

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, October 24, 1989.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

## PRAYERS

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have examined the petition of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) and note that it does not comply with the Rules of this House in that: (a) it is not addressed to the Legislative Assembly as required by the precedence of this House in Beauschêne's Citation 1017; (b) it is not in a format set out in Appendix "A" to the Rules of the House as referred to in Rule 81.(6); and (c) the minimum of three signatures does not appear on the initial pages as required by Rule 81.(7).

I must therefore rule the petition out of order.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table that petition.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. On the tabling of the document by the Honourable Member for The Pas, the Chair will take this matter under advisement and report back to the House.

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Mr. William Chornopyski (Chairman of Committees):** 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 Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), that the report of the committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### BILL NO. 77—THE CEMETERIES AMENDMENT ACT

\* (1335)

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 77, The Cemeteries Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les cimetières.

### BILL NO. 78—THE PREARRANGED FUNERAL SERVICES AMENDMENT ACT

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 78, The Prearranged Funeral Services

Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les arrangements préalables de services de pompes funèbres.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the gallery, where we have 31 visitors from the Manitoba Rural Leadership Training Committee, Practical Politics Seminar, and they are under the direction of Ken Martens.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### Canadian Airlines Pilot Relocations

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger). Winnipeg has a long history as the transportation hub for western Canada. We have watched that position deteriorate with layoffs at CN, at VIA, at Wardair, with reductions in service, particularly in flights to Europe by Air Canada, and today we have had it confirmed that 22 Canadian Air pilots, presently stationed in Winnipeg, have been told they must relocate.

Can the Minister of Transportation tell the House what contact he has had with Canadian Airlines, with respect to these transfers?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that a few weeks ago, I had contact with Canadian Airlines when we discussed the proposed—not necessarily a move, because many of the pilots are stationed across the country. They have homes in various areas, but they keep getting shifted around from one city to the next.

We are trying to establish exactly how many pilots would be actually moved out of the city. We do not think it is going to be a very major effect.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, Canadian Airlines confirmed to us this morning that it was 22 pilots that would be transferred outside of this city.

### Manitoba Service

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Minister tell us what implications will this have on service in Manitoba, particularly to communities like Brandon and the North?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, it will have no effect on

the service that is provided. There are 22 pilots affected, but that does not mean that 22 pilots are moving out of this city. It is just a matter of how they are stationing them.

We have been on top of this from the day that they contemplated this move, and we are trying to assure that it will not have an impact on Winnipeg and Manitoba.

### Maintenance Work

\* (1340)

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Minister tell us if home base for these pilots is no longer going to be Winnipeg, and that is what was reported to us this morning, what effect will this have on maintenance work, long or short term, in the City of Winnipeg?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, the fact that pilots are being shuffled around has no impact on the maintenance aspect of it at all, and the service will still remain the way it is at the present time.

### Ground Crews

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Minister inform the House if any ground workers will be affected by this transfer and how many may be involved?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that any ground crews are going to be affected by this move.

### Transportation Industry Manitoba Services

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, there has not been since this Government took office, despite the innumerable number of layoffs in a large range of transportation services, any long-term strategy by this Government to stop the erosion of Winnipeg as a transportation hub. When will they enunciate such a policy for Manitoba?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, we are well aware that Winnipeg, and Manitoba, is the transportation hub of Canada so to speak. We are very proud of the fact that we are exporters of transportation services. We also have the transport institute that is working on some of these things. We are also working with city organizations, we are looking at the aspect of enhancing our position as a transportation centre, and we are very concerned about the fact if there is any deletion of that. So, Mr. Speaker, we are working on all fronts in terms of trying to retain the reputation that we have of being an exporter of transportation services.

### Meeting Request

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to maintain that reputation when we watch CN layoffs, VIA layoffs, and Wardair layoffs. We watch flights being cancelled, and we find service being disintegrated in areas like Brandon. The present erosion is killing our province as a transportation centre.

Will this Minister immediately call a meeting of representatives of all transportation sectors, trucking, bus, airlines, trains, to develop a strategy for the '90s so that we are prepared for the 21st Century?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I have just indicated that we have groups right now that are working on the aspect of the future of transportation in Manitoba and in Canada.

We have TIDAC that is involved and we have the Institute of Transportation at the university that is involved in these things. We are looking at the possible shifts in trends that could happen in transportation over the next 10 to 20 years. Most certainly we want to make sure that we play a vital part, as we have in the past, as being a transportation hub for Canada, and we hope to enhance that position.

### Raggedy-Ann Day Care Centres Staffing

**Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns):** Mr. Speaker, as late as yesterday the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and this Government upheld the benefits of profit-making day care, yet evidence continues to grow to show the problems in that policy.

My question is for the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson). Given that in the last week or so three of four trained staff at the Raggedy-Ann Day Nursery on McPhillips Street have quit, and the fourth has submitted her resignation effective the end of this month which will leave the centre without adequately trained staff to care for children on site, can the Minister tell this House whether or not she is prepared to deal with this situation and explain why she is allowing as many as 32 children to be cared for today in a facility that is ill equipped to provide services as set out in this province's Day Care Standards Act?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services):** Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows there is a licensing order on that centre with the proviso that they immediately provide adequate staffing ratios, and by November 1 provide qualified staff in that centre. We are certainly prepared to act if those regulations cannot be met.

**Ms. Wasylcia-Leis:** If this Minister put children before profits, there would be a closed sign on the door of this day care, not a licence order.

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister is, given that the employees are leaving or have left this

centre on McPhillips Street because they have not been paid, they are receiving bounced cheque after bounced cheque, bad cheque after bad cheque, how can she in good conscience allow this private enterprise day care operation to continue operating without proper staffing, without paying for staff hired as recently as the end of August and without—

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

\* (1345)

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Speaker, the same regulations are in place as were in place when that Member was a Member of that Government and of the Cabinet of that Government. We are insisting those regulations have to be followed by all people who run child care centres. The protection of children, the care of children is uppermost in our minds as we work through this trying to get compliance to the regulations.

### Interim Director

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** Mr. Speaker, by not acting promptly and by dragging her heels in terms of using the conditional licensed process, and now the licensing order process, innocent victims are falling by the wayside. My question to the Minister of Family Services is: how many NSF cheques does it take? How many innocent already low-paid staff must go as victims? How many children must be at risk? Will this Minister, given the seriousness of the situation, today announce that she is putting in place an interim director so staff can get paid so children are not at risk?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The question has been put.

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services):** I do not hire the staff at the McPhillips Day Care Centre. They are hired by the owner of that centre and I am asking that owner to follow the regulations. If those regulations cannot be followed, then steps will be taken.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** It is clear that those regulations have not been followed, and now we have some serious problems on our hands. This Government is forcing day care workers to the Labour Board.

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

### Manitoba Child Care Association Meeting Request

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is: given that today at two o'clock the Manitoba Child Care Association will be making a statement about their serious concerns in day care, notwithstanding whatever is in that announcement, I am sure they would still like to meet with the Premier as soon as possible. Is the Premier prepared today to tell this House whether, after this press conference at two o'clock, he is prepared to commit himself to a meeting with the Manitoba Child Care Association as soon as possible?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I have said before that I will deal in good faith with the Manitoba Child Care Association. I am not here in this House to be negotiating with the Member for St. Johns on behalf of any group in Manitoba, whether it be the Manitoba Child Care Association or anyone else. I will await their news conference, and I will await any further communication that I have with them.

### Provincial/Municipal Projects Scrap Yard Relocation

**Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge):** Mr. Speaker, there is an unsightly environmentally unsafe metal scrap yard in the Point Douglas area of Winnipeg.

When she was in Government, the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) thought the province ought to cost-share the relocation of those yards with the City of Winnipeg, and we all know the Member for Logan is no fool.

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

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

\* (1350)

**Mr. Carr:** My question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). Has his Government agreed to cost-share the relocation of the scrap yards with the City of Winnipeg?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the amount that was decided at the time, we have not withdrawn that from our negotiations.

**Mr. Carr:** What I gather from the Minister's response is, yes, the province has agreed to cost-share the relocation of the metal scrap yards in the Point Douglas area with the City of Winnipeg. May I ask the Minister of Urban Affairs why he is choosing to cost-share this project with the City of Winnipeg but not the Works Yards by the Health Sciences Centre?

**Mr. Ducharme:** That was a commitment put forward by the previous administration and my answer to him was we had still agreed to honour their obligation.

**Mr. Carr:** Does the Minister of Urban Affairs believe it is appropriate for the Province of Manitoba to cost-share and to honour the commitment made by the previous Government? I recognize that the previous Government thought it was appropriate for the province to put some money into the relocation of those scrap yards. Does the Minister believe it is appropriate, in this case, to cost-share the movement of those yards with the City of Winnipeg?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member's question seeks an opinion, therefore out of order.

### City Works Yards Relocation

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, kindly rephrase the question.

**Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge):** Mr. Speaker, why will the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) not commit his Government to cost-sharing the relocation of the City Works Yards with the City of Winnipeg?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):** Very simple, there has been no proposal put forward by the City of Winnipeg.

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

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

### **P.C. Fundraising Dinner Drinking and Driving Jokes**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I thought all three Parties were going to do some lobbying on this one.

My question is for the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae). I have been advised that at the Tory fund-raising dinner held last Saturday, part of the entertainment included a comedian who feigned he was drunk and told jokes about drinking and driving.

Mr. Speaker, the fund-raising dinner would normally not be the subject of discussion in this House except for the fact that at least some of the people who were at that dinner have contacted us and expressed their displeasure at these jokes, and have found them very offensive and in total contradiction to this Minister's and this Government's stated position on drinking and driving.

Quite simply my question is: how could this Minister sit at that dinner and tolerate a comedian paid for by the Tory Party to make light of drinking and driving?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member's question deals with a matter which is not within the responsibility of the Government, therefore it is out of order. The Honourable Member for St. James, kindly rephrase his question, please.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, given that this Minister has been at the vanguard of drinking and driving, at least he has said he has been in the last year, is the Minister offended by comments made at—would the Minister be offended by comments at a political fund-raising dinner which sought to make light of drinking and driving?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I would remind the Honourable Member that his question deals with a matter which is not within the responsibility of the Government. The Honourable Member for St. James, with a new question.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Honourable Member for St. James.

**Mr. Edwards:** Will this Minister—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James has the floor.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, will this Minister reaffirm his commitment to taking drinking and driving seriously in this House particularly in light of comments which we have been advised were made at a Tory fund-raising dinner Saturday night?

**Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General):** Mr. Speaker, the fund raiser was attended by a tremendous number of people—

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

\* (1355)

**Mr. McCrae:** —and Tory fund raisers have been growing and growing ever since the advent of the Liberal Party's increase in vote in the last election. I can say to the Honourable Member that the organization of the dinner was not a Government-sponsored matter. I sat near the back of the room and had a little trouble hearing what was going on, but what I did hear was clearly not funny. Some of that which I did hear, I do not condone.

### **Ethnic/Racist Jokes**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** I have a question for the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Will the Premier reaffirm his Government's commitment and his commitment to multiculturalism and to the preservation of ethnic minorities in our community, in our province, in light of comments which we have been advised were made by the same comedian, disparaging comments about the Polish people in this community?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, as a Canadian of Polish descent, I would suggest to you that I in no way would ever allow myself to be involved in any situation in which I spoke ill of any person because of their race, religion or ethnic background. Under no circumstances would I endorse or condone that being said by anyone in society.

### **Premier's Action**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** The Premier is the Premier of this province always, and when he speaks to Manitobans he is the Premier and he represents this Government and the province. Why did he not take the opportunity, when he spoke at that same event to Manitoba taxpayers and to Manitoba voters and citizens, to disassociate himself from those comments seeing as he spoke after they were made?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Events that are planned by those outside the Government are obviously not ones in which the Government can anticipate any eventuality. I might say this, because of my concern about those comments that were made, I have spoken to various people who have been involved with the organization and am assured that such a situation will not occur again.

## Child and Family Services Program Reductions

**Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson). It has been reported that the Child and Family Services Agency in Brandon, of the Westman area, is looking at cutting youth outreach programs, sex abuse programs, post-adoption services, rural resource development and many other programs.

I have also received information recently that other Child and Family Service agencies are also very concerned about funding levels and the destructive effect on families and their children. Will the Minister make a commitment today that there will be no service cutbacks?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services):** When I met with the presidents of the Child and Family Services agencies, within the last couple of weeks I believe it was, they indicated to me they were having financial problems. I indicated to them that they were to send me reports and budget information. I also indicated very clearly to them at that time that services should not be cut.

**Mr. Leonard Evans:** I thank the Minister for that answer, but I understand from reports in the Brandon Sun that the Westman Agency has outlined the cuts that will be necessary because of lack of provincial funding.

\* (1400)

Can the Minister advise the House to what extent the agency will have to cut the sex abuse programs, the post-adoption services, or the court and youth outreach program because of lack of provincial funding? Can she advise, what will the negative impact be on the children and their families in the Westman area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I will repeat what I said to the Member in answer to his previous question that services will not be cut. The indication in that article was that particular agency's suggestions of what they might cut. They have sent the information to my office. My staff is analyzing it, and I will be meeting with staff to discuss it in the next few days.

**Mr. Leonard Evans:** As I understand it, to repeat what the Minister has said, she has met with representatives of all the agencies and she is looking at the possibility of maintaining services.

