indicate approximately 220,000 visitors from Minneapolis into Manitoba this year.

**Mr. Gaudry:** What other cities have been blitzed and what are the evaluations of these blitzes in regards to tourism?

**Mr. Ernst:** There are marketing activities taking place in many other cities, taking place in Saskatchewan, northwestern Ontario, North Dakota and so on. But a blitz I believe also was conducted in Chicago in conjunction with the Minneapolis one; they went Minneapolis, Chicago and back.

**Mr. Gaudry:** In this marketing, how much goes to various groups in forms of grants, different groups for marketing?

**Mr. Ernst:** There are no grants in the marketing budget. We do provide grants to a variety of organizations under the Administration section which we have already dealt with. I believe I listed the people who got grants in the last—yes, under the Administration section, and I did list it at the last meeting in committee and it should be in Hansard who gets how much.

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Mr. Chairman, could this Minister inform me of the amount of dollars that are spent in marketing for the City of Winnipeg as opposed to the rest of the province?

**Mr. Ernst:** None.

**Mrs. Charles:** So that in other words the marketing is done for the whole province, it is not keyed into areas. Okay, thank you.



It mentions in the overview that this area supports Manitoba's tourism industry and consumer sports. I wonder if the Minister could elaborate on what are considered consumer sports under Tourism.

**Mr. Ernst:** Those are sport shows, mall displays. For instance, if there was a Tourism booth in the Home Show that is on at the Convention Centre right now, we may become involved in that kind of thing. We do that on a number of occasions throughout our market area, a number of sport shows. For instance, at the Minneapolis Boat Show, we may well have a Tourism booth promoting hunting and fishing in Manitoba, things of that nature. But that is the kind of thing we do.

**Mrs. Charles:** Could this Minister also inform me what is the relationship with communities? Again I have to refer to my home town of Selkirk, because that is what I am aware of, where the rural development agency is developing for the planning district, a tourism association as opposed to the Interlake Tourism Association. Is there going to be a rapport between these areas or is that established, or will it be established?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, we fund the TIAM regions. If the Town of Selkirk becomes one of the TIAM regions, then it is up to TIAM to determine how they are funded within the global funding provided to that organization. We would, I think, begin to fritter away our very limited resources in this area if we began to fund every town, village. We do not provide that funding to the City of Winnipeg, we do not provide it to Brandon and we do not provide it to other centres throughout the province. What we do is fund the TIAM regions, and those people within those TIAM regions have to get along basically and try and work together in a coordinated effort.

\* (1510)

**Mrs. Charles:** Could this Minister explain to me, or just give an overview of how market areas are determined as to what percentage of display space they will take in the marketing agencies? Will the Town of Dauphin be given so much space determined on its size? What component is this determination made by?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, there are no ratios. We try and involve as many aspects of the Province of Manitoba and the tourism attractions that it holds in all of our publications, but we do not allocate any space to anybody. In some publications you will get only northern Manitoba. In some publications you will get specifically zeroed in on certain areas of the province like the Whiteshell, for instance. So that in the general brochures we try and accommodate as much interest as possible from all areas of the province, but no ratios or anything of that nature exist.

**Mrs. Charles:** I must explain to the Minister I am not inferring that that is the case. I am just trying to get this information.

I am just wondering whether the marketing over the next year or so or perhaps even the past year is keying

in on any particular groups within the marketing area, that we are taking in Minneapolis and Chicago and those areas, in that conventions and the conferences I have been at implies that, for instance, the senior market is opening up rapidly. Tour bus groups are rapidly expanding, marketing areas, and conversely what money are we using to support those recipients of the tourist industry once they come to Manitoba, thinking of bus tours? If we do not have hotels without the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg, how do we put up these bus tours if they go? I am just wondering, if there is a plan developing, how these markets are coming available, how we are getting to them, indeed, how we are servicing them once they are here.

**Mr. Ernst:** There is no question that the bus tour market, particularly the seniors' bus tour market is very, very popular. I mean you only need to stand out in front of the building here in the morning and see the kind of activity that takes place with those people, but it is interesting.

Just let me throw a statistic out, in regard to Folklorama, for instance. There were 191 bus tours coming here for Folklorama, so that is just one event, never mind all the other ones that go through here on a regular basis. But I happened to be, on a Sunday afternoon, a couple weeks ago, at the Ontario-Manitoba border Tourism Information Centre when four bus tours pulled up. Needless to say, the four bus tours swamped the place, but one of them happened to be predominantly from Germany. Being a little bit of a promoter, I jumped on the bus, welcomed them all to Manitoba, told them I was the Minister of Tourism and told them I had come there specifically to welcome them to Manitoba. I said if they believed that, that I had a bridge to sell them.—(Interjection)— You have the bridge to sell them.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, in discussions with the tour operator on that bus, I was somewhat dismayed to find out that, first of all, the bus driver had never been to Winnipeg, had no idea about Winnipeg, no idea of the kind of attractions that were there. They were only going to be in Winnipeg, arriving in Winnipeg about five o'clock at night, and leaving the next morning to go further west. I was concerned, quite frankly, and I had a long discussion—not long, 10 or 15 minutes—with the driver and the tour operator in the hopes that I could convince them to at least take in a couple of attractions in Winnipeg. The recommendations I made were the Museum of Man and Nature certainly was available. We phoned, as a matter of fact, to determine if they could accommodate a bus tour at that time and then, secondly, to look at the potential of a river boat ride in the evening for them after they had their dinner.

What that indicated to me was that particular operator, at least, did not know a hell of a lot about Manitoba—a heck of a lot. I am sorry, I apologize. I did not want to offend my honourable friend, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner).

We have work to do in that area, certainly, and your point is well taken that we are doing quite a bit of work with the American Bus Association and a variety of other bus tour groups, but we have more work to do

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and our message needs to get across. We need to convince them that they should be staying in Manitoba more than just simply overnight on their way through to the mountains or the West Coast. Although I must say that interesting enough I not only went on that bus, I went on one of the other ones that were there at the same time and there they were staying two nights and they had arrangements made for a river boat cruise and they had arrangements made to go to Lower Fort Garry. It is not all bad, but as I say we have work to do. We recognize the kind of potential tourism dollars that represents to Manitoba and we are concentrating on that.

**Mrs. Charles:** I hope that is within this actual section we are talking about, but I am wondering if your department is developing many tours to sell to bus groups, such as—and I guess again being very parochial in my overview, but we have hundreds of thousands of tourists going to Lower Fort Garry and very few of them going to the Town of Selkirk, two kilometres away. We have no hotel accommodations, or few hotel accommodations there for them, but I do suggest that around the City of Winnipeg, in particular, and I know throughout the province there are many bus routes that could be taken and enjoyed by tourists, and I am wondering whether this department is developing salable bus routes and selling them to tourism companies.

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, the department runs no tours itself nor is it contemplating to run any. However, we do work with Circle Tours, with other bus tour operators in and around Winnipeg, to try and capitalize as much as possible on the fly-in tourist market or those who come in even by car but who wish to be taken around on a tour as opposed to driving themselves. So we are working with those people on a regular basis.

**Mrs. Charles:** I guess my suggestion was more along the lines of the service that the Manitoba Motor League will provide if you want to go somewhere and they will develop routes for you. I am just wondering whether this department is developing routes to sell to the tourism agencies to sell to their individuals and whether this is considered or perhaps even taking place that I am not aware of.

**Mr. Ernst:** I guess the simple answer, Mr. Chairman, is, yes, we do promote certain itineraries to people, highlighting major events where possible. If the Dauphin Festival is on, we will tell them that if you want to go to the Dauphin Festival, you can go through Riding Mountain National Park, come back down Highway 5, I think it is, those kinds of situations. So we do provide some assistance in that regard.

I might also say that all of our travel counsellors highlight information, recommended viewing sites and other activities, all through the summer from all of the travel counselling operations that we operate during the period from the middle of May until the end of August. I want to go to the Dauphin Festival, you can go through Riding Mountain National Park, come back down Highway 5, I think it is, those kinds of situations. So we do provide some assistance in that regard.

I might also say that all of our travel counsellors highlight information, recommended viewing sites and other activities, all through the summer from all of the travel counselling operations that we operate during the period from the middle of May until the end of August.

**Mrs. Charles:** Having been on the Interlake Tourism Association, I am wondering if this department is using just the association or whether the department is taking any involvement in marketing tourism to Manitobans themselves so that they can believe in what they have to sell. Is this part of this department, or are you leaving it up to the individual regions?

**Mr. Ernst:** Yes, there was a marketing strategy carried out this year. There was an insert—this is not it, particularly, but there was an insert similar to that, that kind of layout, in both daily newspapers in Winnipeg and distributed throughout the province. About 25 percent of our effort, in terms of marketing, is aimed at keeping Manitobans in Manitoba, enjoying Manitoba activities.

We also have on the drawing boards for next year a major in-house promotion, or in-province promotion, for Manitoba, which we think will be very exciting. I do not want to let the cat out of the bag because it is not finalized yet, but I think it will be a major effort in Manitoba, and one that will be very well received by Manitobans.

**Mrs. Charles:** Mr. Chairperson, one final question, again referring to a conference or two I have been at where they were explaining that the incoming interest level for tourism is mini-vacations, where they are actually learning vacations, that people like to learn trades and crafts and such like, is this department looking into any promotion particularly in our small towns where crafts and particular interest levels are very keen from the people? Is this department looking into promoting that type of a tourism industry?

\* (1520)

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, not specifically. However, many, many of the festivals, fairs and other activities that are carried on throughout Manitoba throughout the summer months do promote many of those kinds of activities and we are, in turn, assisting in the promotion of those fairs and other activities, festivals and so on, that take place. In terms of the specifics, no, we are not.

**Mr. Plohman:** I am prepared to pass this section, providing that the section dealing with Pine Tree Consulting would not be included in here. If it is, I have some questions on that. If this is the place to ask them, I would like to ask them. If there is another section that is more appropriate, then I would wait till that.

**Mr. Ernst:** Tourism Development.

**Mr. Plohman:** Okay, I will wait. One question then, on the Marketing side, what has been the reaction to the

involvement of our former Blue Bomber coach, Bud Grant, in tourism promotion for Manitoba, and does the Minister intend to continue with that kind of approach in future?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, he is certainly a fine gentleman, Bud Grant, and he certainly has high visibility, particularly in the Minnesota market. We have, I am advised by staff, just completed a post-program analysis of the impact of our tourism strategy for this year and that is in the process of being analyzed. Once that analysis is complete, then we will be sitting down with our advertising agency in terms of looking at potentials for Bud Grant's use in the future. No decision has been taken at this point and will not be for a little while yet.

The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) asked me about Pine Tree Consulting and I am happy to respond under this section. It is iffy whether it is Development or Marketing, so we might as well deal with it now.

**Mr. Plohman:** I was prepared to pass this if there are no other items, and then we can get along and at least make some progress. We never know what might intervene in the process, and every inch of progress we can make the Minister should be pleased to see.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are you ready for the questions, or is it the will of the House to pass? Item 5.(b)(1)—pass; item 5.(b)(2)—pass.

Item 5.(c) Development, (c)(1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Chairman, on the salary side, I have no questions.

**Mr. Chairman:** Item 5.(c)(1) Salaries—pass.

Item 5.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—the Honourable Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would like to ask some questions, just general in nature, with regard to the current state of deliberations with regard to Pine Tree Consulting at Dauphin.

The company had put forward an excellent idea, I think, a concept that would indeed serve tourism in Manitoba, in Canada generally and perhaps in other parts of the world very well. However, as the Minister knows, there have been a number of problems in the actual management and carrying out of that initial proposal and, although the federal Government had provided a rather significant amount of funding, there now seems to be a change of heart with regard to that funding due to the fact that they are not pleased with the way it has been carried out up to this time. I believe that is the reason, although I would like the Minister to comment on that as well as to whether some of those things have been ironed out.

I think, when we were in Government certainly, we had given support in principle to this. We had not provided any funding but we had assisted with the signage with the Department of Highways and

Transportation, assisted through the Department of Natural Resources, assisted through the Department of Tourism, providing letters of endorsement for this concept. I want to emphasize clearly that was what we were supporting. We had hoped that this would create the kinds of jobs that it was intended to, particularly for handicapped people, and that there would be a tremendous opportunity here for a self-financing scheme to provide an excellent service to visitors coming into this province.

However, that has not been the case here. It does not seem to have been the case. I will just ask the Minister to indicate what the extent of his involvement and his department's involvement has been in that project since June when they received their notice from federal Innovations Canada, I believe, and whether there is any light at the end of the tunnel, any developments taking place that would lead to some hope that indeed this program and this project could realize its full potential in this province?

**Mr. Ernst:** Just a brief note of history so that Hansard will be well served when somebody wants to read about this issue.

Pine Tree Consulting was funded under the federal Canadian Jobs Strategies Innovations Program to the tune of \$1.4-and-some million. The intent was to create tourism kiosks throughout the province that would provide supplementary tourism information, both fixed signage and electronic communication. There would be people involved in answering and responding to telephone direct-line linkages to each of these tourism kiosks. There are presently 17 of those constructed, none of which are operating.

At the end of June, I believe it was, the federal Government decided that they were not happy with the way the program was being run and suspended funding and called for an audit. At that point, approximately \$720,000 had been expended on the project up to this point. At this juncture, as well, there were only 17 of these things up and none of them were operating. As well, there was only about \$21,000 in advertising revenues sold when the potential, according to the business plan submitted to the Innovations Program, was that there was to be \$50,000 of revenue per site generated. I think the business plan was suspect. I can see maybe No. 1 Highway west or Highway 75 generating \$50,000 worth of advertising on an annual basis. I cannot see that occurring in some of the more remote locations in the province. Yet that apparently was the business plan.

Notwithstanding that, I was presented with a letter from Mr. Bill Green, who is the president of the company, requesting in excess of \$1 million in loan guarantees from the Province of Manitoba. At that point, I asked our staff to review the project and to discuss with the federal Government why they had suspended their funding. The federal Government indicated that they wanted to review the whole process to see that the money was being in fact spent on the kinds of things that it was intended to be spent on, and how and why they had spent half the money and yet were nowhere near beginning to operate. The federal Government

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decided to have an audit at that point. We said, fine, we will withhold any decisions in our department as to our involvement until such time as the federal audit is completed.

\* (1530)

It is my understanding, in discussions with Mr. Brian Hill of CEIC in Winnipeg, that the audit is completed and has been sitting on the Minister's desk for some time. It is my hope that we will be able to do some analysis of this audit once it is released by the federal Government and then base our decision on what is to happen in the future.

In the interim, Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of other activities that have taken place. I am not sure whether the Member for Dauphin is aware of those and I would prefer not to put them on the record. I would be happy to discuss those with him afterward. They may be potentially embarrassing and not necessary, quite frankly, for consideration of the Estimates.

Since that time, as well, Mr. Green has applied for—I think he has offered it to TIAM for them to take it over. There have been a number of things occur that have left the whole matter up in the air at the moment. I do not think anything is going to occur until we get down to see what has actually occurred up to this point. Once that has finished and we see what has happened up to this point we will know: (a) the state of affairs; (b) what the federal Government is prepared to do in terms of the balance of their funding; and (c) what Manitoba can do in terms of seeing the project. Whether it is under this or other management or ownership, I think the idea, as the Member for Dauphin indicated, is good and the department is very supportive of the idea. Whether it can be self-sustaining or what it needs to come to being self-sustaining is something that we want to look at. So we hope to have some resolution in the very near future.

**Mr. Plohman:** I was hoping, in asking the question, whether there had been developments beyond the stage of simply offers by Mr. Green for someone else to take it over, whether indeed there was some significant progress being made along that line. I would take it from what the Minister has said that there has not been, because basically the audit has been held at the ministerial level. I always found that rather upsetting to me when I used to hear from other people that some report or something was sitting on the Minister's desk because I never used to leave anything sitting on my desk, yet that is where it was supposedly sitting. I wonder how many Ministers actually have something sitting on their desk.

I would assume that somebody is doing some more analysis of this. In this particular case it could be that this is sitting there and the Minister does not want to release it. I would hope that this Minister would endeavour to prevail upon his federal colleague to have this released so that progress could be made. I suspect that maybe there are other considerations at this time maybe of a higher priority with the Minister. I would like to ask this Minister—when I say that some might

be of higher priority by the Minister, I meant the federal Minister—I would ask this Minister whether he has communicated on that so that there could be some movement to eliminate the uncertainty.

I have had calls from a number of the employees who were affected. Some of them were handicapped people who were working for the first time in perhaps many years, or the first time in their lives as productive citizens, enjoyed that opportunity, felt it was critical to their future, felt good about it, and now had the rug pulled out from under them because of this decision that was made by Innovations Canada before the audit was taken.

I think it is very important to get this moving, if there is a chance to get it moving and to end the uncertainty. Therefore I would ask the Minister and implore the Minister to make representation. I would ask him if he has and whether he is considering doing that, to have this report released?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, we are in contact, I guess weekly almost, with the CEIC and the local manager here, Brian Hill, seeking the release of that report and that information. We agree with the Member for Dauphin that the opportunities presented by this program, if it can be put into a financially-sound arrangement, are excellent, particularly for handicapped people. We want to see that occur as much as he does in terms of that operation. But I will say that I have not been in contact directly with the Minister in this regard. If that information is not forthcoming in the very next short time, I will be in contact with him directly to try and see that this comes to some kind of conclusion.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would like to thank the Minister for that undertaking. Moving to other areas in planning for tourism development in the province, I would like to ask the Minister about a number of proposals that had been considered by our Government, and whether these are still in the active stage, and what stage they are at. One of them deals with the Gull Harbour proposal on Hecla for a new facility there.

We had prepared a proposal call for the private sector to put forward proposals for a facility there that would cater to families, perhaps a cottage condominium-type development there. I would ask the Minister whether there has been any progress made on that proposal call? Is it still being given active consideration? If so, when does he expect that something will be taking place publicly with regard to that?

**Mr. Ernst:** That question, Mr. Chairman, and presumably some of the others are best served under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement, that is where the money would be coming from for that and other potential proposals. If the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) agrees, then we can respond to those kinds of questions under the appropriate section, which is the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement. I am not sure exactly where it is. The next section? Is that agreed?

**Mr. Plohman:** I know that under Activity Identification in the Supplementary Information, second paragraph,

"Directs the implementation of the capital development events, and industry productivity incentive programs under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement (Programs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)." Are we dealing with any of those programs here? If we are, then it is appropriate to discuss those plans here I would think.

**Mr. Ernst:** Miss Sigurdson is the co-manager of the agreement. The agreement funding comes under this department, but we have a section dealing with the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement. I do not care, quite frankly, whether you deal with it here or deal with it there, but we are trying to proceed in an orderly basis and that would be the appropriate section to deal with it.

**Mr. Plohman:** I do not want to be picky about this, but it would seem to me that under the agreement where we are talking about \$2 million or \$3 million being flowed, we are actually talking about projects where there is money being flowed this year. Here we are talking about the plans, and that is really what I want to talk about. If I am reading incorrectly from the Supplementary Information, then in that case I would defer to the Canada-Manitoba Agreement. But I think we are talking about plans that the department has in this regard, priorities, proposals that could indeed be flowing in the future under the Canada-Manitoba Agreement.

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Chairman, at the present time under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement, under which all development activities are taking place, all of the work plans that were in place from the previous government are still in place. None have been changed and all are still under active consideration at the present time. No proposal calls have yet to come forward. We are looking at some potential alternatives, but with regard to the specific one, the one at Hecla Island, it is still on the books so to speak; it is still being considered. No proposal calls are anticipated in the next short period of time. We just had a major review of the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement by Cabinet last week. That was a review update, all of the information brought forward to all of my colleagues, but no decisions have yet been taken and we will be doing that sometime in the next period of time.

\* (1540)

**Mr. Plohman:** I would take it from the Minister's comments that all of these are under review as to priority by this Minister and his Government at the present time. He has not rejected any of the priorities that were established, but he has not endorsed any of those priorities as yet, and he is in the process of considering what they should be. I would like his comments as to whether I have that correct.

In addition, I just want to talk briefly about the Gull Harbour proposal. The fact is, as Minister of Natural Resources, I was aware that last March it was very nearly ready to go for proposal calls. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) is here, probably has been briefed somewhat on these things and has had input and feedback to his employees, to his staff on this.

My question is does the Minister support the concept that was there, where paving the road to Hecla Island and on Hecla Island upgraded the road? I do not know because the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) has not tabled his program, whether indeed there is any activity there this year. I would hope so because it is a major attraction for Manitoba.- (Interjection)- Well, it was done by Natural Resources. We started that out when I got into Highways. We took it on right away and it is being done. Before that, there was a constant haggle.

I think the Minister has raised an interesting point, between Natural Resources and Highways, as to who was responsible for the road. We did not think that was germane to the issue. The fact is that road needed upgrading and now that is being done. It is costing millions of dollars to do so. Therefore, it is important that we have the broadest kinds of facilities there to attract tourists to Manitoba, and for Manitobans to use.

I think it is one of our greatest resources that we have in this province and we should be developing it. I would therefore ask the Minister whether he has a position with regard to future development there, and why he would not be moving forward on this very important proposal call immediately, rather than as he has indicated, that there are no proposal calls contemplated in the near future. What is holding it up?

**Mr. Ernst:** The Member from Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) is not quite correct. We are proceeding with two projects under that agreement.

First is Gimli, a question of a hotel proposal complex for Gimli. Second is a preliminary study on the Grand Beach proposal. So those two areas are proceeding in due course.

With respect to the two projects at Gull Harbour, one is a bed and breakfast arrangement, and the other is the potential development of this complex. The potential resort development that the Member refers to, I say no decision has been taken and it is under review at the present time. We have a problem there in that the existing resort loses half a million dollars a year.

The Member shakes his head. He is wrong. The resort there loses money, has lost money for years despite the fact that they gave them all the golf course revenue last year in an attempt to cover up the books and make it look better. Even then, it still lost money. So we have to give careful consideration to whether another development on that site and what impact it is going to have on our existing facility there.