Yet at the same time she argues that there will be no service cutback. I would like the Minister to explain to the House how she expects the agencies to maintain services at the same time to refuse to fund them according to the level that they believe necessary to maintain these services? How are you going to do it?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Speaker, that is what I had indicated to the Member, that we are analyzing those figures of the needs of those particular agencies. We do not fund the projection that they come and tell me at a meeting. I have to have the staff go through the numbers, analyze

them, be sure that they are accurate, and be sure that they reflect the true funding mechanism of the agency. We are doing that, and I will be meeting with staff shortly on that matter.

## Child and Family Services Deficit Analysis

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** We know that the Child and Family Services agency in Brandon is projecting a deficit in this fiscal year, and this is not a new agency, Mr. Speaker. This is a long-established agency that has always managed to bring in a balanced budget to this point. We know that there are other agencies as well who are in similar circumstances. These deficits are caused by increases in cost which this Government has failed to recognize.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have a question here?

**Ms. Gray:** My question to the Minister of Family Services is: can the Minister tell us today, because she has been working with these agencies for over a year and a half, what does she attribute as the cause for the continual deficits with these Child and Family Services agencies?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services):** I would be better able to give a response to that question after I have seen the analysis of the budgets that have been sent to my department.

**Ms. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the same Minister. In discussions with a number of the agencies over the past number of months, they indicated to us that very clearly they have laid out to the Minister and her staff a case as to why there are continued deficits.

Can the Minister indicate to us why she does not appear to have that information today, when in fact the agencies are saying they have been communicating continually with her and her Government?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Perhaps I should lay out the process again. We informed the agencies what their funding level would be for this year. They asked for a meeting with me to discuss it. At that time, I suggested to them it would be wise for them to send me the details of their budget and what their projections were. We are working on them. I will be meeting with them shortly and we will analyze the situation.

## Budget Request

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary for the same Minister, a very simple question. Can the Minister indicate to us, has she asked the Child and Family Services agencies to bring in a balanced budget for this year?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services):** I have asked them to send me their projections. I will repeat again, we expect all agencies to make every attempt to live within their budget, but as I say, I have not seen the results of the budgets that have been sent to my department recently.

## Arts Policy Review Committee Hearings Schedule

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** I had indicated yesterday in the House, of two questions asked by the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), that I would bring information to the House today.

I want to indicate to her when she says incorrectly that there are many arts groups and organizations throughout the province that know nothing about the Arts Policy Review, that I have with me some 400 pages of names and addresses of people and organizations that received copies of the Arts Policy Review Pamphlet.

Pamphlets were sent to 2,518 individuals and organizations throughout the province as well as a very comprehensive advertising campaign in all of the major papers, the weekly papers, and the ethnic papers.

So many Manitobans have had the opportunity to hear about the Arts Policy Review. If she has the odd person that was inadvertently missed off that list, I would hope that she would bring that information forward, and we would ensure that those people would get copies of the hearing process.

## Rural Schools Library Services

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). Most Manitobans would believe that access to quality education would mean access by most students, most teachers, to quality resources and quality facilities. In May of 1988 the Minister of Education was presented with a report from the Manitoba School Library Audio-Visual Association, which indicated that only 4 percent of rural schools have a school librarian in charge of their library.

Can the Minister of Education indicate whether he has taken any action, which would give the people in rural Manitoba the hope that they too would have access to quality library services?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** Again the Member for Flin Flon points out to a deficiency in our education system that in fact was created when he was Minister of Education. As a matter of fact, in late 1988 there was a report that was submitted to the department with regard to library and resource services throughout the province.

Indeed, there is a lack of the types of resources that we would like to have, as a province, in all our schools and that has to be addressed. The department and myself have been discussing that over a period of time. We were hopeful we could have some response to that report by June, but that has not been possible. Hopefully, by later this fall we will be in a position to respond in a positive way to that report.

**Mr. Storie:** The Minister acknowledged that he got the report, not anybody else. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with the president and the president-elect of the

Manitoba School Library Audio-Visual Association, and I can tell you they are distressed because this Minister has not been responding to their needs.

My question is: does the Minister have any intention of following up on his commitment to this association to have something in place, to do something concrete, both through the Ed Finance and through the departmental activities to ensure that library services are equally available throughout the Province of Manitoba? Does he intend to act or not?

**Mr. Derkach:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we will not do like the former Government and not act at all. As a matter of fact, we will take the recommendations very seriously and we will be prepared in a short time. I indicated that later this fall we will be prepared to respond positively to some of the recommendations that are within the report.

**Mr. Storie:** The Minister should be telling this to Reesa Cohen, the president of this association.

## Educational Materials Selection Criteria

\* (1410)

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education promised in June of 1988 that he would revise the policy relating to the selection of learning materials in our schools. He promised that in June; he promised again in May.

Will the Minister promise again and act on behalf of the parents of Manitoba, the teachers and our schools, to implement guidelines for selecting learning materials in the schools? Will he promise that again? - (interjection)-

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question has been put - (interjection)- Order, order. The Honourable Minister of Education.

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** It is unfortunate that the Member for Flin Flon cannot even read a letter correctly, because if he had a letter I had written to MSLAVA he would have found that I had indicated in May we would not be able to respond by June. We would be responding positively in the fall of this year, and we still intend to do that.

## Rural Economic Development Strategy

**Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks):** In response to questions yesterday, the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Penner) stated he was going to be Santa Claus with respect to rural economic development in this province. Although Christmas Eve is two months away, he told us he was going to have a rural economic development strategy in place not until some time after that.

We in the Liberal Party are not asking for the Minister to be Santa Claus but to provide this province with an

effective rural development strategy which rural Manitoba deserves. My question is: can the Minister responsible for Rural Development advise this House why rural Manitobans are still waiting for a rural economic development strategy when this was a Tory election promise in the last election some 18 months ago?

**Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has a somewhat distorted memory of what was said yesterday during Estimates debate. I think he was so far into the season that I am wondering whether his hearing was impaired.

I want to remind the Honourable Member that if he had been following events in rural Manitoba, he would recognize that this Government has not sat idly by and watched rural Manitoba deteriorate. Just yesterday there was an announcement that there would be an oat processing plant built in Portage la Prairie. Not very many weeks ago, there was an announcement that there would be a combine plant built in Portage la Prairie. In the spring of the year, this Government announced the sale of a forestry industry that had been losing money for the province for years, and that initiative in itself will cause economic enhancement in Portage.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**Mr. Minenko:** Mr. Speaker, the reply of this Minister is the kind of thing that Manitobans are outraged about.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please. The Honourable Government House Leader.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the feigned—

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

**Mr. McCrae:** —anger of the Honourable Member does not really wear so well in the beginning of a preamble, which is not allowed, to a supplementary question. I know the Honourable Member is frustrated that his Party is doing so poorly in rural Manitoba, but this is not the place to have an outburst.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, kindly put his question now, please.

**Mr. Minenko:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the same Minister. In that from the responses we see in Hansard from yesterday, we see the Minister has no strategy. My question to this Minister is: how many people have left rural Manitoba since his Government has been in power, and how many more shall leave if the present trend continues, which is instead of their policy? They said there is going to be a . . .

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member's question has been put. The Honourable Minister of Rural Development

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, it is small wonder that the Honourable Member is frustrated.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Penner:** The amount of support that has been indicated during recent polls to the Liberal Party in rural Manitoba indicates very clearly that they should show some frustration.

I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of other initiatives that have been taken through the land and water strategy, and the Liberal Party knows full well that this Government took upon itself to develop water policies and land policies that rural people have been looking for a long, long time. Out of that initiative, Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to this House that only yesterday we announced the raising of the level of the Jackson Dam, which will cause the Community of MacGregor to have a better water supply. We also announced the raising of the Stephenfield Dam, which will cause better water—

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please. I would like to remind the Honourable Minister that answers to questions should be as brief as possible.

The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, with his final supplementary question.

**Mr. Minenko:** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is: why does the Government have nothing in place with respect to a rural economic development strategy? Why is there no economic development strategy, and when the Minister suggests, and that is evidenced by the Minister's suggestion that we have to wait till the next budgetary year—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please; order please. The question—order. The Honourable Minister of Rural Development.

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Honourable Member would concur that we do have regional development corporations, which I think in most part have been doing a pretty fair job in trying to identify the kind of things that need to be done.

I would suggest to the Honourable Member and ask him if he would concur that in order to develop a proper long-term strategy, you need to consult with the communities that are going to be involved. That is what we have been doing, and as I said the other day in Estimates, it is our intent to bring that plan forward once it is—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, on a point of order.

**Mr. Minenko:** Well, the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Penner) has asked me a question, and I was just wondering whether I could—

\* (1420)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks knows he does not have a point of order. The Honourable Member for Thompson has the floor.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Northern Development Agreement Negotiations

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) that follows previous questions from myself and from the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) regarding the situation—(interjection)—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) has had an opportunity to pose his three questions. You have done so.

The Honourable Member for Thompson has the floor.

**Mr. Ashton:** The situation facing education programs in northern Manitoba following the elimination of the Northern Training Authority, following problems in a number of other programs including the Civil Technology Program, and the uncertainty facing many of the programs because of the uncertainty with the Northern Development Agreement, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will commit this Government now to maintaining the level of programming that exists, regardless of whether there is a new Northern Development Agreement, and whether he can further indicate the status of the latest negotiations on the NDA?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I reject the premise of the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) when he says that we are cutting programming in northern Manitoba or suggesting that.

Certainly our intention is to increase programming, not just to maintain it, but to increase programming in northern Manitoba for northern Manitobans and for Native Manitobans. Mr. Speaker, there has never been any suggestion by this Government to reduce programming to northern communities in this province. As a matter of fact that is exactly why we changed the NTEA, so that we would not have the administration in Winnipeg and programs delivered in northern Manitoba. Now the administration and the programs will be in northern Manitoba.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for Oral Questions has expired.

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have two rulings for the House.

On Friday October—order, please. I am sure all Honourable Members would like to hear this. On Friday October 13, 1989, I took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) respecting the alleged reference by the Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) from his seat to the Honourable Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylcyia-Leis) as “the Member for hypocrisy.” As I said at that time, I was unable to hear the alleged remarks because of the disorder in the House.

I have reviewed Hansard and have had the recording tape listened to. It was not possible to identify the words allegedly spoken nor the Northern Member speaking. I must therefore rule that there was no point of order. Again, might I remind all Honourable Members to choose their words with care so as not to create disorder.—(interjection)— Another ruling for the House?

On October 17, 1989, I took under advisement points of order raised by the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae), the Honourable Member for Thompson (Ashton) and the Honourable Member for Churchill (Churchill) respecting the content of non-political statements and the manner in which the opportunities to make such statements are currently being used.

The statement made by the Honourable Minister of Education and Training (Mr. Derkach) and by the Honourable Minister of Co-operative Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery) were not, in my opinion, truly non-political statements within the usages of this House.

The practice of non-political statements being made by leave is not recognized in the Rules of this House; however, our Rule 19(4) does make provision for Ministerial Statements respecting Government policy. A specific item for these is included on the Order Paper.

Research has indicated that the practice of non-political statements apparently originated in 1973. At that time, and for some years afterwards, such statements focused mainly on drawing to the attention of the House, athletic, educational or community achievements, significant anniversaries or for conveying congratulations respecting such occasions. Such statements appear to have been made more frequently by private Members although a few at each Session were also made by Ministers of the Crown.

Since 1988, a trend seems to have developed whereby the subject matter and content of these statements have become somewhat more political than in the past and are moving away from the original practice. Additionally, I note that the number of Ministers rising to make non-political statements increased significantly in 1988.

In some other Legislatures, the potential for controversy such as was seen a few days ago is avoided by providing an opportunity for statements by Members other than Ministers of the Crown and by providing under a separate item for statements by Ministers



relating to Government policy and program which may be responded to by Opposition Critics.

Beauchesne's Citation 348 indicates that under "Statements by Ministers," short factual announcements or statements of Government policy may be made and Opposition Members may comment. Manitoba Rule 19(4) contains very similar provisions. Beauchesne's Citation 374 advises that under "Members' Statements," Members other than Ministers may make one minute statements on topics of their choosing. The non-political restrictions do not apply to such statements although certain other fairly generous criteria do. House Leaders may wish to discuss a possibility of adopting similar practices for this House and I leave that to them.

In the meantime, I would strongly encourage Ministers of the Crown wishing to make statements on matters which in any way relate to their ministerial responsibilities, do so under the item "Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports." Also, I would caution all Honourable Members rising to make non-political statements to ensure that the subject matter and content of their contributions is truly non-political.

### NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** May I have leave to make a non-political statement, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed)

\* (1430)

We on this side of the House would like to express our sincere sympathy to the members of the family of Dr. Paul Henrik Thorbjorn Thorlakson who died last week and whose memorial service will be held tomorrow. Dr. P.H. Thorliksen is an outstanding Manitoban of long-standing service, an outstanding member of the Icelandic community. His accolades are long and many. One of the latest ones is that he served three terms as Chancellor at the University of Winnipeg.

I think it is very appropriate that tomorrow at the time of his service shortly thereafter, there will also be a service in a building that has been named after him in the Health Sciences Centre complex. I extend, on behalf of we on this side, sympathy to his family, his many friends and literally thousands and thousands of Manitoba patients.

### COMMITTEE CHANGES

**Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli):** I move, seconded by the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Cummings for Pankratz; Enns for Gilleshammer; Praznik for Helwer; and Burrell for Connery.