If we are losing money hand over fist in that particular project, will another project coming along at the same time, in competition to that project, create a major problem? We are looking at that at the present time. There is an argument, a body of argument that says it will enhance the existing facility as opposed to detract from it. We are considering that at the present time, and we will be making some decisions in due course.

**Mr. Plohman:** We could very easily be on this for some time because, as the Minister responsible for Venture

Manitoba Tours, I was up till May at that time, I am aware that the deficit at the Gull Harbour Resort has been significantly reduced over the last number of years. As a matter of fact, it was very close to breaking even this past year. So \$500,000 or \$0.5 million that the Minister picks out of the air is not accurate. There was over a million dollars and it went down in the last couple of years to the point where it was something like a \$100,000.00.

Now the Minister makes some rather ridiculous and absurd statements about the golf course revenues. The fact is that they are paying the province, the Department of Natural Resources, for the use of that golf course, \$180,000 a year, and then they get the revenues from it, so they only operate the golf course. What is wrong with that? It is not a matter of cooking the books, it is trying to make it a viable operation, diversify. The Minister should know that what we are dealing with here are additional opportunities, rounding out the packages so that they can be promoted as a package. If the Minister does not know that, then he should not be in the position that he is in. The fact is that by ensuring that the management is all centralized there, it can be promoted as a package. And that was the problem before. Now with the improvement in the road, the golf course added, the new management at the resort itself, I think we have that turned around. I just hope it continues to turn around as it has in the last couple of years.

There are other opportunities. The marina was one operation that we turned over to Venture Tours. Again, nothing to do with cooking the books, an absurd statement by the Minister to even say it. Obviously he has not been made aware of the situation there by the Minister responsible for Venture Tours at the present time. I would advise him that he should be so he can get a true picture, because there are some very able people placed on that board in the last number of years who have done a tremendous job in turning that around.

So let us not give the excuse that we have to look at whether or not this is going to be viable. The fact is that we are catering to a different market. What was proposed there was for families that cannot afford necessarily staying in that hotel, which is doing a lot of business for conventions and meetings.

So we are dealing with a different market to round out the opportunities at Hecla. I ask the Minister to get informed on this issue because I do not believe he is, and I think he is making excuses as to the delays. In fact, why does he not call a spade a spade and say simply they do not trust the priorities that the previous Government put in place in terms of future expenditures into this agreement, and therefore he is going to make his own assessments as to what the priorities will be. If that is the case, fine. How long is it going to take?

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Parker Burrell, in Chair.)

**Mr. Ernst:** The agreement expires in March of 1990. Decisions will be taken between now and March of 1990 to fulfill our commitment to fully utilize the funds available under the Manitoba-Canada Tourism Agreement.

**Mr. Plohman:** Close to the vest again, this Minister is not being very forthright. Actually, if we had enough time, we were not getting pressured from other sources at this for moving on, I would like to spend hours and hours on this until we got the kinds of answers that this Legislature deserves.

The Minister mentioned earlier that he had some movement on the Gimli proposals and on Grand Beach. Could he indicate the status of those two proposals at this time?

**Mr. Ernst:** The Grand Beach proposal, public hearings are being conducted at the present time or will be shortly with regard to proposals at Grand Beach to see public attitudes as to what they would like to see at that type of resort. There are a number of users of that facility, day users, campers, cottagers and the like. We want to see what kind of a development that they would like to see with regard to that particular area so we can utilize one of the premier resources of the province and one of the 10 best features in North America, in fact, probably the world. I think Playboy Magazine identified it as one of the 10 best beaches in the world. We are fortunate to have that in Manitoba and unfortunately nothing has occurred at that site for many years. We see an opportunity to see something major occur there to utilize that resource for the purposes of tourism.

With regard to Gimli, we have provided funding to the Northeast Interlake Business Development Corporation for an implementation plan in funding proposals with regard to the construction of a major tourist hotel on that site. That work is in the initial stages at the moment. Once that is completed, then we will be in a position to deal with the major proposal itself.

**Mr. Plohman:** I thank the Minister for that update. He indicates that there are more studies being done. Is he aware that there was a recently completed Manitoba resort study and did this not provide the kind of information that he is looking for here? If not, what is the difference in the information that he is looking for here? Secondly, what time line is he looking at, before he has the information?

**Mr. Ernst:** The resort study identified the fact that major facilities were required in these locations in terms of a general broad view. The specifics of that are now under way. We are following the time line of the work plan. That information is necessary before proposal calls go out because, in the case of Grand Beach, you need to know what kind of a resort you expect to get, what kind of resort people in the area are prepared to accept, and we want to have as much consultation as possible with the people who are going to be directly affected, both from a user point of view and from cottagers, campers and the like. With regard to Grand Beach, that is a relatively small study. It should be completed very shortly and we expect to be into position for potential for proposal calls early in the new year.

In terms of Gimli, there are some land problems associated with the Gimli project. Those need to be

sorted out, so we have provided some funding for the Development Corporation to deal with those problems and sort them out before the final proposal for the structure can go ahead. That is under way at the present time.

**Mr. Plohman:** I understand then from the Minister's statement that provided some funding to the Development Corporation means providing funds for them to purchase this land, or exactly what is the funding for?

**Mr. Ernst:** The money, Mr. Acting Chairman, is to assemble the land on behalf of the community. The community will ultimately own the site. They will in turn lease it to a private developer to build and operate a facility on the site, but the land will be held in perpetuity by the community through this Development Corporation.

\* (1550)

**Mr. Plohman:** Has the price been agreed on insofar as what should be paid for the land that is required to be assembled?

**Mr. Ernst:** It is my understanding that they are in the process of negotiating options on some land. Some are town lands, and there is a resolution of one particular piece of land that will require some diligent work on behalf of the Development Corporation.

**Mr. Plohman:** I was aware that there is diligent work required. I just wondered if that diligent work has taken place yet and whether we are close to having a resolution on that particular matter?

**Mr. Ernst:** It is under way at the present time and we expect or hope for a resolution quickly.

**Mr. Plohman:** In the interest of time, I would like to move on to another particular project that is of major importance. That is the Winnipeg Beach Recreation Park proposal. Has the Minister any news on that particular project insofar as its status?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Acting Chairman, that proposal has been deferred because of certain infrastructure problems and other problems associated with the development. The department is presently working with the owner of the project in an attempt to see if it can be resurrected, shall we say. We are undertaking some discussions and work with the proponent of the development at this time, but there is nothing firm at this point.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would like to ask the Minister's position with regard to a major development in the Duck Mountains. One of the areas that we had endeavoured to get off the ground was a major proposal for the Duck Mountains. There is, again, another example of a tremendous resource that we have in this province for tourism development, underdeveloped, underutilized, and one that was identified in the Destination Manitoba study as a destination area, a destination point, Riding Mountain Duck Mountains.

Keeping in mind that that was the case, has the Minister evaluated the possibilities of moving forward with some public input for analysis of the kind of development that is most needed there and then proceeding from there to have a proposal call under this agreement as we had contemplated?

**Mr. Ernst:** One project was funded under the agreement in the Duck Mountains' Childs Lake Lodge. That occurred earlier this year under the auspices of the previous Government and that is fine. We are looking at the Duck Mountain area as a potential tourism site. We are looking at promotion of a variety of sites in that area. We are trying to secure sites, find sites for a variety of types of activities. We are working under that arrangement at the present time and we recognize it as a valuable destination area and we will be working toward that end.

**Mr. Plohman:** Am I to assume from that answer that is one project that has already been determined by this Government as a priority and that it will be indeed moving ahead? I understood from the comments the Minister made earlier that there were only two, Gimli and Grand Beach, that were proceeding. All the others were up for review, under evaluation.

I am trying to find out from the Minister if, in fact, he is moving along on all of these. When we asked him, he mentioned the Winnipeg Beach one and he said, yes, there are some things going on there too. It is difficult to know then what kinds of reviews are taking place on this agreement insofar as overall priorities are concerned. Could the Minister please clarify the status of some of these that I am asking? Are they indeed in the books or are they just being put on the back burner while others are being developed? If so, I would like the Minister to clarify that.

**Mr. Ernst:** I indicated right at the start that all of the work plans from the previous Government are still on the books. All of them are being reviewed. The ones that I indicated, Grand Beach and Gimli, are proceeding. The others are being considered at the present time in terms of priority, in terms of availability, in terms of interest from the private sector, because some of those projects that were on the books have faded as a result of lack of interest on behalf of the private sector proponents. We are also looking at some other alternatives, alternatives for the money that is available or freed up because of those projects that have faded. We are considering all of that at the present time. As I indicated, we had a review of the present status by Cabinet last week. Within the next period of time, we will be dealing with a set of priorities and then proceeding on that basis. We will be doing that, say, within the next little while. I am not trying to play games with anybody. I was very up front right at the start and said that every single project that had been proposed under the work plans of the previous Government are still on the books and we are considering them. These are the ones that are proceeding at the present time and what we had hoped to do and anticipated to do in the near future.

\* (1600)

**Mr. Plohma:** I gathered at the time that the Minister said it that there were two proceeding, the rest were under review. That is fair, if that is the case.

Since that time, I asked about a couple of others. The Minister indicated information to this House that gave me the impression that they were moving forward, not under review. I guess I misinterpreted what the Minister meant by review, as to whether in fact there were portions of those projects that needed further clarification before a proposal could be developed or whether in fact they were up for review as to whether indeed they would even be considered further. There are different ways you can take that word "review." I would like the Minister to clarify whether he means that some of these in fact are being considered, not because of disinterest by the private sector proponents but because of policy changes by this Government from the former Government insofar as these individual projects, whether indeed some of them are being discarded, or considered for being discarded?

**Mr. Ernst:** All are under consideration, no decision has been taken. When you consider projects, there is not much point in considering a project if you do not have some place to put it. In terms of the Duck Mountain area, pursuing opportunities for sites is under way because, even if you decide to go ahead with a project, you have to have somewhere to put it. That consideration has to be made.

With regard to the other projects, as I said, they are under consideration. I did not use the word "review," Mr. Acting Chairman, the Member for Dauphin used the word "review." I said they are all under consideration at the present time and no decision has been made.

**Mr. Plohma:** If there is not a decision as to what kind of project is required in the Duck Mountains, then how can sites be chosen for such a project? I would think that there needs to be some public input as to the nature of the development there. What is it that people want as a first priority for development in the Duck Mountain area? Is it another lodge? Is it other kinds of development that could be taking place, theme parks and so on? What is it that people want? Is the Minister prepared to go forward with public input to determine what precisely people would want in that area and then he could choose some sites for those?

**Mr. Ernst:** The Member for Dauphin full well knows that the proposal for the Duck Mountains was a resort proposal. There were in fact graphics prepared that he is well aware of, so let him not try and play games here.

Let me say this, that full consultations will take place on any development that goes into that area, but there has to be a starting point somewhere. That is what we are searching for at the moment is a starting point. Once the starting point has been attained, then as I say all of these projects are under consideration and we will proceed from that point once decisions are made by Cabinet.

**Mr. Plohma:** I was not playing games; I never saw the graphics. I do not have a work plan in front of me, so I certainly am asking these questions very seriously.

I think there was a lot of debate as to what kind of development was needed there. There was an attempt being made, as I understood it, at the time that we would have to have input from the public as to the kinds of things that they would like to see there. I wondered whether that was still being considered for a public consultation process.

In addition, I would like to ask the Minister whether he could just give a status report on the Lee River Resort proposal that was put forward, and whether indeed that is one of them that has been discarded or whether it is still being considered?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Acting Chairman, that Lee River proposal was not in the work plans when we took office and it is still not. I am advised by the staff it is a longer-term situation that will not likely come to fruition prior to the expiry of the agreement so we are anticipating working that into the future.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I accept the Member for Dauphin's indication that he was not aware of those schematics and work plans and so on. I was advised they had been presented to the previous Government so, if I have wronged the Member for Dauphin, I apologize.

**Mr. Plohma:** Mr. Acting Chairman, there are a number of other specific proposals that I could ask about, but I want to give an opportunity to others if they would like to ask some questions first and we will see how the time goes, whether we will continue on that. So at this point in time, I would defer to other Members.

**Mrs. Charles:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I believe it was under this tourism agreement that we are discussing right now that the Minister answered previously in this House to a question from the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) that there was some consideration for a tri-lake area. Am I correct in that, and if so could you describe what that consideration is?

**Mr. Ernst:** I think the Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) asked me a question a while ago about the tourism agreement and then he was away for a week and I did not get back to him. Then we were in Estimates, and anticipating we were going to get to Estimates, I did not respond during Question Period with a long answer because it is a long answer. However, I am prepared to do that when we get to the tourism agreement section and deal with his previous question.

With regard to the tri-lakes area, one proposal that has been advanced for consideration is the question of funding for the tri-lakes area of southwestern Manitoba as a potential tourism area. At the present time some work is being done on it in terms of finding out what it would cost and how it could be accomplished and so on, but it is in a very preliminary consideration stage at this point.

**Mrs. Charles:** Could the Minister indicate to me how these projects are prioritized? Is this business-initiated or is this through the Government initiation, or how is this development taking place?



**Mr. Ernst:** Under the tourism agreement, the proposals were prioritized as a result of a number of studies that were done to indicate where projects should be done in Manitoba, what kind of projects should be done, what kind of impact will they have, who will they accommodate and so on. The work plans were developed based on those studies, plus I suppose the input of the Government of the Day, so they would choose all, some or none of how is this development taking place?

**Mr. Ernst:** Under the tourism agreement, the proposals were prioritized as a result of a number of studies that were done to indicate where projects should be done in Manitoba, what kind of projects should be done, what kind of impact will they have, who will they accommodate and so on. The work plans were developed based on those studies, plus I suppose the input of the Government of the Day, so they would choose all, some or none of those recommendations depending upon the priorities of the Government.

Our Government is in the process, as I indicated, of looking at priorities. We have decided upon a couple of projects to proceed directly. We are now in a position where we are considering the priorities of the balance of the projects, as well as any others which may be available, so that we are looking at that at the present time. But again, it is also done in conjunction, I might add, with the federal-provincial Governments because the feds are part of this agreement, and there is a private sector advisory board that advises on every project put forward under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement. So through that whole process comes the ultimate priority list.

**Mrs. Charles:** Could the Minister advise me who is on this advisory board, what members it consists of?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Acting Chairman, the advisory board appointed by the previous Government is still in place and the names of the people are Don Draper, who is the owner of Tallpine Lodge at West Hawk Lake; Jim Wright, who is the Chairman of Assiniboia Downs; Dorothy Dobbie who is the Past President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; Mickey Levine who is the Past President of TIAM; Doug Webber who is the Past President of MLOA, Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters; Alan Finnbogason who is the Past President of the Manitoba Restaurant Association; Mitch Podolak who is the past Artistic Director of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and there are two vacant positions at the present time.

**Mrs. Charles:** Is the Minister indicating that these members, that all submissions go through this board on to the Government, or does the Government oversee them and then come back to the board for authorization, so to speak?

**Mr. Ernst:** The review of the overall work plan of the tourism agreement and the specific proposals all go through that board.

**Mrs. Charles:** It is my understanding, and I say this somewhat hesitantly because it is just based on very

past knowledge, but I understand that the Town of Selkirk once applied for a hotel system under this agreement and was turned down, and I am not really sure of the reasons. I was wondering if the department could get back to me on it, if that is the case. I certainly do not expect it today, if the answer is not available.

Following that, this Minister understands that Selkirk has had or has in the past had an agreement tentatively through the provincial Government and the federal Government for downtown and the Selkirk landing proposal which in essence does contain some tourist development. A series of questions here, has the Minister suggested to the Town of Selkirk and the Downtown Development Corporation that perhaps funds could be used in this agreement and transferred over, rather than the proposal falling totally apart if it may indeed happen. In that the tourist industry in Selkirk being so close to these hundreds of thousands of people who do go to Lower Fort Garry, it does seem a shame that this tourist industry could fall apart or indeed not be allowed to grow because of lack of development of tourist attractions in the town and lack of accommodations within the Town of Selkirk.

\* (1610)

**Mr. Ernst:** I am advised by staff that there was, at one point long before we came to Government, a proposal for a hotel. If you want to talk to them after, they might give you the reasons for why it was turned down.

The question of the Selkirk landing proposal, I suppose it was never contemplated by the previous Government under this agreement. That is not to say that I suppose some tourism potential based on a specific—the proposal itself would not qualify under the tourism agreement, the assembly of land directly. But if it was the assembly of land for a specific project related to tourism as an identified need, etc., then it could well qualify under the agreement. Nothing is precluded and, as I said, no decisions have been taken and no hard and fast decisions are being taken with regard to these things.

Some come to fruition and some do not, and we have seen that just in the short period of time that we have been in office with respect to one particular proposal. Things have to be a little bit flexible over time, so that we are not precluding any kind of consideration of a proposal under this agreement. At the same time, the matter has been turned over to my colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), and he is proceeding in dealing with that in relation to the other proposals that he has.

**Mrs. Charles:** My question from that then is, should Selkirk indeed be worthwhile of considering a proposal of this type, who initiates it? Should the town initiate it through this department, or do we have to wait for this department to see the worthwhileness—that is not a word, they understand what I mean—in that the quality of this proposal indeed does not exist as yet but perhaps should exist. Who proposes it and what steps should be taken to go toward it?

**Mr. Ernst:** I think, Mr. Acting Chairman, what is on the books at the moment for that proposal is a feasibility

study. That is what is before everybody at the moment—significant feasibilities, significant cost wise—a feasibility study to determine if the Selkirk Landing Project is viable and, if it is, what would be contained within it to make it viable, what is needed, what is required, what is economic. So, presumably, assuming that the project will go ahead and the feasibility study is conducted, it would identify proposals that may well qualify under this agreement. It is sort of a chicken-and-egg situation, I guess. You have to find out if it is viable first and if it is viable, what is viable, and then if that, what qualifies under the agreement? If it does, then it is eligible and would be considered.

**Mrs. Charles:** Could the Minister tell me how many funds have been allocated in this agreement and, when this agreement ends, do the funds have to be spent or do they just have to be set aside for future plans?

**Mr. Ernst:** I believe there is now \$12 million of expenditure under this agreement to date, and while the agreement expires in 1990, 18 months to flow the funds after the agreement expires. So as long as the projects are committed prior to March, 1990, the funds can flow over an 18-month period after that in order to see them completed.

**Mrs. Charles:** Again speaking on behalf of my constituents, I notice that one explanation of how the activities are used under this development process is for conference facilities. I am wondering as well, since the Town of Selkirk is struggling to put in conference facilities in its new recreation centre, how a community becomes aware that funds may be available, and I stress the "may be," understanding the process.

For instance, I see Selkirk and towns nearby as being mini-conference centres and that we should be expanding away from the City of Winnipeg. Are we promoting these mini-conference centres such as in the Town of Selkirk and, if so, how do the communities come about knowing and being made aware that the funds may be available? In this, I do not mean just for the Town of Selkirk, but perhaps Portage la Prairie, Steinbach and others. Are we developing other conference centres other than the resort centres in the City of Winnipeg?

**Mr. Ernst:** We are not specifically promoting conference centres at all. I think the reason that is there is that funding under the agreement did go to Elkhorn Ranch already, under the previous Government, at Clear Lake which is a conference centre. I guess maybe they tend to expand upon some of these things in writing verbiage as to what is being done because that obviously has been done.

That is not to say that a potential conference centre in conjunction with another tourism facility could not well be considered because it could. The money is under the tourism agreement. Presumably, when it was signed in 1985, some promotion took place. Certainly, all of the tourism people are well aware of the agreement and those people are spread all over the province. All of the Manitoba Hotel Association, all of the Manitoba Restaurant Association, I am sure, who have many

members in the Town of Selkirk, are all well aware of the agreement and how the funding works.

No doubt municipalities would be advised and so on in the normal course of events as to potential agreements. I know that many municipalities and municipal organizations have people beating the bushes for all kinds of programs that may be in some way beneficial to communities and tend to try and search out these kinds of funding programs as well. I do not think it is any big secret. At the same time, we are not spending a lot of money on advertising it either. Staff certainly respond to questions every day with regard to the tourism agreement, whether projects would qualify or not qualify. You know no idea is mutually exclusive. They come in day after day after day, and some are good, some do not qualify and some are bad. But we certainly want to hear as many ideas as possible that come along. If a better idea comes along, then in the overall scheme of things the priorities may change. At the present time, as I say, things with regard to the resort areas particularly, things are still under consideration.

**Mrs. Charles:** I would just like to point out that I believe about a year-and-a-half ago we discussed it in the Town of Selkirk, on council, and they had forgotten about this program. So although the knowledge was there to the municipalities, it has fallen by the wayside and it would not perhaps hurt to put an addendum in some issue that you are putting out to remind them of it.

May I also ask the Minister whether the qualifications still stand for this program, that it had to be attractions that were the cost of \$500,000 and over? Is that still in place?

**Mr. Ernst:** I am advised, Mr. Acting Chairman, that it is under the Rural Attractions portion of the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement, that it is a \$500,000 minimum value for newer expansion of attractions under that section of the agreement. There are certain limits under other sections of the agreement that are less than that.

**Mrs. Charles:** I am very aware that, in particular, this Interlake Tourism Association lobbied their federal Minister and, I believe, probably their provincial counterpart to lower that level of acceptance being \$500,000.00. They felt that this really left out the essence of tourism in Manitoba beyond perhaps the lakes where the small business person is the one that makes the money and really develops the tourism projects.

I am wondering if this Minister has been made aware of the fact that the region—at least I can speak on behalf of the Interlake region—was not happy with the arrangement of this agreement, and whether he has any comment to make on the fact that this level of \$500,000 is much too high to have local agencies take it up and do something with it. I guess contrary to that is the fact that if this is just for major, big projects, what is there for the small tourism promoter who wants to add on 10 beds, 20 beds or another restaurant or just some small additions? Are they being left out or is there some program that they can take advantage of?