**Mr. Speaker:** Agreed? (Agreed)

### HOUSE BUSINESS

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, by agreement with the House Leaders,

the order for dealing with Estimates will be altered somewhat for the next little while. The Department of Urban Affairs when completed would be followed by the Estimates of the Seniors Directorate, and perhaps Co-operative Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Depending on further discussions, we would return to Culture, Heritage and Recreation at an appropriate time, but after Urban Affairs would come the Seniors Directorate.

I now move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) that Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is there leave to make such changes as is being recommended by the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae)?

**Mr. McCrae:** By leave, I would ask Honourable Members to agree that we move from Urban Affairs to the Seniors Directorate Estimates at this point.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is agreed? The Honourable Opposition House Leader (Mr. Alcock)? (Agreed)

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Would you call the Address for Papers standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock)?

### ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

**Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, we of course are pleased to give leave on the changes requested by the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae).

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr),

THAT an Address for Papers do issue praying for:

- (a) a copy of the report on the impact of the Goods and Services Tax on the Provinces, recently prepared jointly by the Provincial Deputy Ministers of Finance; and
- (b) a copy of the study commissioned by the Provincial Finance Ministers from the Conference Board of Canada on the regional impacts of the Goods and Services Tax.

### MOTION presented.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, this Address for Papers is not acceptable to the Government.

**Mr. Alcock:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask this be referred for debate on Tuesday.

**Mr. Speaker:** In accordance with Rule 49(1), the item will appear on the Order Paper under the appropriate heading, Private Members' Business. (Agreed).

**Mr. McCrae:** So now, Mr. Speaker, if everything seems to be in order, I would move, seconded by the

Honourable Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) 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 Health; and the Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) in the Chair for the Department of Urban Affairs.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—HEALTH

**Mr. Chairman (Harold Gilleshammer):** I would like to call to order this meeting to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health.

When last we met we were on item 1.(d) Research and Planning: subsection 1.(d)(1) Salaries, \$416,000—the Member for Kildonan.

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister of Health tell us how far this day hospital pilot project has gone, because during the last year's Estimates this project was still under way. When can we expect this to be completed?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I missed the very first part of my honourable friend's question.

**Mr. Cheema:** During the last year's Estimates there was talk about the day hospital pilot project, and I just wanted to know what is the status of this project and what are the conclusions made?

**Mr. Orchard:** Well, I have not received a recommendation from research and planning as to how we ought to proceed, but let not my honourable friend take that as no activity in the area, because I think it is fair to say that more and more the institutions and their senior management and boards are seeking out the day hospital concepts to see whether they can fit as part of their programming. We certainly encourage that innovation, but I just simply say that as of today, we do not have the recommendation from research and planning.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, the Minister is quite aware of the two day hospitals, one is at Seven Oaks, the other at Deer Lodge hospital. Since I have been involved at day hospitals myself personally and we have seen a number of patients being served by that project, it is the common knowledge in that area that it is a very effective way of dealing with patients. Certainly it is keeping the patients away from the hospital and sort of promoting the idea of supported independent living.

During last year's discussion the Minister clearly indicated that he was in favour of such a project, and they may look at various places such as some of the rural communities. I have given him a couple of examples and I will repeat those again, such as Dauphin

and Swan River. Can the Minister indicate that he will consider such proposals in the near future?

\* (1440)

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend is right. It is not as if we are advancing a new concept. There are day hospital programs right now. I believe and I think I can speak for my honourable friend—I say this without having the research data I guess, if you will, to back up what you would call a gut feeling—I believe that they do provide to a group of patients in Manitoba a very effective and very economic treatment regime.

I do not think there is any question about that but again what we are wanting to attempt to demonstrate is the fit-in context of the home care program because some of the home care program provides almost equivalent, or even greater level of service and more hours per day type of service. It is a proposition of clearly determining that that is an effective program initiative that we would make part of, if you will, the regular service availability throughout the system. That decision has not been made from the standpoint of not having before me the analysis that I have asked for in terms of assisting decision-making.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, I think yesterday we made a lot of progress and I do not want to hinder that progress, but I am dissatisfied because we discussed this issue last year during the Estimates process. It is common knowledge that these are the good effective ways of providing patient care, especially the seniors, and keeping them out of the hospital system. When we have two day hospital programs and why has it taken so long to reach a conclusion and expand this program? We are not saying that you have to just go in each and every hospital. That may not be financially possible, but at least look at certain areas according to the demographic variation in the City of Winnipeg and also the rural communities.

I will certainly request the Minister to maybe ask whosoever is doing this study to come up with a conclusion so that it could be started at the earliest possible date. This has already been since September 1988, almost one year and this project was already in place when we discussed last year. So I would ask the Minister maybe he could check with his staff and see how far they have gone and when we could expect a report so that such a program could be expanded and which will be, as the Minister is moving into one of the very right directions of keeping the cost intact and also continuing to provide a cost-efficient way of providing health care. This is one of them and this is one of the alternate ways of keeping the patient away from the so-called acute care beds.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I accept my honourable friend's exhortations and I know that he wants the answers as much as I do, but I can only indicate to him that in the past a number of initiatives, and we got into this discussion yesterday when we were talking about the analysis criterion for the Health Services Development Fund.

In the past, decision-making on new program has been made on the basis of what people believed was an appropriate way to go. You know the effectiveness within the system was, quite frankly, not analyzed in the longer time frame. What happened is that we ended up with the programs being merely add-ons to the system.

What we are trying to assure, and I cannot speed up the process because really some of the analytical information is not as easily accessible as one would like, because our information systems, and I say this in a non-partisan way, our information systems were not structured particularly to allow analysis of outcome. Very much, not only in Manitoba but across the health care system of Canada, more people are asking for outcome analysis. That is what we are trying to achieve here so that we can make the appropriate policy decision armed with the information that it is a cost-effective method of new programming, that it may well replace costs in terms of long-term beds that are set aside in hospitals for panelled patients, or possibly curtail the need as quickly for personal care home beds, or may result in reduced demand on the over-cost care patient in the Home Care Program.

I appreciate that we are pulling information from three separate streams of funding and to make it, I suppose, appropriate information on which to base decisions is taking a little more time than what one would like to see. I share my honourable friend's sense of frustration.

**Mr. Cheema:** As I have repeated a number of times in regard to the Dauphin Hospital, the personal care home wing of the Dauphin Hospital, it will be a right place to build an attached day hospital to deal with patients who are in that age group.

I think when we are in the process of developing a plan it will be advisable to have that plan now, so that we do not have to spend extra money maybe next year to change those plans. This is one of my concerns that money should be spent very wisely because I do not think there is enough money just available to keep on building some of these places, changing the plans.

**Mr. Orchard:** I defer comment.

**Mr. Cheema:** My next question is, what is the cost of this study for this day hospital pilot project out of this \$416,000.00?

**Mr. Orchard:** I will have to seek expert advice on that.

This is not going to be a dollar figure but it is roughly at a half-year commitment of one medical records staff position. So I guess, what, 20,000, is that fair?

**Mr. Cheema:** Is this correct then, the \$20,000 this year and \$20,000 last year, so roughly we will be spending about \$40,000 to study this project?

**Mr. Orchard:** Just once.

**Mr. Cheema:** I am satisfied with the answer.

My next question is with regard to Seven Oaks Hospital psychogeriatric review. It is my understanding

that there has been a review going on and it was supposed to have been completed by the mid-summer and can the Minister update what are the conclusions made from that review?

**Mr. Orchard:** I am just reading over my—we have completed that study and the gathering of data has been completed and now they are into the analysis and compilation of a report and it is anticipated that we will have that by year end or early January.

**Mr. Cheema:** Does the Minister think that it will be advisable or it will be possible to share the general thrust of that study with us today? Can he indicate to us what are the major problems with that program or whether the major advantage of that program to have at Seven Oaks Hospital and what they have learned so that further planning can be done for the other places such as Deer Lodge Hospital?

**Mr. Orchard:** I cannot share some of that information simply because I do not have it. I will tell you what the evaluation was designed to compile. Investigation of program operating characteristics based upon semi-structured in-depth interviews of the program staff at Seven Oaks, determination of the unit costs of the program in comparison to other programs at Seven Oaks General Hospital and elsewhere both in and outside of Winnipeg. At an investigation of patient process such as treatments, and outcomes such as length of stay, change in health status and drug utilization.

\* (1450)

As I indicated in my first answer, the gathering, the compilation of the data has been completed. Now it is the analysis and the completion of a report indicating findings that is in process, hopefully completed by the end of this year or early into January.

**Mr. Cheema:** I would like to indicate to the Minister that there was a question about 10 days ago in the House asked by my Leader. The question came out of the surveys done by the Manitoba Health Organization. One of their findings was the lack of psychogeriatric beds. After that I did have a discussion with the program director but it seems to be not a fair judgment according to him. He says that they have a number of beds available and probably most people are not aware of the psychogeriatric hospital beds at Seven Oaks Hospital. Maybe the Minister should take a note of that and make sure that this kind of information is given to the individuals who are concerned with the lack of the availability of such beds in Winnipeg City.

**Mr. Orchard:** I really accept my honourable friend's advice and I am going to offer him some, well, really offer his Leader some advice. The report that my honourable friend's Leader presented to the House was presented and—I am trying not to be partisan, but I do not think your Leader understood the issue that was attempted to be addressed in the MHO study, No. 1 because the whole issue got convoluted between psychogeriatric care, personal care home beds and acute care hospitals.

The survey which my honourable friend's Leader referred to was not a survey that was ever shared with Government. I received a copy of that the day after the questions were raised from MHO. It was a survey done some time ago, designed as an internal survey so that it would assist MHO in policy development. It was not designed to be brought to Government *per se* and in fact the survey was taken, as I understand it, prior to the change of Government or at least right around the transition period. It did not reflect some of the initiatives that we had taken in terms of psychogeriatric care.

What I am saying to my honourable friend is that one has to be careful in reaching conclusions from that report lest, as my honourable friend has indicated today, the conclusion reached by his Leader in the Question Period was in fact, according to experts at Seven Oaks Hospital who are care deliverers, not a correct conclusion. That is the danger of having those kinds of reports used in what I am sure was a sincere but partisan attempt to show understanding of an issue.

**Mr. Cheema:** I just brought to the Minister's attention one of the findings, and one of the findings where some of the professionals have a different view. I think we bring to the floor what is being said from both sides of the story. That does not mean that my Leader was not correct in a number of other areas. She presented an overall view of the mental health survey in Manitoba. I think the Minister should check the date on that survey. It was done during his term. I think he may be confusing this survey with something else. I am pretty sure that survey was during the mandate of this administration but I am just bringing to his attention the point that there are beds at Seven Oaks psychogeriatric ward. It is the understanding from the staff that probably people do not know in the system that they have beds and probably they can use them. I think the Minister should accept a positive suggestion rather than twisting the story around. Let us keep it very straight.

**Mr. Orchard:** I would provide a comment to my honourable friend, but I would just provoke an argument with him at this stage of the game. I certainly want to engage in meaningful debate with the full kindness of my office to date.

**Mr. Cheema:** I just missed the last word of the Minister's statement.

**Mr. Orchard:** I do not want to debate technicalities with my honourable friend as to who was technically right and who was technically wrong. I simply say that my honourable friend's Leader did not present the issue with the clarity that my honourable friend has been accustomed to bringing issues to the House, and therefore the issue was somewhat confused and improperly communicated to the House, hence to the public. I know that my honourable friend has to defend his Leader, and so I choose not to pursue it with him any further because it would be a meaningless debate to debate how incorrect his Leader was on that issue.

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Chairperson, we have touched on a number of the items that have been

subject to studies and reviews under this particular section in the Estimates. I would just ask if the Minister could perhaps give a brief update, because I know perhaps the Liberal Critic was really following up on a couple of concerns he had from last year, but could he give us an update on all the reviews?—I know last year he outlined the various reviews and studies—before I get into the specific questions on each item.

**Mr. Orchard:** I think we dealt with the National Physician Data Base. The first report from the data base will be made to the Conference of Deputy Ministers in the spring of 1990. I dealt with the walk-in clinic issue yesterday. In terms of Indian health care issues, that is being discussed between several departments with the delivery involvement within Government. A number of health care demonstration projects are certainly under way and evaluation taking place. There are some research projects that have been under way. For instance, on the cost containment at adult medical intensive care units at the Health Sciences Centre, we are expecting the final report in the near future. At the Discharge Planning Model at the St. Boniface General Hospital, again we are expecting the final report and analysis by the end of this year.

\* (1500)

The review of rehabilitative services in Manitoba has been completed and I tabled the Dr. MacDiarmid Report at a press conference with my honourable colleague the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) at which we remedied the 1975 cutback of the spaces for training at the occupational therapy and physiotherapy rehabilitative faculties. The recommendation in the MacDiarmid Report was to reinstate those training positions to the pre-1975 cutback level of approximately eight per faculty and my colleague the Minister of Education, through the Universities Grants Commission, provided sufficient funding to not only reinstate to the 1975 cutback level, but to exceed that by four positions for a total of 20 additional slots, not 16 as was recommended in the MacDiarmid Report.

A number of other issues are currently under investigation. Evaluation of the geriatric day hospitals, I have indicated that to my honourable friend just now. Hospital utilization by the elderly is a report that is due very shortly. It was due the end of September but it has been delayed slightly.

National Health Research Development Program: the Federal-Provincial Territories Committee, because this is an issue at the federal-provincial territorial level, held a special meeting in August to identify the priorities for the December completion notice. Two priorities were identified, namely the health manpower studies, and cost effective strategies, and those are to be presented by year-end. Again, that is the target date.

The Breast Cancer Screening: we are expecting a report I believe two months out. Would that be fair?

Manitoba Health Research Council: there has been a number of initiatives with the Manitoba Health Research Council, namely—and I know my honourable friend for Thompson will applaud Government's action

initiative in more than doubling the funding to the Manitoba Health Research Council so that they can undertake very valuable research projects in the Province of Manitoba.

In addition to that, I know my honourable friend from the New Democratic Party will also applaud the establishment of a four-year \$4 million fund under the auspices of Manitoba Health Research Council and IT&T in Government to further research in health care in the Province of Manitoba. That represents a more than tripling of the resources available over the next four years for research in Manitoba, a significant commitment by this Government to health research that demonstrates clearly our priority in that area.

**Mr. Ashton:** I want to focus on a number of the items that the Minister made reference to, and items that were referenced to last year in terms of the studies being conducted by this particular section of the department.

I want to begin in regard to the physician situation. I want to focus actually on the statistical side. I realize that we have discussed it under the Health Advisory Network and we will be discussing it again in terms of the standing committee, but I just want to deal with the statistical side to get some idea of the situation we are faced with, and ask the Minister basically the same question that was asked last year, that is, what the current doctor-to-patient ratio is in various areas of the province, most particularly the rural and northern communities, and also what the current situation is in terms of particular communities. I know that this was one that was asked last year. The question was raised as to what number of communities were looking actively for general practitioners because of the shortage of rural northern communities.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I do not think I have the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower's report in my file here, but that I believe was tabled in the House about three or four weeks ago. I am going from memory and I will confirm the numbers but I think the ratio in urban Winnipeg is approximately 470-or-so patients per physician, and in rural Manitoba I believe it exceeds 1,000, or just under 1,000, in the ballpark of 1,000, but we can find that for my honourable friend.

**Mr. Ashton:** I certainly appreciate that information. I am wondering too, if the Minister can indicate what communities—and I realize it is somewhat of a subjective question in the sense that the real question has to be asked, what is a sufficient number of physicians, but let us deal with communities that have no physicians. What number of communities are looking for doctors this year? I know the figure last year was in excess of a dozen communities that had basically no medical service.

**Mr. Orchard:** I will tell you what, Mr. Chairman, I will give my honourable friend a copy of the latest information I have from the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower which indicates the physician recruitment by general practitioner and by specialist category in the various communities throughout

Manitoba that SCOMM is currently assisting in recruitment efforts. I will try to get that to my honourable friend tomorrow, so he has it for Thursday.

**Mr. Ashton:** I would very much appreciate it. I would also like to get an update in terms of the current situation in terms of medical students and the postgraduates, both in terms of the numbers, and whether the Minister feels that the current admission number is sufficient to meet the needs of Manitoba in terms of positions.

**Mr. Orchard:** There are 80 undergraduate spots that are currently funded. My honourable friend, there are two problems. First of all, that is probably a quite adequate undergraduate number if there was an equitable distribution of the undergraduates in practice. It would more than adequately serve the needs of Manitoba. As my honourable friend well knows and appreciates, the placement or where those physicians have gone to practise after passing their examinations varies very significantly with the majority not going to rural or northern Manitoba as Manitoba graduates. Mr. Chairman, that is a long-standing problem and a problem with which we are very pro-actively seeking solutions. As I indicated to my honourable friend earlier on and I am going to rethrust a little ground with him, but I know that he considers the issue important enough that he will allow me the liberty to do that.

I make the straight-out observation that the whole medical manpower issue was attempted to be resolved by Government alone in isolation of the Faculty of Medicine and the MMA and the college. That is why I refer with some optimism to the renewed and restored co-operative approach from those organizations in working with Government, because I have made and my Deputy had made and the commission has made very open overtures to the major players in physician training and recruitment and retention to seek out their co-operation in building solutions for Manitoba. That resulted in the most recent conference in Portage la Prairie sponsored by the MMA.

I referred to it in my opening remarks specifically because two years ago the environment may not have led to that kind of a meeting and conference being held. But the MMA sponsored it, it was attended by myself, by the Minister of Education, naturally the MMA, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Faculty of Medicine. It focused clearly on what some of the problems were, what some of the difficulties were and, as proposed, post meeting some proposals which I think have arrived. We have just recently received the report and some of the conclusions that were drawn, because the meeting had those professional groups there from the faculty to the MMA etc., but it also had substantial representation from communities in rural and northern Manitoba.

\* (1510)

So, you know, I am saying to my honourable friend that I would think, and the current indication is that we have more than enough graduate spots in medicine in Manitoba. The difficulty is in the distribution of where

those graduates end up practising medicine, and very much I think it is fair to say that all players are proactively seeking, in a collaborative and co-operative fashion, some remedies to that maldistribution.

**Mr. Ashton:** One question I have once again focusing more on the statistical side, it is support information. I do want to get into a greater discussion on this at a later time in the Estimates, and I know the Member from Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) does as well because it is a very important issue. It was raised last year, and that was the breakdown between rural and urban students, because clearly one of the factors—and the Minister, I think, implied that in his answer as well—one of the major factors that determines where a graduate ends up practising is where they are originally from.

I know in the time that I have been in Thompson, and I went to high school in Thompson, I know that there is a grand total I believe of two people who have graduated from R.D. Parker Collegiate in the last 25 years who have gone on to be practising physicians. One of them happens to be my brother who is practising in the North, one of whom is not practising in the North.

The experience, I know, in talking to people, graduates of the program here in Manitoba, is that many of the students are from Winnipeg and their goal when they enter the medical college is to graduate, become a practising physician here in Winnipeg, and never even consider the alternative, something that we need in rural and northern communities. I am sure the Minister can identify with that. It is the same problem whether it be Morden or Winkler or Thompson or Lynn Lake, or any of the communities.

I would like to ask the Minister, because I know this was raised in previous Estimates, what information there is in terms of the original, shall we say, address of the individual. Where is the breakdown between northern and rural students, and urban students in the Faculty of Medicine?

**Mr. Orchard:** I cannot give my honourable friend those numbers. I had them last year. We can seek them out. It was not a population split, if you will. It was not 55-45 as the demographics of the province are; it was weighted in favour of urban students.

**Mr. Ashton:** I certainly appreciate the updated information. I know that was provided at the committee last year. I think it is important to have that type of information gathered because I know the Minister did indicate, and I know it has been discussed, the Faculty of Medicine, in the past, mechanisms to try and get a larger number of people in the program.

Apart from the medical access program which is aimed in an affirmative action way of getting Native people into pre-medicine actually, and has had some impact at least at that level, my understanding, essentially the way the Faculty of Medicine does operate is, while there has been a greater percentage of the attention given to the interview process and some of those factors, the policy in terms of promoting medicine as a career has been more limited in recent years to

promoting the information and awareness of that as an available career.

I think one thing that also should be looked at is the general trend in terms of the students who are being admitted, and in particular I would suggest the grade point average of students, because I am sure a study—and I know Dr. Carter did a study on the rural-urban breakdown—I really believe you would find that there would have been an increase in the grade point average over time to the point where you require a very high grade point average now to be admitted to medicine.

I guess what I am suggesting is perhaps 20 to 25 years ago, you could have become a doctor. You could have been admitted to the Faculty of Medicine with a far lower grade point average, and we end up in the difficult situation. I realize it is a philosophical debate in terms of how you select. Do you go with a person with the supposedly best academic credentials? What I am suggesting is that there are many people with more than adequate academic credentials with quite high grade point averages who might not normally meet the requirements of admission in competition with others who might have a 3.9 grade point average, and they may have a 3.7, but what I am suggesting is that perhaps we need to be weighing the selection process more toward getting more input from rural and northern students.

I believe that for example if the ratio was to reflect the population in Manitoba more equally, we would not solve the problems that we have in terms of physicians overnight, but we would end up with far more people returning to their home communities because I think it is a natural process. When you graduate, particularly when there are practices ready and available in rural and northern communities, for at least a significant percentage of people to return to those communities.

So I would ask the Minister if he could perhaps provide that information as well, and that is both the breakdown, the rural-urban breakdown, this year as opposed to other years, and also perhaps an analysis of the criteria, including the grade point average and other factors that we are taking into account, so that we can see the trend in whom we select as medical students.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I will provide as much of that information as I can get, but I think my honourable friend would understand that I am not the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, so I will provide the kind of information that is within his ability to share with me and provide it to the committee. I did that last year and have no hesitation in doing it.

**Mr. Ashton:** I have further questions, but I can defer to the Member for Kildonan.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, we have tried to avoid this issue for the last three days. I thought we were going to discuss it under the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, but it seems like the issue keeps on coming back. Certainly I would like this opportunity to address this issue if the Minister is ready to do that.

Mr. Chairperson, as the Minister of Health has indicated, he was at this meeting at Portage where it

was organized by the MMA and the Manitoba Medical Steward Association. There were members from the local municipalities and other concerned groups. I had some knowledge of the meeting and later on I was communicated through people just by personal contact. It was a very successful meeting and there were a lot of suggestions made from the floor in terms of how to solve this ongoing problem which then came for the last six months, or one year, or two years. It has been there for a number of years. It is not only for Manitoba but this problem is probably worse in some parts of Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, northern Quebec, and probably worse in Newfoundland where they are having a real difficulty in attracting doctors into the smaller communities.

I think there are a number of major issues here. One, I think there has been no policy from the previous administration. I am sure the Member for Thompson will have some patience to listen to this because it is not personal, but I think this is a point I wanted to make, that under their administration there was a deterioration in terms of rural medical manpower, also the numbers for the areas, and particularly to the Faculty of Psychiatry. It was such a severe blow that so far we have not even recovered from that.

The message was very dangerous when you are negotiating with any group. A confrontational attitude is not going to achieve anything and when you say, if you do not like Manitoba, leave, and many people left. That is one problem and still it is going to take a long time for any Minister of Health to solve that situation and come to grips of how to avoid such situations in the future. But as regards to the rural manpower for primary health care, which has been a No. 1 issue, personally for me and for my caucus, and I am proud of that, we have worked very hard to develop a very practical, very possible solution, and the Minister knows that. There are at least now about anywhere between 20 to 24 communities who would like to have a permanent doctor. They may have people doing locum or they are there for a short time, but they always get into difficulties. There are about six to eight communities even cannot secure physicians and people have to travel long distances. Even 40 to 50 miles is a long distance if you have to go for primary health care.

\* (1520)

For them it is not possible and some of the communities' viability is very much attached to the facility they get in their own community. If they cannot have a doctor and a nurse or a pharmacist in their own community, what good is the use of having all those hospitals when they cannot even use them? Some of the hospitals are empty and that is the—in some places, yes. The Minister of Health does not like that word, but that is the way it is.

As we have pointed out many times, one of the ways to attract students from the rural communities is to provide to them all the incentive grants and some of the funds that they may return when they go back and practise, but this year the budget has been doubled and that is very positive. It has not materialized in the past and we sincerely hope that may be one step in the right direction.

The other major problem which we are facing—and we are not unique, it is very common in Saskatchewan and some parts of Northern Ontario—the doctors coming from certain privileged countries for a short-term period get a licence and leave for a better practice in better areas or for more money, whatever reason one wants to put in.

That is unfair because you have a system that is being used by people who know how to go about the system, get immigration, get financial backing for a while and then go and use Manitoba as a stepping-stone. Nothing has been done to stop that.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) could play a very wide role to decide that factor, even though he has said the college is right. No one is arguing saying that the college is strong here, but the college has policies, certain regulations, and if those regulations are met, if communities come in and say we need a doctor, and if that doctor fulfills all the requirements, they will give a licence and therefore somebody will practise medicine, but the statistics are very clear that 20 percent to 25 percent minimum would leave, leaving Manitoba after using all those grants. All the incentive grants are used for six months and the local communities also spend some money because some of them the airfares are even paid, they are getting subsidized accommodation, so the communities are also putting their money in for the jobs.

I think it is unfair that those individuals would leave and do not have a permanent commitment for Manitoba. There should be a policy clearly indicating that if you come to Manitoba, stay with us for five years.

The other part of the sad story is that there are a number of individuals who would love to practise in Manitoba or any northern communities or any remote community provided they have a place, have internship, because without internship they cannot get a licence, they cannot pass their exam.

I went a number of times on this issue with the Minister of Health to debate, and according to him I do not understand the issue, but according to me he does not understand that specific issue. We are talking about a specific number of individuals who are on a Canadian Intern Matching Service. That is not service made by me or any political Party, it is a uniform service which is serving a very valuable role to the whole of Canada. You have 500 individuals on that list who are qualified, who have passed all the exams, and the only hurdle for them is to have internship positions. Unless they get that position they cannot practise medicine.

Most of them are Canadian citizens, they were not able to secure positions here, they went outside the country and got training. So when we have communities who need physicians, we have physicians who would like to practise, why not use them? We are not asking to create a new position for anyone, we are asking to use tax dollars in the right manner, and that is not being done.

Absolutely I think this is wrong and out of this \$400,000, I would ask the Minister later on how much

money for the last few years has been wasted in terms of how much money has been spent on all those doctors who have left Manitoba? How many communities have been spending money on them?