\* (1620)

**Mr. Ernst:** The aims and objectives and targets of this program were established long before I became the Minister. I am advised that the rationale behind the agreement was impact. If we are to spend the money under the tourism agreement for a variety of small projects, there is relatively little impact other than directly on the tourism operator himself. It was looking, as I understand it, and as I am advised, at regional impacts, major impacts, something that is really going to take hold and grab and be a big focal point and a draw for that particular area, which will in turn benefit all the other operators as well.

But the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) is right. There is no program to deal with a five-bed addition to somebody's small tourism operation or another 200 square feet on somebody's restaurant.

The previous Destination Manitoba Program, as I understand it, was somewhat geared in that direction and dealt with a variety of those kinds of things. That is not to say that in the future some other programs may not be available. Some business assistance programs are available under other portions of the department as well to deal with those kinds of issues but, specifically under the tourism agreement, there is no money directly related to that.

**Mr. Plozman:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not have an awful lot of additional questions but I have a couple. I just wanted to point out to the Minister that two members of that private sector committee that he talked about earlier on—I assume that is the committee that was established yet with the same membership as it had under the previous Government or is this newly appointed?

I might draw to the Minister's attention that two members who were named that he read off, Alan Finnbogason and Mickey Levine, are chairman and vice-chairman of Venture Manitoba Tours, if they have not been changed yet. He might want to talk to them about the operations there insofar as the operations of Venture Tours, because they are very enthusiastic about the potential there. I think the Minister should make himself aware of those through discussions with those two very experienced people in the restaurant and hotel business in this province.

I wanted to ask a question of the Minister with regard to a question that the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) raised, and that is the tri-lakes idea or proposal or concept that was raised first in the election campaign last April by federal Members, who indicated that there had been a proposal put forward for a tri-lakes development under—they did not know where it was under, but it turns out, I think, they were saying the tourism agreement. Nothing concrete had ever been proposed by anyone that I knew of, as a Minister of Natural Resources, nor my colleagues. It is now obviously being considered as a possibility under this agreement, and that is fine.

I would ask the Minister though whether the consideration would include building of dams, which

is the primary problem with those lakes, the levels, and particularly with the drought. They need to have some method of regulating the levels. Would the building of dams be included under expenditures under this tourism agreement? Is that being considered or would this tourism agreement be used to complement some development of dams there, which is funded from another source, to complement some other attractions there for tourism development? Is that the way that this agreement is being considered there?

**Mr. Ernst:** I said earlier that this is in a very preliminary stage, that a number of factors are considered. Before the tri-lakes area would be an adequate tourist attraction, lake levels are required to be raised. Dams are part of the requirement to make that into a very viable tourist area. You see a distinct lack of tourism facilities in that section of the province and the potential exists there for some increased activities but, as I said, things are at a very preliminary stage at the present time and no detailed analyses yet are available.

**Mr. Plozman:** Just one or two more questions, one deals with the Dauphin Lake insofar as its involvement or its consideration, its eligibility. When these proposals were put forward by the federal MPs, they tied in the tri-lakes with Dauphin Lake. Is that being considered in any way, shape or form at the present time in the tri-lakes proposal? Obviously, we are talking about four lakes then. Is that being considered?

**Mr. Ernst:** No.

**Mr. Plozman:** The Minister said no? So what we are dealing with then is the tri-lakes separately.

Can the Minister indicate to this House whether there is any consideration being given to any developments under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement on Dauphin Lake?

**Mr. Ernst:** Under the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement, the answer is no.

I am the Chairman of a joint federal-provincial ministerial committee that is meeting with the federal Ministers to deal with a variety of ERDA Agreements that are badly needed in Manitoba, to deal with a wide variety of water projects, sewer projects, environmental projects, things that need to be done to enhance and, for that matter, extend tourism projects as well.

We have had some discussion to date. We are just awaiting another meeting in the next short period of time. We hope that we will be able to conclude some new ERDA Agreements, whether they are under the old form of ERDA Agreement or whether they are under some other new form. I, quite frankly, do not care what form they come under as long as the federal Government puts up some money. So we are dealing with those at the present time in the hopes that we can secure some new agreements following the expiry of most of those agreements next March in 1989.

I think the federal Government—certainly the indications from the Ministers up to this point have been they are interested. They understand that we have

some major problems that we have to deal with. We have problems in Portage, in Brandon, in Selkirk and Lake Dauphin and a variety of other areas around the province. We need to deal with those. We hopefully, given enough flexibility, will be able to deal with those things quickly so we can get those agreements in place and be able to conduct some of the projects such as the Member refers to.

If I can indulge on the committee, I doubt if we are going to finish today. The chairman of the Manitoba Racing Commission, Mr. Williams, will be away tomorrow and Monday, I believe, next week. I was wondering if Members would be prepared to turn to the questions with regard to the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission and deal with it now so that Mr. Williams will not have to forgo his business trip. Is that agreed, Mr. Acting Chairman?

**The Acting Chairman, Mr. Parker Burrell:** Does the committee agree to the Minister's suggestion? (Agreed)

**Mr. Ernst:** Maybe, Mr. Acting Chairman, we might ask Members of the committee if they have questions or concerns regarding the Horse Racing Commission. The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) indicates no.

**The Acting Chairman, Mr. Parker Burrell:** We will now consider questions for the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission.

**Mr. Plohman:** Before you do, I think it is worthwhile if we, before bringing him—who is the chairman? Is he in here now?

**Mr. Ernst:** Yes, I would like to introduce, for Members of the Committee, Mr. Dan Williams, who is the chairman of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission.

Mr. Williams also, I might point out, is not only the chairman but the full-time Racing Secretary. He is the Manager as well as the chairman of the commission.

**Mr. Plohman:** I am wanting to know what page—oh, yes, page 87 of the Supplemental Estimates. My only question would be that there is a reduction in expenditure there. I wonder if the Minister could explain the change.

\* (1630)

**Mr. Ernst:** The expenditure is based on an estimate of the wagering conducted at racetracks, both Assiniboia Downs and the rural racing circuit. Wagering has been down a little over the past while historically so the estimate is lower.

**Mr. Gaudry:** Mr. Acting Chairman, could I have a short historical background of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission?

**Mr. Ernst:** The commission, I do not . . . any historical background on the commission. As I gather, the Horse Racing Commission was established 15 or 20 years ago as an independent body to oversee horse racing in Manitoba. It deals with not the pari-mutuel side

directly because that is the purview of the federal Government, the gambling aspect of it, but the functioning of horse racing and medical treatments and whether horses are being fed drugs and have judges with respect to the proper conduct of the race itself and whether somebody cheated or some horse bumped another one or something of that nature. They deal with appeals on races and things of that nature. It has had a bit of checkered career in the last while.

There have been some concerns. I do not want to go into all of those but Mr. Williams was appointed in 1986 as the chairman of the commission and as the full-time executive director, in a combined position. Interestingly, in Pat McKinley's column in the paper just yesterday or the day before, it indicated that the costs of the commission have gone up, the remunerations. What has happened of course is, when Mr. Williams was the chairman, he got an honorarium. When he became a full-time employee, he got a salary. The salary transferred from staff to the commission to the honorarium side and bumped it up considerably. That plus the fact that a change in the Government a couple of years ago to a per diem rate as opposed to a lump sum payment caused some increase in his salary or the indemnity section of the thing as well. We have changed back just recently to a lump sum payment because costs were getting a little out of hand in terms of the per diem rates, because the commission meets quite often to deal with the appeals of horse owners and so on.

There are four permanent staff in the commission office plus there are a variety of term employees, racing stewards and harness-racing people to review those things, part-time veterinarian services and so on. That gives you a little indication.

**Mr. Gaudry:** The staff who you are talking about are paid out of this grant that is given out to the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission?

**Mr. Ernst:** That is right, Mr. Acting Chairman. The entire operations of the commission are paid out of here. There is no other appropriation. It all comes from revenue.

**Mrs. Charles:** Not that I claim to be any authority on horse racing but, noting that there is \$5 million in sum put out towards this, could you indicate the income we may expect to receive from the commission from the betting and wagering that goes on because of the commission?

**Mr. Ernst:** Yes, the income is about \$200,000 more than the expenditure.

**Mrs. Charles:** So, the direct relation of the expenditure to the income is proportionate. Is there a breakdown on how much goes to the Assiniboia Downs as opposed to the provincial commission, or is that separated in any way?

**Mr. Ernst:** There is only one Manitoba Horse Racing Commission. Assiniboia Downs is not involved. The money that is returned, that the commission gives in

grants, goes to thoroughbred purse support, breeders' support, exotic thoroughbred fund. There is a special take-out reduction program, there is standard-bred purse support, standard-bred breeders' support, and a standard-bred exotic fund. The Great Western Harness Racing Circuit, which is the rural fair circuit in Manitoba, they get some money. Quarter-horse racing gets some support. And about \$0.5 million or so is the cost of the administration of the Manitoba Racing Commission operation.

**Mrs. Charles:** Just one further question and that is that I am sorry that he is not my constituent anymore but I want him to note that, as soon as I started running provincially, he got a good-paying job so I think it paid off.

**Mr. Ernst:** I do not know if that was a question, but I just want to also point out to the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) that Assiniboia Downs gets no money from us. Assiniboia Downs has its own arrangements with the horsemen and so on.

**Mr. Gaudry:** Mr. Acting Chairman, why would the Government want to be involved in horse racing?

**Mr. Ernst:** Why would the Government want to be involved in horse racing? It is likely the biggest single tourist attraction in the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba. It attracts more tourists from out of the province than any other single facility that operates on a regular basis most of the year round. It creates thousands of jobs within the province.

Let me give you some direct and indirect economic impacts. Just so we know why the province would want to be in the horse racing business: 1,550 to 2,000 person years of employment; \$18 million to \$25 million in wages; \$25 million to \$34 million in Gross Provincial Product; and approximately \$2.6 million in provincial income taxes. Those, Mr. Acting Chairman, are several of the reasons why the province would want to be in the business.

In addition to that, of course horse racing traditionally, 20 years ago, was a major form of revenue producer for the province when it was basically the only form of legalized gambling available. However, since the advent of the lottery system and casinos and any other varieties of ways for people to gamble their money, it has fallen off somewhat. But certainly it still employs a great many people. It is still a very major tourist attraction. Any number of people who come to this province find horse racing is a very attractive evening and night out.

As a matter of fact, yesterday, we had introduced to us here several gentlemen from the state of Kansas who I took, as a matter of fact, to the racetrack last night for dinner and an evening of enjoyment there, and they were thoroughly impressed. They do not have pari-mutuel wagering in the State of Kansas, although they had just started it recently in one particular area on a trial basis, so they were quite interested. It is a major tourist attraction, so certainly we would want to continue that.

Most of the money is returned to the horsemen in order to make the industry viable and to create those kinds of jobs. Many of those jobs are relatively, not unskilled, but they have specific skills that are not related to the general operation of things. They relates predominantly to horses. Because that is such a viable industry, an important industry to Manitoba that we want to see that continue. Certainly the support of horse racing, by and large, is continuing and will continue under this Government.

\* (1640)

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** Mr. Acting Chairman, through you to the Minister, does your department have anything to do with wagering and control of the wagering at all, and anything to do with the off-track betting concerns, etc.?