I think our tax dollars are being wasted when the Minister of Health has not come up with a solid proposal, but we do have a proposal which is very valuable. The proposal was very, very widely accepted by the past president of MMA and all the professionals in the U of M, and also we got good response from the rural communities. We are asking the Minister today to say whether he likes the policy or not, yes or no. The proposal is very simple, very practical.

You pick up a certain number of individuals—who picks that number is by the University of Manitoba—from the Canadian Intern Matching Service, and they should prefer people who stay in Manitoba who are already residents of Manitoba and then have a clinical exam. After they have passed the clinical exam they should go and visit those communities. We do not want somebody to come here and practise and after six months say that, well, I did not know where Thompson was, I did not know how Flin Flon looks, I did not want to practise medicine. That is the common thing, that has been happening, people would leave.

The communities must play a direct role here, the local municipality. The individuals should meet with them, have a discussion and have approval from them, and then there should be a program established for six to eight internship positions. We wanted that program to be started this year. It is already five months late. We could have got six to eight doctors for next year, for five years practice of medicine in a rural community.

We are not even asking the provincial Government to put the whole money. We are asking that they should at least take care of part of those funds. It is probably \$21,000 to \$22,000.00. It seems a lot, the Minister will say. We are asking to spend money but when you count how much each doctor is taking out of Manitoba when they come and practise here, it is much less than that. When you have an individual who is going to practise medicine in a community for five years, he or she will establish the family contacts, they will establish practices and normally they do not leave. That is the common thing, they would just look at the statistics.

Why is the Minister so hesitant? He should take the lead and accept this program, try it for two years, and after that we may not need this kind of program. It is just that you have people who are available and 500 people on the Canadian Intern Matching Service. We can at least select five of the best possible and let the University of Manitoba, the municipality, make a decision. They are the ones who are going to be in trouble if they do not get doctors. People who will make decisions in the immigration department or the college, they are not responsible.

Ultimately it is bad news when you do not have a doctor in a given community. That is common knowledge, that is what happened last Wednesday. People from Thompson left. A number of individuals in the small communities at times they leave after six

months, and if you sum up how much money they are taking from the taxpayers of Manitoba, it is more than \$21,000.00. You are giving them incentive grants, you are giving them subsidized accommodation, you are giving them tax incentives, and they have no commitment.

It sounds very radical from a physician's point of view, but I think, as the taxpayers of Manitoba, we have the responsibility to utilize the tax dollars in the best possible way, and I will request the Minister to clarify his Government's position on such a proposal.

\* (1530)

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, there is a very good program in place which I support, which the individuals my honourable friend referred to can access and have indeed been willing to attempt to access, that does not require any new policy, it does not require any change in policy, it exists in the Province of Manitoba today. My honourable friend shakes his head. He shakes his head because my honourable friend has not offered to this committee full and complete information. My honourable friend has said that there are doctors in Manitoba who have passed all the examinations and are not allowed to practise. I know of no such individual that is in that circumstance.

My honourable friend might want to take the opportunity right now to indicate, and he does not have to put the individual's name on the record. He can pass me a slip of paper with the individual's name and I will investigate that. So I will give my honourable friend that opportunity right now.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, the Minister is well aware of that. There was supposed to be one exam, the general exam which is called Medical Council of Evaluation exam for foreign graduates. A number of individuals who come to Manitoba from time to time, they passed that exam and some of them leave because they cannot find a position. We have a number of individuals and I will certainly pull my file and give him certain names.

What I am asking him is simple, people are not going to wait for six months or one year. They have to look after their family. They are not a single individual. Some of them are running away from their countries but do not have funds to keep on writing all those exams. Some of them, the exam which has been started by the U of M, it costs \$500.00. Some of them do not have even that kind of funds.

What I am saying to him, there are 500 individuals, he does not need my help. He could simply make a phone call, maybe just to the Canadian Intern Medicine Service and get all those names. He does not need anyone's help. He has all this staff, just a phone call, they have an office in Ottawa. The names are all listed there. They will give them the address, telephone number, hopefully, to all the individuals in Canada and why not use them? I am asking him a simple question.

If certain individuals have left Manitoba, are we going to then go after them and chase them? What I am



simply asking them does not matter where people live in Canada. We have available, those individuals, we should use them. This is a good program. The Minister is saying they have the program right now.

According to the information we have, it is different. They say you have only two positions and that comes under the Refugee Doctors Program, but we are asking, is the program established for a given period of time, either one year or two years service, six to eight positions each year, so that by the end of two years we would have about 12 doctors? I do not think we will need more than that. You do not have to have more programs.

The present program does not specify that you have to practise in a rural community. It does not. Can the Minister show me where is that line that says that you have to practise in a given community for five years? No, it does not say that. What we are asking is a commitment from those individuals who cannot find a place, who are ready to work, and the communities want them there, why we are being a hitch in that, why we are putting up all the obstacles, why we have to put two or three or four exams, just a systematic way of discouraging people. You can put all the exams and discourage people.— (interjection)— What I am saying that the clinical exam, you can discourage people. It is one way of telling them we do not want you. It is the political reality.

Mr. Chairperson, it is really disappointing that we have to argue about this for the last year when many provincial authorities are looking at such a program. Can the Minister tell me which line says that they have to practise for five years?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I intend to deal with each of the issues raised by my honourable friend. First of all, in 1981 in Ottawa we patriated the Constitution complete with a Charter of Rights and Freedoms which makes it legally impossible to enforce a five-year return of service contract on any professional individual. That has been tried in other jurisdictions and you cannot enforce it, so that even though my honourable friend's next statement is, well, but these people will want to do it, that may well be, but those people can sign the contract tomorrow, practise medicine for one month and leave for Victoria the next month, and we have an absolutely unenforceable contract. I wish my honourable friend would acknowledge that. That is not me saying that, that is the reality of the legal system based on the Charter of Rights since 1981 in this nation.

My honourable friend, and I asked him for those individuals who had passed all of the exams required, said he would provide me with that information but then later said, why do we have to put these individuals through all of this examination, because all we are doing is discouraging them from practising medicine?

Mr. Chairman, I want to tell my honourable friend that there is a refugee program which is a leader in the nation in terms of the training of refugee physicians. What my honourable friend is referring to are foreign-trained physicians who come to Canada, and when they immigrate to Canada they have not stated to

immigration authorities that they are a physician and they wish to practise medicine. My honourable friend is acknowledging that fact because my honourable friend knows that Immigration Canada, should those foreign-trained physicians identify themselves as physicians, they will be told the difficult and maybe impossible circumstances for them to undertake practice of medicine in Canada. That is the reality of the Canadian Immigration policy.

It is not meant to discriminate in any way, shape or form, as is the common fall back when this difficulty is faced by those foreign-trained physicians. It is a simple recognition by the Immigration people of Canada that Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Canada, have a sufficient number of Canadian graduate physicians, and my honourable friend is even agreeing with that. Despite that, at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba in addition to the refugee program—because refugees are a different status, they are forced out of their countries and they are coming here under different circumstances, they are not immigrants in the pure sense of immigration policy—for landed immigrants there is a policy that has been in place at the Faculty of Medicine, and I will indicate it to my honourable friend.

There are four qualifications which any individual who is a foreign-trained graduate must accede to prior to acceptance into an internship program, the Faculty of Medicine. First of all, they must have landed immigrant status or be a Canadian citizen, and all of those citizens presumably qualify. They must have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Examination. They must have successfully passed the University of Manitoba Clinical Comprehensive Examination, and they must have external funding for the internship year at arm's length to the individual.

I reiterate what I have stated, and my honourable friend knows that I am speaking accurately. There are no foreign-trained immigrant doctors, to my knowledge, in Manitoba who have met those criteria. I know of two who have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Examination. Two of the 16 who petitioned Government, which my honourable friend has been advocating their position to Government, have passed the MCCEE but as of the last time I checked, which was recently, neither of the two had passed the University of Manitoba Clinical Comprehensive Examination. So my honourable friend's statement that they had passed all the examinations is simply not an accurate one. That is the difficulty that those foreign-trained physicians face.

I want to share with my honourable friend some information that was given to me by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba because, as I say, when these criteria have not been met by individuals, the next easiest thing to indicate is, well, this policy is discriminatory, therefore Canada is not treating me fairly, therefore we should change the rules. I cannot say that is an accurate assessment of what is happening and I do not like the use of the old discrimination argument being drawn into this argument. We have expectations of competence amongst trained physicians because in Canada we fund

the physician for his or her entire service provision. It is under the Canada Health Act, it is under Medicare, and as such we have responsibilities for assuring the quality of care is assured.

The professional disciplines themselves have substantial checks and balances on physicians that are registered to practise to assure that they practise competently. That is the whole nature of the two examinations that the individuals who immigrated to Canada, trained in foreign medical schools, must pass. There are some exceptions to that and those are exceptions of graduate students in foreign countries whose medical training programs have been patterned off the "British training system." Those countries are Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, England and Wales, Ireland, and South Africa, by and large—and the United States is also in there—because their medical schools undertake a teaching and a training program which has been accepted in this country for years and years.

\* (1540)

The Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Examination is designed to indicate whether the individuals training in schools other than that is sufficient to meet Canadian standards, rigorous Canadian standards. The University of Manitoba has a clinical comprehensive examination, again to ensure that the individual has the necessary qualifications to enter an internship program. Not discriminatory, simply assurance of standards.

I want to share with my honourable friend information from the College of Physicians and Surgeons which shows the successful pass rate of physicians trained in medical schools of various countries. In Australia, there is a 100 percent pass rate. In New Zealand, there is a 100 percent pass rate. It drops down to Scotland at 83 percent, England and Wales at 82 percent, Ireland and South Africa at 59 percent, Sri Lanka is 52 percent, Germany 42 percent, Chile 21 percent, 21 percent passed the clinical examinations. That is why the college will not offer, except under knowledgeable circumstances, an exemption to the examination to practise immediately in Manitoba.

The range of successful passage decreases. For instance, physicians trained in Czechoslovakia, if I have the line right, have a 5 percent passage rate; from the U.S.S.R., 4 percent passing rate; from Nicaragua, 2 percent passing rate; China, 2 percent passage rate; El Salvador, 0 percent.

I wish my honourable friend to have a copy of that because it is not discrimination. It is an attempt to assure that the person you have given licence to practise medicine is competent and capable to do that, not standards that I have set because I am not a physician and I am not knowledgeable in what is needed to certify that the individual can practise medicine. That is why, Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend will find that the college and the Faculty of Medicine have some examinations to prove basic competence before foreign-trained physicians can enter the internship program. That is why those steps are in place.

I say to my honourable friend, when he says that there are physicians in Manitoba, foreign trained who

have passed all of the examinations, he is not correct. They may have passed one exam, but they have not passed the exam at the Faculty of Medicine in Manitoba, so therefore they have not proven their ability to undertake the internship program. Let us make sure that we are talking objectively on this issue and we are putting accurate information on the record, because the information that I have just shared with my honourable friend is accurate.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, I fully agree in terms of providing the best possible care. No one ever said that the quality of care or quality of the individual should be lowered and that is not only coming from this Ministry of Health. It is common knowledge for the whole of Canada, and that is why they have this uniform exam of which everyone has to pass.

Now he has read this requirement. No. 4 requirement is you want them to qualify for all the exams, I have no objection to that. Absolutely, any rational person on the street would say that give them the fair exams, but why do you ask them, people who are fleeing from their countries, who do not have even the money to put bread on the table, you are asking them to go to somebody to pay for their internship which is \$25,000.00? You are asking them to pay \$500 to pass exams. Some of them cannot even speak the language. I am not saying that you have to teach them everything, but is this system fair because you are providing \$400,000.00? Out of that, at least some amount is going to these privileged five countries and that is unfair.

What I am saying is that there should be fair treatment to each and every individual if they are qualified. I am not asking to provide a special status for anyone. We are simply asking that this system, your line No. 4 is completely unfair. Nobody has to be a genius to look at that and say "unfair" and you have repeatedly denied that right for them to have a place to have internship. Even after they are qualified, how are they going to get \$21,000 to \$25,000.00? When you are providing all those grants, you should also ask the college to provide a list of individuals who have left Manitoba and how much they have cost the taxpayers of Manitoba. Why can we not get that information? I cannot get it, I am simply an Opposition Critic.

As the Minister of Health, you have all the rights to have access to all the information, but this is common knowledge and I would say you should have a look at this policy which is unfair.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, let me correct my honourable friend's statement. This is not my policy, this is the criterion set by the Faculty of Medicine in the Province of Manitoba. Not my policy.—(interjection)—Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend, if he would listen with patience, I will indicate to him how he has now argued on both sides of the issue.

This issue started presumably in April of this year, with a petition from a number of foreign-trained physicians, 16 of them, who on April 27, sent me a petition. One of the lines, and I will read it back to my honourable friend because I think he has forgotten this. The Faculty of Medicine's criterion is the individual has

outside funding, at arm's length to the individual, in other words, community support.

My honourable friend might be interested in knowing that in the petition to me from those 16 physicians they have indicated—I will read the last, we feel confident that having an opportunity to be retrained during the first part of the program (the internships) we would be able to serve well and meet the expectations of the rural communities. In our opinions this program could solve many problems. It could bring various benefits not only to us doctors but also to the communities involved and to the Government budget as well (the costs of retraining us would be covered by those communities). That is what the physicians, the 16 physicians indicated they were willing to do.