**Mr. Ernst:** As I indicated earlier, and I am just getting confirmation from Mr. Williams that the federal Government, by and large, runs the pari-mutuel betting, runs the off-track betting, supervises that aspect of it. We supervise the actual races themselves, make sure the horses are not doctored, things of that nature, so that the technical running of the races, the animals and the people involved directly there, are the responsibility of the Racing Commission. The federal Government oversees the question of the actual gambling and exchange of money, return of money and so on under their laws.

**Mr. Angus:** I appreciate the federal Government jurisdiction and responsibility. Surely we, as a province, have some say in whether or not we are going to be allowing off-track betting and/or controlling of it and things of that nature. I am asking the question almost in innocence. I do not know what controls we as a province have, as to whether we like it or do not like it or want it or cannot have it—those types of things. Can the Minister comment on those, Mr. Acting Chairman?

**Mr. Ernst:** There is no off-track betting per se. There is telephone betting which requires the bettor to provide an account at Assiniboia Downs in cash against which he can draw. So he can telephone a bet charged to that account. When that account is gone, any winnings or losses are taken from it, of course. When the account is gone, he gets no more privileges until such time as the account is replenished. That is federal-enabling legislation, and it is rejected by the province as required. Somewhere in the works is teletheatre betting legislation at the federal level. I am not sure exactly where it is at. But that will again be permissive legislation that will allow provinces to either accept or reject teletheatre betting and we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

**Mr. Angus:** I note you have Western Harness Racing Circuit. "Circuit" indicates to me that it goes around the country. That is exactly what it is, is it? I imagine like a lot of these things, these programs are run on sort of a cost-benefit type of situation or there is some cost-benefit analysis. Have you been able to break off

the return on investment from the overseeing of the Racing Commission in Winnipeg, and the duties, responsibilities there as opposed to what it might cost you to go to Carman and supervise a race? Have you done that type of analysis?

**Mr. Ernst:** The overall costs of administering the rural racing circuit, and the rural racing circuit is basically the ones that go harness racing at the country fairs, that is primarily what it is. The relative costs of administration are not broken out between administering that circuit and the operations of Assiniboia Downs. I guess it is all relative. We look at it on the basis of if it is good for Manitoba, it is a good industry, and it provides a lot of jobs and provides, quite frankly, a lot of entertainment. We are not looking on the basis of how much betting return is involved in the pari-mutuel tax for those particular kinds of situations. It is a good solid industry. It provides a lot of jobs to a lot of people and a lot of entertainment in rural Manitoba. We do not care whether the cost, one way or the other, is a little more or a little less in terms of the cost of administration. It is not a big amount in any event. We think it is an important industry that ought to continue.

**The Acting Chairman (Parker Burrell):** If there are no more questions, we will pass this particular section.

Resolution No. 104: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,260,800 for Industry, Trade and Tourism for the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1989—pass.

**Mr. Ernst:** I want to thank the committee for that accommodation. It certainly makes it a lot easier, particularly for the operations of the Manitoba Racing Commission. Thank you.

**Mr. Plohman:** Harry shaved off his moustache and the Member for Swan River, who is in the Chair, is squeezed right in between us. We are going to have to let him know who is who yet, my constituency being just South of Swan River and Harry's just North. I was telling Harry that I am going to have shave mine off now so that they will still be confused.— (Interjection)— What is that? I will not be on the CN.

I wanted to follow-up and first of all indicate that ends the rumour that we cannot be cooperative in here. We have been very cooperative insofar as the Horse Racing Commission. We will be continuing that cooperation. As a matter of fact, that is what we have been doing all along, raising issues that we feel are important and discussing them in here in a congenial and cooperative environment. I think it is a fantastic setting for it.

I would like to follow-up a little bit more. We are not going to be too long, I do not think, from our perspective on these Estimates. After today, I would see us finishing on Monday unless the Liberal Opposition has some other thoughts on it and, barring any unforeseen issues of major nature that come up on Monday, that is the way we would see it. The Minister and his staff can

start planning accordingly. I understand that it is very difficult for the staff to be on call all the time. It almost puts them in a situation where they have a very hard time getting a lot of other things done that they have pressing that are sitting on their desks, so to speak, as the Minister put it earlier on.

I want to just ask a few more questions of the Minister on the tourism development area. They deal with some other proposals that I feel I would like to get some comments on from the Minister. He did indicate that a lot of them are under consideration, that perhaps some have been eliminated. Under the Tourism Agreement, there is some planning going on and there may be some consideration for one at Utik Lake fly-in fishing lodge. I would like to ask the Minister if this particular project, the proposal which has been identified as a possibility—it is situated some 375 miles northeast of Winnipeg and has been identified as one of the best locations. The Minister has a puzzled look on his face. That is why I am giving him this information for the development of a fly-in fishing lodge.

Utik Lake comprises an area of some 67 square miles and is broken up by numerous islands and channels. The lake also has long been recognized as comprising significant fishery resources with trophy quality fishing. I would ask the Minister whether there has been any further consideration to a development there, any progress whatsoever or is that one essentially not going anywhere at the present time?

\* (1650)

**Mr. Ernst:** Was it Utik Lake that you were referring to?

**Mr. Plohman:** U-t-i-k.

**Mr. Ernst:** Utik Lake, I understand from staff there is nothing on the books at the moment for that particular proposal, but I understand that a promoter published perhaps the information that the Member read, or we published it, I guess, in an attempt to seek some interest. That interest apparently up to this point has not been forthcoming, and although I understand now that an Indian band may well be interested in proceeding under the Native Business Development Corporation to look at perhaps building a lodge there, that is under consideration at the moment.

**Mr. Plohman:** These ideas bear fruit in wild and wondrous ways sometimes and certainly there is tremendous potential there, as I understand it. Another one is the Elk Island vacation resort potential. Elk Island is adjacent to Grand Beach and Victoria Beach and is located in the southeast portion of Lake Winnipeg, a tremendous opportunity there. A preliminary study was recently completed. I would ask the Minister whether there is any follow-up or development that is taking place with regard to a proposal there?

**Mr. Ernst:** Under the current Manitoba-Canada Tourism Agreement, no plans are being considered. The infrastructure costs on such a proposal on an island separated from the mainland and so on are very, very

significant and, while the opportunity certainly presents itself, there are perhaps better opportunities or equivalent opportunities of less cost to both the developer and the taxpayer accordingly. So we are not pursuing anything under this agreement with respect to Elk Island.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would like to ask the Minister under the same topic of the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement planning whether there is any consideration being given or any promotion of the opportunities in the budget motel sector?

**Mr. Ernst:** Under the tourism agreement, no. Under the Entrepreneurial Immigration Program however, of the industry side of the department, we are looking at some proposals for budget-type hotels.

**Mr. Plohman:** I would ask the Minister whether he has given any consideration to this area himself insofar as the need in Manitoba and whether he feels that Winnipeg, in particular, should be developing in this area?

**Mr. Ernst:** I suppose that any private entrepreneur who wants to develop an economy hotel in Winnipeg is entitled to do that. We have the Relax Inn down the street; there is a Super 8 Motel on the West Perimeter under construction; there is one just on No. 1 East that is open. Mr. Levitt of the Lakeview Hotels is talking about an economy-type hotel. There is one built on the corner of Sargent and King Edward, I believe, an economy-type hotel. In terms of Winnipeg hotel accommodations, there seems to be some interest in the private sector to build those, and they are being built, by and large, without any Government funding, so I would assume that the market is being filled.

**Mr. Plohman:** The information I have is that there are no budget motels at all in operation in the City of Winnipeg; so I do not know whether he is talking about the same thing here. Economy hotels maybe, but budget motels catering to the traveller and family market just do not exist in the City of Winnipeg. If they do in fact, they must be a rather recent development and I guess the question is does the Minister see any need for involvement by this program to stimulate this kind of development? Obviously, the private sector will want to identify opportunities and take advantage of those, but does the Minister feel there is any need for him to be involved and his department to be involved in this?

**Mr. Ernst:** We have not had identified to us at the present time any need for further economy-type hotels, budget-type hotels. I presume the Member is not referring to a specific chain, but a category of hotel. As I indicated, there is a Super 8 Motel under construction on the West Perimeter Highway at the present time, about 50 percent or so completed. There is one already completed and operating on No. 1 East, just east of Lagimodiere Boulevard. There is a similar type discount hotel on the corner of Sargent and King Edward, and there is another one on Pembina Highway South. Those are just some that I am aware of offhand.

I think the market is being helped, and certainly the fact that we do not have any is not a correct one.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Acting Chairman, it is five to five o'clock. I will be willing to close here. I want to ask just one other question of the Minister and it deals with potential development of the Winnipeg Farmers' Market and the Winnipeg Indoor Water Park Development. Are these in the planning stages at this time and being given active consideration by the Government?

**Mr. Ernst:** The Farmers' Market is under construction at the Forks site under the Forks Renewal Corporation, and hopefully will be under the direction of my colleague, the Minister for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). There is no water park proposal at the present time.

**Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona):** Mr. Acting Chairman, we concur with the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) that this particular Estimates session will conclude on Monday. However, as a courtesy, we would like the Honourable Minister to know that we do intend to raise a few questions to him as Minister responsible for Sport so that he has the opportunity to prepare appropriately.

**Mr. Ernst:** It was my earnest hope that we would have done that this afternoon, and I had my staff sitting up there all afternoon waiting in order to answer or be available to answer those kinds of questions, but they will be available on Monday at the appropriate time.

**Mr. Kozak:** As the Minister might know, we would have been delighted to proceed to the area of Sport today, but all Honourable Members are certainly entitled to question as they see fit.

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I might suggest that being there are no further questions, we pass everything up to the Minister's Salary. As there is no specific department that relates to Sports, we can have that intro. between everything that we passed and before we deal with the Minister's Salary. Is that reasonable?

**Mr. Plohman:** I have indicated that we would like to see this passed on Monday. So there is no effort on our part to delay these, but I do not want to pass for everything up to there. I would say the ones we have discussed, which is the Tourism Development, could be passed now and there may be a few questions on the others on Monday.

\* (1700)

**The Acting Chairman, Mr. Parker Burrell:** Item 5.(c)(2)—pass.

The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

**IN SESSION  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Mr. Parker Burrell (Acting Chairman of the Committee of Supply):** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the report of the committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**Mr. Speaker:** The time being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Business.

**DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS  
PUBLIC BILLS**

**BILL NO. 2—THE BUSINESS  
NAMES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, Bill No. 2, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'enregistrement des noms commerciaux, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). Stand?

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, I have some comments on it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do we have leave to leave it standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General? (Agreed) Then we will let the Honourable Member for Thompson—agreed?

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** Just a minute, I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was not paying attention, what did you say?

**Mr. Speaker:** We are going to leave it standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). The Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) wants to speak on it right now.

**Mr. Angus:** He is going to speak on it first and then we will be allowed to speak. Thank you.

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the indulgence of the House. I do have some comments about this particular Bill. I want to, first of all, say that I am certainly pleased that we are leaving this Bill in the name of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). My hope, the fact that this is standing in his name, has been standing in his name for quite some time, will be a reminder to him of the importance of this Bill. I hope that the Attorney-General will take the time to follow through in his function as Attorney-General and give us the comments of the Government on this particular item of legislation.

I feel we have a very serious problem that has developed, a problem that affects a number of small businesses, and I believe it is time that we got some clear direction from the Government on this. I would hope that the Attorney-General, on Bill No. 2 and its companion piece of legislation, Bill No. 3, will finally stand up for the small business of this province, stand up for Brick's Fine Furniture and take a stand because, by the passage of this particular Bill and the companion line of legislation, Bill No. 3, we can do something about the Brick's Fine Furniture situation. We can do something about the many other small businesses that are being caught in a vise grip by the current legislation.

I understand that the Liberal Party is willing to allow this to go to a committee. There was certainly the indication previously. So what is happening is the Conservative Party, the Conservative Government, is holding up this legislation, an item I feel which stands up for small business, and I find it incongruous and I hope the Minister of Agriculture does that here we have the Conservative Party, which likes to mouth these platitudes about its support for small business, not doing anything for a number of small businesses that are affected by the situation, whereas the Liberals and the New Democrats have decided to take a stand on this particular issue.

Well, I want to indicate from the outset that I have been to Brick's Fine Furniture here. In fact, I went with the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway). I talked to Mr. Brick directly. I have had the opportunity of looking at the situation that he is in and let us look at it. You have a family-owned business that has been in operation under this name for quite some time. You have a national corporation that is attempting to use that particular name here in Manitoba. You have a small business that has faced, I believe, \$65,000 in legal bills to protect the right for one, to protect the right to use his own family name on the business, a family name that he has used for how many years?

**An Honourable Member:** Twenty-five.

**Mr. Ashton:** Twenty-five years. Now, I could not think of something that is more straightforward than that. We have a family business, we have a businessman who is trying to use his own name, maintain the right to do it, who has been stopped with \$65,000 in legal bills. We have this national company—that is an international company, I believe—that deals in California under a different name.

**An Honourable Member:** Concepts 2000.

**Mr. Ashton:** Concepts 2000. Why could it not deal under that name in Manitoba, I really do not know. But we have this company, which has also known about the existence of Brick's Fine Furniture in Manitoba for quite some time, which was documented by the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) in his speech introducing this Bill. It was documented as part of the legal proceedings that have taken place in the whole legal wrangle over the use of this particular name.

Why they could not use another name and allow Brick's Fine Furniture, an established small Manitoba



business to maintain the use of their name, I really do not know. Why the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) would not stand up now and at least let this go to committee because I am sure—I know one of the Liberal Members wishes to speak on this Bill today—the Liberal caucus and I know our own caucus would be more than happy to allow this Bill to go to committee, in fact, to approve it for committee today.

Because if the Attorney-General has any specific concerns about wording, that is the time to deal with it. What we are dealing with is second reading, as the Attorney-General should well know and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) should well know, is the principle of the Bill. It is the principle of the Bill.

\* (1710)

Now are the Conservatives opposed to the principle of protecting small business when it comes to name registration? -(Interjection)- Well, the Attorney-General is just walking by and the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) suggests that that is maybe exactly what the Attorney-General stands for, but we are not quite sure. In fact, it would help us I think a great deal if the Attorney-General would address this particular Bill.

We have seen the issue being raised in the Question Period in the House. It is not just during debate on this particular Bill that this issue has been raised. The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) has been pushing this issue consistently in Question Period. In fact, I know the Member may indeed have further questions on the Brick's Fine Furniture situation. Day after day after day, we find a situation in which this national company is in contravention of Manitoba law and yet the Attorney-General refuses to press charges.

Now, I want to know why. I want to know why, as a Member of this Legislature, Mr. Speaker. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) does not say exactly where he stands because he is the key player now as Attorney-General. He can press charges and in fact the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) asked the Premier (Mr. Filmon) to direct the Attorney-General to press charges because the Attorney-General has thus far refused to do so.

As I said, why has he not done it? We are not quite sure. But if he is not going to press charges, what he can do at the very least is take action on what is I think a rather urgent situation and allow the passage of this Bill. He can indicate his own position, if he is opposed to it. We do have clear indication that a majority of Members in this Legislature will support it for second reading. So if it is a matter of his being opposed, let him say so on the record today and let us have a vote on it. Let us get it into committee and let us continue the debate at that point.

Because, Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a very serious situation involving not just Brick's Fine Furniture, but a number of other companies in Manitoba, a number of other small- to medium-size business operations that find that they cannot use their own name because of the situation they are faced with where other companies are attempting to do so.

The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), for example, pointed out in his opening speech the problem that

Advance Electronics has faced. That is a Manitoba-based electronics firm, a staff of 120 people, has an operation in Winnipeg, Regina, and Saskatoon. It has been in operation since 1985, pardon me, 1953. In fact, in 1985 Stereo Voice of Canada Limited, a Toronto-based electronics firm, filed in Ottawa for the registration of the name "Advance" as a federal trademark. Now is that fair? We have a business that has been in operation in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, a fair size small business, 120 employees. They have had this name since 1953 and now there is a company based out of Toronto that is attempting to come in and, basically I would say, steal the name because that is in effect what it is doing. It is taking the name, the reputation, and I would say even some of the business of that company when it does so, because I am sure that anyone who has been in business will indicate that one of the significant things that you own, whether it be anything, in the service sector, a restaurant or a hotel or any operation, is the name of that business. That is significant because every business basically develops a reputation, after a certain period of time develops a market, and that market and reputation is associated with the name.

**Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood):** Ducharme Insurance, you would have a Ducharme Insurance, Gerald, come in from out of the province and do the same thing to you.

**Mr. Ashton:** The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) points to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme), what might happen to Ducharme Insurance. The Member for Elmwood is talking about his own business situation. The bottom line is that it could happen to many different types of businesses. They could have the name virtually stolen from under them.

Advance is just one indication. Another one has been with Imperial Roadways, which was presented with a writ from the Ontario Court which would prevent them from using their name. In fact, Roadways Express Incorporated was attempting to prevent Imperial Roadways from using the name it had established for a considerable period of time. I can not quite see the confusion, but it shows you the problem you run into once again.

Let us not forget what happens to the small business when they are put in this situation. What they are faced with is a legal nightmare. It is a nightmare because here they have a name, a business, a reputation that has been established over a considerable period of time. Then they are up against often a large corporation with significant legal and financial resources.-(Interjection)-

The Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) says what about Brick's Fine Furniture? Brick's Fine Furniture has been faced with \$65,000 worth of legal bills, a small Manitoba business that is fighting to maintain the use of its name. Now for the small business in Manitoba, that may be a significant amount of money, but for the large international corporation that is attempting to use that name, what is \$65,000.00?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing):** It is a lot of money.

**Mr. Ashton:** The Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) says it is a lot of money. It is a lot less money for the large corporation than it is for Brick's Fine Furniture.

You know, it is a nightmare. I went down to Brick's Fine Furniture. As I said, I talked to Mr. Fred Brick. I saw his operation; I can see why he is so concerned. It is partly a matter of pride to him. He has built the name Brick's Fine Furniture. He has built it in this city. He has built a reputation. There are a couple of Members in this House who have indicated that they have been to Brick's Fine Furniture. They know the situation. The bottom line is he has built a reputation. He has built a definite part of the market which is not the market that the other Brick, "The Brick", basically is trying to crack into. He has gotten to the point where he has had to put on his front door a sign that says, "This is not The Brick. This is Brick's Fine Furniture. There is no connection between the two."

I do not think that anyone at first would necessarily think that the confusion would create a problem, but it creates a significant problem. Because it is a different market, people are associating Brick's Fine Furniture with The Brick. They are not patronizing Brick's Fine Furniture in the way they would otherwise. Even the confusion creates problems.

Let us not think of what would happen if Fred Brick was denied the use of his own family name for his family business. What would happen under those circumstances if he had to establish another name after being in business for 25 years as Brick's Fine Furniture? I can say what would happen because it has happened to other businesses who have had to change their name. As I said, your key aspect in the market, one of the key things is the identification with the name of the business which associates, after a certain period of time, a certain level of service, a certain type of product and, if Brick's Fine Furniture becomes a name to something else, then all that good will that is developed over that 25-year period evaporates and they have to start again.

Let us look at what has been happening since the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) raised this issue. The problem is worsening. Now The Brick has opened a second store in the constituency of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) himself. So when I ask why the Attorney-General has not addressed this issue yet, I know it is not because he does not know about the situation. In his own constituency, this company is operating.

Mr. Speaker, since this issue was first raised, The Brick has been in contravention of our laws for 120 days and yet the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has not laid charges. Why has he not laid charges? There is no way we can find out until the Attorney-General speaks on this particular Bill.

Since this was first raised by the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), there have been literally thousands of dollars of advertising spent using the name "The Brick," causing further confusion and further problems for Brick's Fine Furniture. The situation is worsening day by day by day.

Of all the Bills that we have on the Order Paper, I would suggest that this is one where there is indeed

urgency. The other Bills, we can perhaps take our time to debate and we should. As Members of the Legislature, I think that is appropriate to carefully consider legislation.

But I would consider Bill 2 and Bill 3 to be quite urgent in nature. I would consider it appropriate for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) today to stand up and give the views of his caucus, give his view as Attorney-General, explain why he has not laid charges and what he proposes to do for the small businesses like Brick's Fine Furniture. Will he take action? Will he allow the passage of Bills 2 and 3? Will he allow it to go to committee? What is the Attorney-General afraid of? We will not know until the Attorney-General stands in his place to make it clear what will be said.

I heard the Deputy Premier (Mr. Cummings) suggesting "send it to committee." If the Deputy Premier is willing to, I will sit down this very minute. I am sure after a few minutes from the Liberal Member, we can do exactly that. I would be glad to take up the Deputy Premier's office. But let us get the debate moving, let us get it into committee, because it is an urgent Bill. Let us do something for the small businesses of this province, for the Brick's Fine Furniture, for the Advance Electronics, for the Imperial Roadways. Let us take a stand for them against the national and international companies that are attempting to encroach on their rights. Thank you.

**Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson):** I might say at the outset on this particular Bill, Mr. Speaker, the businesses concerned with, namely Brick's Fine Furniture and The Brick Warehouse, I lay some modest claim to expertise in the matter. In one of my previous incarnations in the retail trade, I spent 13 years of my life in the furniture business with a small local store on Portage Avenue between Donald and Hargrave.

First of all, I find it difficult to see any particular problem. Looking at this from a merchandising point of view, Brick's Fine Furniture is what the name suggests. It is fine furniture that Mr. Brick is merchandising. The company that is alleged to be invading the Brick territory is not in that particular furniture market. It goes by the name of The Brick Warehouse Incorporated with a trademark for the name "The Brick." It is in the business of more mass merchandising. I have not been there, so I will not lay claim to a detailed knowledge of it, but it is certainly furniture of a definitely lower price and quality grade than that merchandised by Brick's Fine Furniture.