Mr. Chairman, I have pointed out to my honourable friend that is fully and completely available to those individuals if (a) they are landed immigrant or Canadians, (b) they have passed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Examinations and passed the clinical comprehensive examination of the University of Manitoba, and the individual has outside funding which they have acceded to in their petition.

Nothing is preventing them from achieving the ability to practise medicine in Manitoba. I cannot understand why my honourable friend is now saying that is unfair, because those 16 individuals agreed to that on April 27 when they petitioned Government. I replied to them that they have every opportunity to practise medicine by simply passing the exams. My honourable friend just a few minutes ago agreed that people must pass the examinations, so that is no problem for criteria 2 and 3. He agreed with this petition back in April where the physicians themselves said it would be economic to Government because the cost of retraining us would be covered by those communities. Mr. Chairman, I have indicated that is fully open to those individuals. There is nothing unfair, there is nothing discriminatory, the opportunity is there in the province of Manitoba.

**Mr. Cheema:** I will clarify that situation now. You have that petition indicating that they are going to get funding from those communities. What they are understanding in their own mind, this money is going to come where they are going to practise medicine. There are the small communities or the northern communities, but is that a fair statement? They are just picking any community from their own imagination, and they think that the proposal we put forward that the communities plus the Ministry of Health and the U of M would share the cost of \$7 or \$8 per person. I think they are relating to that part of the community coverage, but I do not think they are made assured that somebody is going to pay for the internship fully. That is not correct.

I think they have not conveyed their message properly in the right way. I think they are not clear or the Minister has failed to get a clear message from them. What I am saying to him, you have announced \$400,000.00. Part of that is for tax incentive grants. Part of them is for the students from the rural communities and that is excellent, but once you are getting all these individuals from the outside country and they are getting all the advantages, they are taking more money away from

Manitoba than these individuals who will be given a chance if they are given a one-year chance to have internship position whenever they are ready after they pass all those criteria.

\* (1550)

I have no objection to that but I think it is unfair when you are getting individuals from outside when you can have a plan advertised or get from the Canadian Intern Matching Service. There must be 5 to 10 individual who can pass all the exams. I mean, people are not stupid, excuse my language. I mean people who are practising medicine now, when they came 10 years ago, they came from the same medical schools. If they were good 10 years ago, why are they not good now? Because of demand and supply, that is a simple answer.

We should be fair to each and every individual who is already in Manitoba or in Canada. They should be given the first chance, and the Minister said that is according to the Canadian Charter of Rights. Why are we not being fair? You should take a lead role in Canada and make sure that this thing happens. You could be a hero but if you take this policy and run it for two years.

Their letter is not even clearly indicating the way they are going to secure money. When they come to us they are asking they do not have money, who is going to fund and guarantee positions. Now you are saying, according to them, they have secured money from certain communities, where their understanding is the community they are going to practise in, for example The Pas or Flin Flon, they may cover their costs. That is not true, we do not have that policy. That is what we are asking you to do as a share program between the local hospital, the local municipalities and the Manitoba Health Services Commission, or the Ministry of Health, whatever suits you the best. Also, when they are doing a one-year internship, they will provide a very essential service in the hospital system. It is not free, they will also be provided a very essential service.

To answer your other question, well, they are going to leave in one month, I mean you have to believe people to a certain extent. When they are ready to have a commitment for five years, that will be immoral for somebody to use Manitoba and leave after one month. That is not true, I do not believe people are that low in their thinking. When they are desperate in situations like this, I think we should use them rather than ask them to cook hamburgers on somebody's stove; they are doing it. But we do not have a program to even encourage them, and last year there was an announcement to provide \$2,000 to help them, some individuals to get them in training.

There are lots of problems and I am not saying the Minister has to deal with all of them. I am simply asking him to make available funds to each and every individual on the basis of merit, not the country of origin of the medicine.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, now we have another version of the Liberal policy which is different from the

petition I received, which is different from my honourable friend's I believe sincere comments to committee, that there was good response from the rural communities, that the rural communities want them there. Mr. Chairman, I have checked that and we have not had an enquiry through the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower as to how communities might be able to assist these physicians as they indicated in their petition to me, i.e., support them in their internship year for return for service.

So my honourable friend has to be consistent in his development and his suggestions to Government. I have been consistent in what I have been saying to my honourable friend that the opportunity is certainly there for each of these individuals to practise medicine in Manitoba. It existed a year ago, it existed two years ago, because it has been a policy of the Faculty of Medicine that has been in place for—I cannot tell you how long. I also just simply want to reiterate to my honourable friend, and he agrees with this, that both levels of examination ought to be passed. None of those individuals have passed both levels of examination to the latest information I have.

So they simply cannot access any program for internship until they pass those basic examinations. That is significantly different from the physician who is trained in Australia or England or Wales who comes to Canada and receives the opportunity to practise because their success rate on passing the MCCEE is excellent. This is the important point for my honourable friend to understand: they do not require any further training. They simply have to pass the Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Examination.

We got into that issue in one circumstance where the individual was granted a waiver to practise medicine because the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the certifying body, indicated they believed the individual had the ability and the knowledge and the training to pass the examination. The individual failed to pass the examination, and we removed the individual's right to practise and that caused some problems. That, unfortunately or fortunately, depending upon whether you look at it from the individual's standpoint as a physician or the public's standpoint, is a standard that we have used to help us to assure that quality level of practice is available.

I know my honourable friend is not asking me to break the rules in that regard, and he shakes his head saying, no, and I am not. I am simply pointing out to my honourable friend that the opportunity is there for those individuals to practise medicine in Manitoba. It is not an unfair system, it is not a discriminatory system. It is a system which is in place designed to prove competence of training, of past training, an ability to enter internship for some foreign-trained physicians. For others, the examination is designed to show that they have the competence to practise medicine without requiring further internship.

Mr. Chairman, the opportunity is there to take up that career and that livelihood in medicine in Manitoba for foreign-trained immigrant physicians. Indeed, it is even there for refugee physicians who are accepted into this country because of troubles at home.

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Chairperson, I realize we are in a bit of a dilemma when we get into the issues of, for example, this issue in terms of physician shortages that we do tend to get into the broader discussions. I had originally intended, my line of questioning anyway, to be more in terms of the research aspect of the whole question, although it is an interesting debate back and forth in terms of the various views of how we deal with the situation with immigrant doctors and recognition of qualifications.

I know I raised my own concern about a case in my own constituency where a physician who was recruited with a great deal of enthusiasm by the Thompson General Hospital did not receive his qualifications. I know there had been the question raised by the Thompson General Hospital as to whether the qualifications were really appropriate to the type of work that the individual would be doing. I do not want to get into the details of the case, but I just want to point to that as being something that I think also should be considered and that is the legitimacy of the qualifications, particularly when you are dealing with rural and northern communities which are often faced with the choice of either a physician who may be able to perform some duties or no physician at all. I think that very real question has to be raised.

\* (1600)

It is not by the way that people are cognizant of the need to maintain standards. I know in the current situation, once again in terms of the Thompson General Hospital and it is a situation I know that it is discussed in other hospitals, one of the concerns related to the departure of two doctors this past week is the fact that while there are a number of physicians in the community who do have some experience obstetrically, they do not have even the Level 1 experience which is a requirement I believe of the college and is supported by the hospital.

It is a real dilemma you run into when hospitals are faced with the choice as they may be in communities, such as my own and other communities, whether you lower the standards to have staff in that area able to perform a certain service or whether you have to ship patients out. That is assuming, of course, that you cannot find a replacement physician.

I raise that having had some direct knowledge. I do not know whether the Minister wishes to comment further because I know he had commented fairly extensively on the questions from the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) but I will certainly defer if the Minister has any comments on that particular element of it.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, the circumstance that my honourable friend referred to is the circumstance I alluded to earlier on where the individual practising in his constituency began practice under a Waiver of Examinations with the full expectation that there would be successful completion of the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examinations. That was not done, so the individual did not successfully complete those examinations. That was a precondition to practise.

As a Minister, I tell you right off the top the easiest thing for me to do as Minister is not to sign any Waivers

of Examination for any physicians trained outside of Canada, and to leave the communities waiting for an extra three to nine months for that physician to practise. I have chosen since I came into this office, and I have signed I believe 40-some-odd Waivers of Examinations for locum tenens and others. I have done it because in each circumstance the College of Physicians and Surgeons has indicated that they believe this individual can pass the examinations and there is a commitment they will write the examinations and if they fail to pass them their temporary certification to practise medicine will be revoked.

The easiest thing for me to do to avoid the circumstance that happened in Thompson is say I will not sign a Waiver of Examination, but I simply say that does not serve the medical needs in rural and remote Manitoba. I have decided it is worth the risk, when I am taking professional advice from the College, that these individuals are appropriately trained to practise, that I should, with confidence, sign the Waiver of Examination, and I have done that.

I know the dilemma that caused in Thompson because I received personal correspondence from the hospital asking a further waiver and exemption. We attempted to investigate the appropriateness of that and I am sorry to say that the professional advice I received was that would not be an appropriate measure, because without passage of that examination there was the natural question as to whether, in given circumstances, the medical competence was there to meet all emergent and crisis circumstances, a judgment not made by myself but made by peers in the medical profession. With regret I concurred, and I know that caused the community some difficulty.

I simply ask my honourable friend, what would have been lead question in Question Period had I signed a second Waiver of Examination and unfortunately, through a mistake or an inappropriate undertaking of a procedure, one of my honourable friends suffered grievous medical consequences as a result of the practice of that physician? Would my honourable friend have jumped up, lead question asked me what in the world I was doing allowing such a person to practise, because I suspect that may well have been the approach taken.

I have attempted to be balanced in my approach to this situation, erring wherever possible on the side of communities who are underserved, and to date with one exception that action has been appropriate.

**Mr. Ashton:** I believe in my question I recognized the dilemma that does exist and I did not want to get into the details of the case. I know the Minister was faced with a very difficult decision. It was difficult for the community, and the Minister I think recognized that. What I am suggesting is that I think you need a constant process of looking at the criteria that are set in terms of practising physicians, and I believe that is something that perhaps hopefully will be the outcome of that. I do know the concern that was expressed by the hospital locally was, yes, the individual did not meet the criteria in one particular segment of the requirements. There was some question as to whether that was appropriate

but I realize they are in a difficult situation when the individual has not passed the exams.

What I am really suggesting is that I think it is important to look at the validity of the exams, particularly validity vis-a-vis the situation that individual is in. I am not questioning the Minister's judgment in this particular case. He obviously had a difficult decision to make. He obviously received the recommendations from the people in Thompson. I know I raised this in the Question Period, not in a sense of pressuring the Minister but raising the question whether he would review it. I am pleased to see that at least that was done.

Like I said, it was a difficult decision and the Minister clearly had information which he based that individual's decision on, information that perhaps was not available to the hospital. That may be the reason for the decision but what I am suggesting is that may be something that can lead to the questions to be raised about the appropriateness of the standards we do set. I am not suggesting there be no standards, I am just suggesting there be—not even that there be low standards. I am suggesting there be appropriate standards.

I think incidentally too that the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) did have some good points in terms of the situation facing people in a very personal sense. It is very difficult for some of the physicians who have been caught in the situation of going through the qualification period, and I think the Member for Kildonan outlined that.

(Mr. Edward Helwer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

I have talked to some people I know who have faced great difficulty. I raised the issue just in the House yesterday, the doctor shortage in Thompson. There are two physicians who are on a locum who are currently—their status is threatened because they are employed by a clinic that may no longer exist. I have already made a number of phone calls. I know the people in the community and we are trying to see if there is something we can do at a community level to keep that clinic going. I will get into that when we get further into the Estimates, but once again I think it may be the opportunity to review that process.

It was a blow to the community of Thompson. I am not in any way denigrating the Minister's decision but I think that was the one question that people did have. When I say people, it was not just the hospital board but also other physicians who I have spoken to. The bottom-line question was whether the standards were really appropriate in this particular case, because while the physician in question was in the hospital he did work very well with the staff there. The general view of his own colleagues, his own peers was that he was a very competent doctor. I think that is something that is important.

I do not know if the Minister has any further comments but I did want to shift into another area under this particular area of discussion, and that is in terms of the Indian health care. The Minister mentioned briefly when he was running through the update on the status of that, basically that there are a couple of

interdepartmental committees reporting to the Cabinet. I am just wondering what progress has been made in this area since last year, and in particular what discussions have taken place with the federal Government, because obviously when we are talking about Indian health care we are talking about medical services in the case of Native communities that are Treaty communities. I am just wondering what progress has taken place in this area in the past year.

\* (1610)

**Mr. Orchard:** We have not begun formal negotiations with the federal Government. We are attempting to, between particularly three departments that are most affected in some of the "self-Government" issues, my department, Family Services and Northern Affairs, to establish what are some of the implications to Government of bringing home various programs for self-administration. There is no question, I think, that the federal Government would like in this area to offload their responsibilities for status Indian citizens of this province and other provinces.

I think my honourable friend would want us to be cautious, as his Government was cautious, in terms of how we approach that process. We are attempting to lay out some of the larger policy issues and put flesh on the skeleton, if you will, so that we can approach it from a more informed standpoint in terms of any negotiations bipartite or tripartite that the provincial Government will engage in.

**Mr. Ashton:** There are obviously a number of options. When I talk about the situation in terms of Indian health care, there is the possibility of devolution from the federal to the provincial Government. I think one other factor that also is increasingly being paid attention to by Native people themselves is the possibility of self-administration of a lot of the programs.

I am wondering if the focus of the Indian health care, various interdepartmental committees, et cetera, because there are also cross references I know in the Supplementary Estimates referred in particular, for example, the Urban Native Concerns Committee, whether the Minister is also looking at that particular option as well which is basically a self-government delivery of medical services by Native communities perhaps in co-operation with the province, since obviously the province has the infrastructure and the institutions in place that deal with medical services on a regular basis.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, in terms of the self-government, and my honourable friend might want to explain his understanding of it in terms of health issues, but we do not have the infrastructure in place on many of the status Indian communities. Those are nursing stations and other facilities that with few exceptions are owned by the federal Government and are on band land. We do not have a funding obligation with them with the exception of use of those facilities by non-status Indian or Metis citizens of the province who might access those clinics and services. So that is the issue, we do not have the infrastructure under control.

When status Indians from communities in Manitoba need tertiary care, for instance, at the Health Sciences Centre or St. Boniface or other hospitals in Winnipeg, there is an accounting procedure whereby the the federal Government reimburses us for those services provided, but that is infrastructure that is in place outside of the reserve community. So that those issues are certainly the focus of discussion, because my honourable friend in Government did not tread in unknowledgeable in those types of negotiations and discussions and neither are we.

We are attempting to define the parameters of what is being requested and contemplated so that we can understand our role, or what our expected role is to be, how that role differs from what we currently do, the services we currently provide, what are the budgetary implications, and where will those budgetary implications be acceded to by our final level of Government, the federal Government, because there is long-standing tradition and requirement and onus on the federal administration to accede to those costs of service provision.

**Mr. Ashton:** I think the Minister provided us some interesting background to the issue. The reason I am raising it in the context of self-government is because it is the fact that in more and more areas, Native people are directly delivering programs. In a number of areas there is a crossover of federal-provincial jurisdiction for example in terms of child agencies. That is an area of obvious crossover. The establishment of Native Child Care agencies was directly—child welfare agencies, just so there is no misunderstanding. It was achieved through federal and provincial negotiation with Native people in an area that had a crossover in terms of jurisdiction.

That is particularly the case when we are dealing with health care, because as the Minister points out, while there are various components to medical services system which are beyond the jurisdiction of the provincial Government or operated strictly by medical services, obviously when patients require hospital care that immediately plugs into the provincial system, and there is an obvious crossover in terms of jurisdiction at that point.

I am also raising it in the context of the fact that notice in terms of the Health Advisory Network that one of the criteria for the northern study was to deal with what it referred to as the fragmentation of health care delivery in northern Manitoba. I assume that means the fact that various agencies in levels of Government are delivering health care services. I assume in particular that refers to medical services from the federal Government and our provincial medical system.

The Minister is quite right in terms of some of the factors that he has pointed to and that is that non-status Indians and Metis individuals are not able to access that. We have two completely different transportation systems, for example, patient transportation systems. It can create difficulty in a lot of cases because of the duplication of services and the different criteria for the services that exist in those communities. I am not in any way suggesting that the provincial Government take over those services.

What I am suggesting though and I am asking the Minister because this item was being looked at last year and it is being looked at again, that is, will the Minister, once the department has a clear idea of where it wants to go, be consulting with Native people directly and Native organizations to determine their aspirations in this particular area, in particular to discuss the possibility of direct delivery of services perhaps in co-operation with the provincial Government and the federal Government by Native people themselves?

\* (1620)

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I think it is fair to say that there are a number of different ideas. They vary from council to council on what the devolution of the service from the federal Government will entail and what this means. Some of the tribal councils do not want to for instance participate in tripartite negotiations because they believe it might jeopardize their relationship with Ottawa.

I simply say to my honourable friend that the discussions with some of the tribal councils are going on now to try to flesh out what their objectives are in this process, because often that is certainly not clearly understood by Government. So it is not a proposition of after the fact starting to discuss the issue with the native Manitobans, but rather to discuss it with them whilst we are attempting to get a handle on the policy and formulate a negotiating direction and stance.

**Mr. Ashton:** I wanted to shift into another area. It is an issue that I had raised all the way back to when Larry Desjardins was the Minister of Health and subsequently with Wilson Parasiuk. It relates to the criteria that are used in terms of the establishment of nursing homes in the province.

I realize this may sound to the Minister that I am making some suggestions or making requests that are counter to the general policy in this area, but I ask him just to bear with me because I think it is an important concern. I know he said that he wants to look at personal care homes, basically in terms of the extent to which we are building personal care homes, the criteria that are being used. I believe that was mentioned in his opening statement. If I am mistaken on that, he may wish to correct me. It is part of, I think, the overall question that has been raised in recent years of the role of home care, the increasing role of home care, which I certainly support as an option to institutionalized care.

In northern communities we are in a different situation and in some rural communities as well in that we have no personal care homes of any nature. In Thompson, for example, we recently are building our first seniors' home, but that is strictly a residence. There are an increasing number of people in the Thompson General Hospital, not strictly from Thompson but from communities throughout the North, that are long-term patients who would be more suited to placement in a personal care home. The difficulty though is the statistical criteria that are used for whether you have a personal care home and the level of care that is

provided are not at the level that we would qualify for a personal care home, so we are in a very difficult situation. It is not just Thompson, other communities, major communities have no personal care homes. What happens is people either end up in the hospital, which is happening in the case of Thompson, the number can fluctuate from between nine to 12 and 13, or else people often end up being placed outside of the community, which is very disruptive to the family support mechanisms that are particularly important I know to many elderly residents of our community.

I raised this with the Minister of Health and he had actually indicated that there would be a review of the criteria that were being used, which is exactly what I felt was necessary. Many people in the community of Thompson, other northern communities, feel is necessary. I am wondering if the Minister would be willing to undertake such a review, particularly as it relates to communities that have no facility of that nature. Is he willing to follow up on what I realize was a commitment? In fact, I received the official letter very shortly before Larry Desjardins' period was over as Minister, and I realize the Minister had various issues he has been dealing with. I am not expecting that there should have been a study yesterday, all I am asking for is whether the Minister would be willing to look at the question of criteria for personal care homes, for nursing homes if you like, in northern and remote communities and also in more remote rural communities, as well.

**Mr. Orchard:** Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman.

**Mr. Ashton:** I appreciate the Minister's interest in this area. Will he have the Research and Planning section of his department conduct such a study, and further to that, will there be some consultation with the communities affected? I know there are a number of people, a number of communities, that would very much like to have input on this particular issue.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, my honourable friend has identified a difficulty that is unique to some of his communities. We are prepared to look at that issue and see whether there is a solution that can be achieved. I have to tell my honourable friend that the guidelines by which personal care home beds are established have not changed. They are based on the same criterion, and preliminary information is that there has been no initiation of an investigation on the criterion, as my honourable friend indicates. I will further check that and report to my honourable friend on Thursday to see whether any discussion has taken place.

**Mr. Ashton:** I appreciate the Minister's willingness to look at this particular area and, as I indicated in my question, the assurance had been given by the Minister, I have it in writing. I will see if I can track it down from my files but my impression was that it had not been followed up and I am not placing any blame on the Minister.

In fact, I said when the Estimates opened that I would give the Minister credit were credit was due. If the Minister is willing to conduct a study, I will give him

now, in advance—and this may go counter to some of the criticisms, I know we have had a number of criticisms of the Minister's activities in various areas—but if he is willing to look at the criteria for personal care homes in communities in northern Manitoba and very seriously look at the need for such facilities when you are in communities where there is no option available other than to leave the community entirely and that there are no neighbouring communities. There are in some communities in southern Manitoba where you can go 30 miles down the road and you do at least have a facility available.

If the Minister is willing to look at that, I will not only give him credit now in advance of that study but if it hopefully leads to a revised criteria which I think can be justified and further to the construction of a limited number, I am not asking for a major capital program, but a limited number of facilities that will plug the gaps that exist in a lot of remote and northern communities. I will now on the record today, October 24, 1989, say that I will give the Minister credit and I thank him for acknowledging the need for the study in this area.

**Mr. Orchard:** Thank you.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister has given me a copy of the letter he has from the College of Physician and Surgeons of Manitoba. This report clearly indicates the statistics are based on 1984 ECFM, the examination which is no more valid in Canada, and probably get information from the college or from the Medical Council of Canada as it regards to the statistics to be more specific so that we can have more comparison at the recent data or whatever in terms of having a Canadian exam not an American exam.

Also, can he get access to the information from the College of Physician and Surgeons of Manitoba? How many people from these first five countries have failed the exam given when they are practising medicine in Manitoba, and I know some of their licences as the Minister said, have been waived. We would like to have information so that we can have a more clear comparison of what should be done because I still feel very strongly that there has to be a uniformed exam, it does not matter where the individuals come from.

**Mr. Orchard:** I will undertake to seek that information from the college, but this information was sent over by the college because it is apparently the most current information comparable in nature that they have. They indicate there is no similar, at least at that time, they indicated there was no similar compilation of data compiled in Canada, but that the ECFMG is a very comparable examination to the MCCEE in so that they sent this over as a matter of information to indicate simply that given comparable examinations, the examinations are comparable enough that one could expect to transpose the results that my honourable friend has before him to the Canadian MCCEE results. I will attempt to achieve that knowledge that my honourable friend wishes, but I can indicate to him that I know of one instance, and that is the one that we have discussed here this afternoon.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, could the Minister provide us also if possible he has waived 40 licences for the last one year, and could we have a breakdown as regards to each and every country or region.

**Mr. Orchard:** No, I cannot provide that, because I do not know from whence those positions come. Because it does not matter to me where they come, the only thing I want to know is whether they are in the judgment of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, competent to practise medicine with an adequate and reasonable guarantee of patient safety in the Province of Manitoba. It matters not to me where those individuals come from; it only matters to me whether they are competent to practise medicine. So I do not have that information, nor will I seek that information, Mr. Acting Chairman.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I think it is extremely important in terms of getting information because the college has certain rules. If individuals are fulfilling those requirements, and they are getting licensed to practise that is fine. When the Minister is waiving licensing for a short time for a longer time, I think it will make sense for us to know which country or region these individuals are coming from and what is their length of stay. So that would make my point very clear that these individuals do not stay in Manitoba, and that is why I offered the questions to inquire.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, with all due respect to my honourable friend, I will not ask for that information because I do not want to know: (a) the country of origin; (b) the colour of their skin; (c) the political affiliation they have; (d) their religious affiliation; (e) whether they are man or a woman. I simply want to be assured by those in the role in the position to give me that assurance that they are competent to practise medicine, and I do not intend to seek the information my honourable friend wants.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

Secondly, my honourable friend's concern about whether they simply come to Manitoba and move on has absolutely nothing to do with where they came from. The two issues are entirely independent, and cannot and should not be linked because some individuals do move on. Some individuals get their internship in Newfoundland, practise in Saskatchewan, practise in rural Manitoba and may end up practising in Winnipeg, but are we to make a judgment that they erred in that they did not stay in Newfoundland or Saskatchewan—the kind of provinces that my honourable friend has mentioned earlier on today—or do not remain in practise in rural Manitoba where there is a physician shortage? Are we to make a judgment on those individuals that they erred and abused the system? If that is what my honourable friend wants to do, he may do that.

My responsibility, my role, and I have been carrying it out with impartiality, is to attempt to provide medical services by qualified physicians where they are needed.

From time to time the recommendation has come to my office that certain individuals will, in the estimation



of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, be able to complete successfully the Medical Council of Canada evaluation examinations, and when that recommendation is made to me I do not ask: are they man, are they woman, where do they come from, what is their religion, what is their ethnic background? I simply want assurances that they can practise medicine at a quality, comprehensive, safe fashion for the citizens of Manitoba—nothing more, nothing less—because that is my obligation to Manitobans as the Minister of Health.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, is it not amazing that he has provided me a list half an hour ago, a list that indicates clearly what he has said right now. If he can provide me that list, why can he not provide other lists? I am not asking for individual names. We are asking for a simple breakdown. You have given me a list half an hour ago, a list under similar circumstances, but you are not able to provide a list but you have been able to license. Is that fair?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend has been confusing the issue consistently. At one time, he says, oh, there are a number of people who have passed all the examinations so that they ought to be able to practise medicine in Manitoba. That is not correct. My honourable friend then, later on said that he does not believe anybody should practise medicine until they pass the exams. I agree with him. I am not certain he has always enunciated that position until today and I am pleased for that clarification.

My honourable friend is trying to say that we discriminate against certain individuals by allowing some people to practise medicine in Canada without an internship program. I have simply provided to my honourable friend the background behind that as given to me by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It does not deal with the Manitoba situation specifically. It simply indicates that out of 11 physicians trained in Australia, 11 of them successfully passed the competency exams. Of 101 physicians trained in China, two passed the examination.

Does my honourable friend expect the College of Physicians and Surgeons to recommend to me a waiver of those examinations for a physician trained in China? That is what this information is designed to provide background to my honourable friend so he has a greater understanding of the policy that is in place, is administered and guided by the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Manitoba. The licensing body charged with the responsibility of assuring those individuals to whom they grant a license to practise medicine are competent to do so.