If I might draw an analogy, it would be if our local Mr. Brick had, let us say, a car dealership handling, for instance, Mercedes, for someone with a similar name to come in, handling Chevies or Fords or Volkswagens or whatever, would scarcely be called in direct competition with the other particular business. So I find it difficult to comprehend how allegations of any great damage to Mr. Brick's business can be done by such another type of merchandise being available.

I do not know how The Brick Warehouse arrived at their name, whether there was any Mr. Brick involved in it or they just chose the name somewhere. They

might have called it the Stone Warehouse Company or the Wood Warehouse Company, in which case there could be somebody named Mr. Stone or Mr. Wood in any other city or town in which they set up business. The thing boils down, I think, to a matter of some legalities. Actually, the proposed Bill really does nothing more than reword what is already in the legislation, and gives no further strength to the particular Act or any particular additional protection to local small businesses.

There is nothing in law to prevent any individual from carrying on a business under his or her name. Mr. Brick, or any of us here, or any other Manitoba citizen is perfectly free to set up a business under his or her particular name. This is not at issue. Brick's Fine Furniture cannot be stopped from carrying on business as Brick's Fine Furniture. They are merchandising their higher quality of furniture. The competitors for this particular business is not "The Brick Warehouse" or "The Brick." It is other local, small businesses in the fine furniture businesses, businesses such as Wilson's or Steek's, for example.

\* (1720)

So I find that it is difficult to come up with any feeling of enthusiasm for this Bill, which amends existing legislation which does give full protection. As I said, it is just merely a rewording of what is already there. With the matter of the names, we must recognize that the name "The Brick" is a trademark.

All one has to do to register ones own particular name and have it protected, or some trademark name such as "The Brick," is merely to pay, as I understand it, a fee of \$15.00. Trademarks are under federal jurisdiction. For \$15, Brick's Fine Furniture or any other local or small business can have its name registered as a trademark and have the full protection of the federal jurisdiction all across Canada. Any individual starting up in a business, be it small or large, should be aware of this. For a mere \$15, now he or she might have to spend \$100 or \$200 or \$300 or \$400 on a lawyer for a few hours to advise on matters such as this but, again, any smart businessperson starting up a business should realize that it would behoove them to have a lawyer advise them on the various problems and pitfalls that might arise, and to take steps such as this.

So specifically, the sections of the Act that are proposed to be amended, specifically Articles 2 and 3, as I mentioned, are really a rewording of what is already there. It is hard to see where any real additional protection could come in. The amendment to Subsection 20 allowing court to order the person to cease and desist from carrying on the business—the court already has those powers within Section 20 as it exists. If I may just quote from Section 20 as it stands, "Where a person is guilty of an offence the Court, in addition to any punishment it may impose, order that person to comply with the provisions in the Act or the regulations for the contravention of which he has been convicted." Certainly, if anyone does not comply with the orders of a court, I am certain that the court has

the power without being specifically stated to order that individual or organization to cease and desist.

So, Mr. Speaker, as this stands, as I mentioned before, I do not think that it achieves, let us say, the purpose for which it was intended. The protection already is there.

I fail to see how Brick's Fine Furniture is hurt seriously in his business by the use of the trade name The Brick, the trademark The Brick, which they have perfect power to use all across Canada because it is a registered federal trademark, or how it can be seriously hurt by The Brick Warehouse which is in an entirely different type of furniture merchandise. So I find, Mr. Speaker, that I can find no real grounds for supporting this Bill in that, as things stand, I do not see any particular danger to our small businesses in Manitoba under the legislation as it already exists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been agreed upon that it will stand in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

### BILL NO. 3—THE CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 3, The Corporations Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les corporations, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

### BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA HYDRO AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). (Stand)

### BILL NO. 16—THE REAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 16, The Real Property Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biens réels, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik). (Stand)

### BILL NO. 20—THE WATER RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), Bill No. 20, The Water Rights Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les droits d'utilisation de l'eau, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

**SECOND READINGS—PUBLIC BILLS**

**BILL NO. 22—THE LIQUOR CONTROL  
AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition)** presented Bill No. 22, The Liquor Control Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

\* (1730)

**Mr. Doer:** This is a Bill indeed I think all Members of this Legislature can support. It is a Bill to amend The Liquor Control Act to provide for statutory provisions that knives and other weapons will not be allowed in licensed premises in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, the Criminal Code allows for knives to be worn by individuals if they are not hidden, and therefore there has been a weakness in the Criminal Code that has been identified by Attorneys-General and police departments and police chiefs for years in that people can carry knives on their person, on the streets, and this has not been changed in terms of the Criminal Code as it affects licensed premises.

The Attorneys-General have raised this allegedly on a verbal basis in past meetings with the federal Ministers of Justice. The federal Justice Minister has not opened up the Criminal Code and provided for the kind of relief and kind of security in our streets that has been recommended by Attorneys-General in this country.

Upon meeting with various crime prevention groups, with police departments and other organizations, the police, whether it was the Chief of Police and other members of the City of Winnipeg Police, and also by members of the rural police forces, have asked this Legislature to amend The Liquor Control Act to provide for a provision to prohibit knives and other weapons in licensed premises. It is fairly straightforward.

One can get into jurisdictional disputes about whether indeed a Bill like this is constitutional in light of the Criminal Code. It seems to be ambiguous in any interpretation we received, as it is certainly better within the Criminal Code to update that statute to meet the needs of the various law establishment organizations across this country but, failing that, we do have the statutory right to provide this legislation to prohibit knives in licensed premises.

I know that crime and violent crime is not a partisan issue. I know that every Member of this Legislature is opposed to violent crime and would do everything in their power to ensure that our streets are safer and our establishments are safer. It is the opinion of people I respect that this amendment to The Liquor Control Act will not in itself, obviously, stop all crime and all violent crime in Winnipeg and other communities, but that this Bill and this amendment will help the Winnipeg City Police and other police forces in licensed premises. They believe that less knives in licensed premises will mean that less people get hurt on a rather impulsive nature or that, when people leave the licensed premises,

less people could be hurt in the future with less knives being on the street.

This is certainly not the be-all and end-all in terms of crime prevention and violence on the street, but we believe that Legislatures have got to act in a way that helps our police forces. We cannot get tied up with how many angels are on the tip of a constitutional pin. We have got to start acting on behalf of our police forces to give them some tools to do their job. This legislation of course was drafted by legislative draftspeople before, and we believe that it is one worthy of support by all Members of this Legislature as one very small step forward in all of our fight against crime, and particularly violent crime on our streets in this province.

I would highly recommend this to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) and to the Members of this Legislature. Thank you very much.

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), that the debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**BILL NO. 26—THE CONSUMER  
PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood)** presented Bill No. 26, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. Maloway:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be introducing this Bill at second reading. The Bill amends The Consumer Protection Act. The Consumer Protection Act was originally passed by the Schreyer Government back in 1969 and it was quite a revolutionary piece of legislation at that time. It deals with the area of warranties, credit terms, direct selling, licensing and bonding but, as with most Acts over the years, they need improvements in certain areas. There are many areas that need improvement in this Act, but this Bill will be addressing three of those areas.

The first amendment will extend the four-day cooling off period on direct sales in section 61 to seven days. Now that, we felt, was a fairly reasonable compromise because Saskatchewan, our neighbouring province, has a 10-day cooling off period on direct sales. I believe one of the Maritime provinces has a similar type period, so we felt that a seven-day cooling off period was a healthy compromise that would more than likely be acceptable to the business community, the consumers and to the broadest number of Members of this House. The seven-day period is the period in which people can cancel their contracts, change their minds, cancel their contracts and have their money returned on door-to-door sales.

Mr. Speaker, the second amendment will add a new section dealing with prepaid services. Many consumers

over the years have lost hundreds of dollars due to sudden closures of businesses such as health spas, dance studios, martial arts schools and other similar type businesses. A lot of these people have prepaid for contracts. Many of these contracts run for a lifetime, and to avoid having people sign up for a lifetime of dance lessons and other such things, we feel that the amendment is necessary to reduce consumers' exposure to potential losses by restricting the length of time that a person can sign these contracts for. The amendment limits the amount of time for one year on a non-renewable basis and at the end of the year a person is free to sign a new contract with any of these service companies for yet another year.

There is also in this amendment a restriction or a minimum of two payments required so that the consumer will not have to pay the whole year at once, that they will be broken down to at least two payments.

Now, the third amendment provides a whole new section requiring car dealers to keep the manufacturers' suggested retail price stickers on the car until it is sold. I do not know whether you or Members of the House are aware but this is the law in Ontario and new cars coming into Manitoba, whether they come in by truck or whether they come in by train, actually have these manufacturers' suggested retail price stickers on their windshield, affixed to the windshield right from the factory. What the car dealers do is pay somebody to remove this sticker. In fact, when I was out in one of the car dealers' back lots, I found they had either scratched them out or they had taken them and xeroxed out all of the relevant information. And then, of course, they draw up their own documents which, I am informed, normally show about a \$2,000 increase and about \$2,000 more in the price.

\* (1740)

It has been explained to me by a couple of car dealers that it works well for them because it allows them to basically, essentially give an individual whatever they are asking for in the trade-in. So if you go in to trade in a car, they will not quibble with you. They will give you what you are asking for, and so they maintain their profit margins. Of course, I suppose where an individual walks into a car dealership and without trade-in and does very little price negotiating—perhaps a \$500 reduction on the car and thinking that they have gotten some hot deal, this of course is not the case. In fact, the dealer is making an extra \$1,500 as a result of it.

Requiring these stickers would provide a referral price for buyers to consider when bargaining for a new car. To the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), I might remind him that Mr. Haddad from the Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association, when interviewed by the CBC, and is on record as not being ecstatic about this legislation, has said that he and the Motor Dealers' Association will not oppose it. They can see that it has a certain amount of consumer appeal. While the

president of the Motor Dealers Association certainly wants to and has to—it is his job to protect the interests of the car dealers—he is not going to, and I do not expect him to get up and shout and say that this is a terrific idea. But he has said he will not oppose it and I think that is significant.

I also wanted to mention that this legislation was lobbied for by consumers groups in this province. The Consumers' Association of Canada has endorsed these amendments. The Consumers' Association of Canada is very, very supportive of all three amendments and particularly the amendment dealing with the requirement for the manufacturers' suggested retail price ticket to be left on cars. I believe they have lobbied perhaps all Parties in this Legislature in that regard.

I feel that this Bill will have widespread appeal to the consumers. It will have the avid active support of groups like the Consumers' Association of Canada and not only that, but the Motor Dealers' Association who would be the only people left who would oppose this, have said, the president has said on CBC that he would not oppose this amendment. You can conclude from that he as well will not be creating major problems for this legislation. I would like to conclude by urging all Members in this House to support these important amendments.

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried**

## **DEBATE ON SECOND READING PRIVATE BILLS**

### **BILL NO. 18—AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer), Bill No. 18, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate the Manitoba Motor League; Loi modifiant la Loi intitulée "An Act to Incorporate the Manitoba Motor League," standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Piohman). (Stand)

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** Do not get too carried away. Wait till you hear what I have to say. Mr. Speaker, I would ask for the cooperation of the House and suggest that it be called six o'clock and leave it standing.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed) This matter will stand in the Honourable Member for Wolseley's name.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning (Friday).