**Mr. Cheema:** The Minister is misleading completely. I am simply asking him, he has given me a list provided to him by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. I am simply asking him, he has waived 40 licences. Why can he not get this simple information? What is wrong in that? What is the big deal? We are not asking you to do a favour to any individual, simple circumstances. You have provided me evidence, I want you to provide the other part of the story too. You have waived 40 licences, we want to know just a simple

breakdown, the originality of the country. What is wrong with that?

**Mr. Orchard:** Because (a) I do not have that information, (b) I do not want to have that information, I want to know if the individual is competent to practise medicine. I do not have the ability to make that judgment personally.

My honourable friend does not have that ability to make that judgment personally. That is why we have the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Manitoba and the Royal College in Canada. If my honourable friend is suggesting that it is inappropriate for those licensing bodies to exist, then make that case as the Party policy of the Liberals of Manitoba. He just shook his head saying, no. Exactly, and were he in my seat he would be following exactly the same professional advice from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He would not be asking from whence physicians came when the College recommends that they are competent to practise with a waiver of examination. It serves no useful purpose to a Minister of Health to know that. All the Minister of Health ought to know is whether the individual is competent to practise medicine, only that and nothing more. Anything else is not a valuable piece of information designed to protect the safety of Manitobans receiving care from those physicians.

\* (1640)

**Mr. Cheema:** It is amazing that half an hour ago he gave information which is very sensitive information, and now the other information which he signed, those letters, and he does not want to give information. What is wrong with that? I do not want to argue with him on that issue. Let the public and the other people decide it—

**Mr. Orchard:** Would you admit that I do not have the information, would you have the common decency to acknowledge that I do not have the information? Please do.

**Mr. Cheema:** That is why I am asking you a simple question. Will you agree to get the information or not? Okay, fine.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I simply say to my honourable friend to have the common decency to admit that I have told him I do not have that information. It is not part and parcel of any information I receive when I have been given a recommendation for a waiver of examination. Second, it is not information that I wish to have as Minister of Health, because it assists me in no way in making a judgment as to whether that individual is competent to practise medicine.

I do not care if the individual is from a foreign country, be it Australia, be it New Zealand, be it Wales, be it Scotland. I simply have no interest in that. I simply want to know whether the individual is considered competent to practise medicine before I sign that waiver of examination. As I pointed out to my honourable friend, we are paving the way for quicker medical service to underserved communities.

The easy option that my honourable friend is obviously suggesting as Liberal Party policy is not to grant any waivers of examination, period, so that communities will wait an extra three to nine months for a physician. Well then my honourable friend would be doing exactly the same thing I am doing, i.e., accepting the advice of The College of Physicians and Surgeons. If my honourable friend wanted to know the country of origination so that he could personally say, no, I do not agree to a waiver from a given country, then he would be discriminating against those individuals. I am sure my honourable friend would not want to do that.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, just a final question. During the earlier part of the Estimates I raised an issue as regards the survey on mental health care in Manitoba. That survey was done in February of 1989 and it says that it was evaluated during the last summer and it was partially during this administration and the Minister should correct that.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend is referring to the MHO study, which he nods his head that he is, the study is dated I understand February of 1989. The surveys took place in July, August of 1988. It was intended not to be delivered to Government because it was not intended to be something that Government would receive. It was intended as an internal document of the MHO, shared with the facilities that responded to the surveys.

My honourable friend is really grasping at straws. If he is saying that surveys done in July of 1988, a month and a half after this Government was sworn in, before our policies and programs were initiated and in place in mental health, are valid today, then my honourable friend is indeed misguided.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, I was just asking him to correct the information that I heard. I am not asking him anything else. He said this afternoon that he was not aware of this survey and this survey was not done during his mandate. I just wanted to clarify and simplify. I am not asking him to do anything else.

**Mr. Orchard:** I am only asking my honourable friend to acknowledge that the survey was not intended to be given to Government and he said, okay. He acknowledges that. It is dated February '89. It was surveyed in July. That is before policy initiatives of this Government were even announced, let alone implemented. So therefore I would suggest to my honourable friend that the survey may not be an accurate reflection of circumstances today and my honourable friend seems to acknowledge that, and I thank him for it.

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Chairperson, I want to shift discussion into the discussion in terms of the community clinics. I recently raised a question in the Legislature in regard to the Saskatchewan study on community clinics. It was recently released. It was conducted as far back I believe as 1983. The Conservative Government of Saskatchewan sat on the report for a number of years. It was finally released and indicated that community

clinics are very efficient in terms of health care delivery. At the time I asked the Minister if he had the opportunity to read the report, and I would like to ask him since that time, since the report has become more widely available, if he and his department have had the opportunity to review it?

**Mr. Orchard:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Ashton:** I would like to ask the Minister, has he personally had the opportunity to review it or is he referring to my question as to whether his department has reviewed it.

**Mr. Orchard:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Ashton:** The Minister has not personally had the opportunity to read the report. Will the research and planning section of the Department of Health be looking into the situation here in Manitoba, because I think one of the particular concerns of community clinics is that they are not receiving the type of attention from the Government. This by the way has been expressed to me by them.

I think the jury is out on that and it remains to be seen whether the Minister and the department will respond to the concerns in the community clinic field, but there is this concern that community clinics are not receiving the same sort of priority that they deserve, given the fact they do provide very efficient services to Manitobans.

I would like to ask, whether in the process of the department reviewing this study, whether they will be looking at either a similar study in Manitoba or at least some analysis based on the Saskatchewan study here in Manitoba?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, the issue of community health centres—the report is certainly being analyzed within Government, and my honourable friend is correct. I think it is a circa early '80s report almost ten years old now, and whether it has applications in Manitoba I simply cannot offer my honourable friend that advice because it has not been provided to me.

\* (1650)

My honourable friend the other day when he raised this issue in the House raised it on the basis—and I did not get the opportunity because I erred in jesting that I had forgotten the question, but I was going to answer anyway. My honourable friend, the Speaker decided that he would cut me off. I was going to correct my honourable friend because he paraphrased the question on the basis that there had been cutbacks to the funding of community health clinics, and that is simply not accurate. In fact the community health centres in two successive budgets have received increased funding commitments from this Government.

Mr. Chairman, I have had discussions with a number of the individuals involved with community health centres to offer to them Government's assistance and request their participation to prove that exact kind of case. They are an effective modality of health care

service delivery, because I do not have an ideological approach to the delivery of health care in Manitoba.

I do not believe that all medicine ought to be delivered by a one-year trained practitioner, and that every other professional discipline is not a necessity. That I do not think is even the philosophical approach of either of the Opposition Parties, and I do not have a philosophical aversion to teaching hospitals, community hospitals, rural hospitals, nursing stations or community health centres.

I do have a responsibility and intend to take it very seriously to provide the most effective health care service delivery. That means challenging people in the health care service delivery to prove their statements that they are a more effective way to deliver, and if they can do that I have absolutely no hesitation in building upon that identification of appropriate use of scarce resource. We are working very co-operatively with the community health centres in terms of making that sort of identification in terms of program effectiveness.

**Mr. Ashton:** The concern amongst community clinics is the priority that they are receiving from the current Government and are encouraged by the Minister indicating he has no ideological hangups with community clinics—I hope not. I know it has been a problem in the past. There has been a lack of acceptance by people with similar political persuasion, shall we say, to the Minister. It has been an ongoing issue in the health care field.

I think the position of the New Democratic Party in terms of the community health care clinics has been fairly clear. We had a number of major initiatives going back to the Schreyer Government in terms of community clinics, and if we continue to support it in this province—I know it is one of the major issues in health care in Saskatchewan—once again, the question of the degree of priority in terms of health care delivery that the community clinics are afforded. We will perhaps see, to some extent fairly soon when we discuss the capital budgets, the priority that is placed on the capital budget side.

I do not want to get into that in any great detail at this point in time, but clearly you have to be looking directly, we all have to be looking directly at the need for a new facility at the clinic.

In terms of the operating side, I think that is going to be a question we will be dealing with as well, and that is the priority that is given to community health care clinics.

I think the point that has to be made, and this is a point I think that is borne out by the study, is that the community health care clinic system has a couple of advantages. First of all, it provides efficient health care delivery. That was clearly indicated in the Saskatchewan study and I would urge the Minister to read it. I know he is quite busy, but I think he would be very interested to see the results just in terms of the general way in which doctors have dealt with patients in community clinics.

An interesting statistic was in terms of the number of pharmaceuticals that were prescribed—lower in

community clinics than through the standard health care system.

In fact, I could run through another series of criteria, but we do not really have the time. Perhaps in upcoming meetings of the committee we can get into a bit of the detail, but the bottom line was, in terms of traditional health care measures, the community clinics were an efficient system, very efficient system.

Now that is only part of it. I think community clinics have provided and pioneered in the area of alternative and particularly in terms of preventative care in the past. We have a number of examples here in Manitoba. I think one of the best examples in recent years has been the occupational health centre, which I think for example has been a leader in terms of health care promotion as well as in terms of providing for referrals from physicians in terms of medical opinions et cetera.

I think that is important, because if we are going to be dealing with the situation in the health care system I think we have to not necessarily always reinvent the wheel. There may be some totally unique and innovative approaches that can be taken. I suspect there may be some initiatives in that category that could be brought into place.

In the case of the community health clinics I think we have a model that has been in place that perhaps has not received the attention over the years and this is the concern they have with the current Government. They are concerned, by the way. That has been expressed to me directly.

Whether the present Government does attach the lower priorities to the health care clinics, I think that is something I am hoping the Minister will be able to clear up and in particular will be able to prove the concerns wrong. I would love to see the Minister be giving a higher priority to the community health care clinics.

That is why I am asking the Minister if perhaps he can have his Research and Planning Department conduct a formal study. He said the department has reviewed the paper and I think that is encouraging. Using the Saskatchewan study as a basis, which would mean they would not need the same sort of planning and preparation time, you could conduct a very similar study to the Saskatchewan study right here in Manitoba.

Would the Minister be willing to look at that? I know the community clinics have been very vocal in recent months, particularly following the release of the Saskatchewan study. It is proven in a statistical and factual way what they have been saying for years in Saskatchewan. That is it is a very efficient system and a very innovative system. It has proved what we have been hearing from them in Manitoba, that once again in Manitoba it is a very efficient system and it is a very innovative system. In fact the community health clinics are on the leading edge of health care delivery.

I think as we discuss research and planning, I would like to ask the Minister once again if the department will go further than simply reviewing the paper and will include under its lists of many different topic areas—obviously we are looking at walk-in clinics, we are

looking at research, we are looking at day hospital pilot projects. There is a whole series of ongoing activities that are listed. Will the Minister consider having the research and planning department conduct a study into the health care clinics in Manitoba based on the Saskatchewan studies?

**Mr. Orchard:** I realize my honourable friend is enthused and delighted about the Saskatchewan study from 1982. It was undertaken, I believe, when his confreres were Government in Saskatchewan. I understand his enthusiasm for it.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer my honourable friend's question as to whether the methodology, the clinic approach, the funding approach, has comparable utility in the Manitoba study. I do not know whether the methodology is transferable. I do not know whether the information bases maintained in terms of patient service delivery by clinics in Manitoba are comparable to the Saskatchewan models to allow the use of that methodology.

I have indicated to my honourable friend that we are under discussions with the community clinics. I realize my honourable friend is saying that they have expressed to him concern about where this Government's direction is. I have met with those individuals. I have been as direct with them in a meeting as I have been with my honourable friend here. Unless there has been some lack of communication, I believe there was substantial satisfaction with the meeting that I had with the members of the community health clinics in Manitoba, with myself. My honourable friend may have dated information from 15 months ago, I do not know.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to my honourable friend, I am not philosophically hung-up on any particular method of health care delivery. My responsibility is something that ought to have been the responsibility for the last number of years, to assure effective service delivery. If there is a more effective service delivery model within the acute care institutions, within the personal care homes, within the community health care centres, that can deliver quality service economically to the people of Manitoba, that is entirely on the agenda of this Government for policy consideration. That I believe is our balanced responsibility and role and commitment to the people of Manitoba. I take that responsibility and commitment very seriously.

I just want to tell my honourable friend that again I do not have any particular philosophical barriers to considering any type of program delivery in the Province of Manitoba. I am a very open, pragmatic, and objective kind of person, and I think that is understood by those delivering health care in the Province of Manitoba.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hour being 5 p.m., it is now time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

## SUPPLY—URBAN AFFAIRS

**Mr. Chairman (William Chornopyski):** I call this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in the Chamber

to order to consider the Estimates of the Department of Urban Affairs. When the committee last met on Monday, the committee had been considering item 2. on page 153. Shall item 2.(a) pass—the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge):** We were discussing with the Minister the level of contribution from the Province of Manitoba to the City of Winnipeg and I had pointed out that the phrase in politics "where you stand depends upon where you sit" has particular resonance in the case of the Minister. When he was on City Council of course he was arguing that the Province of Manitoba was stingy and should give more money to the City of Winnipeg. Now he sits in his place and defends increases to the city that do not even keep pace with the rate of inflation.

I was asking -(interjection)- well, the Minister of Finance is guffawing. Mr. Chairman, the numbers are here, and just to remind the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the financial assistance to the City of Winnipeg for the year ending March 31, 1990, is in fact less than it was for the year ending March 1989. There is one special item that does not recur, \$2.1 million to Special Education Transfer Grants. Even if you factor that out, the provincial transfer payment to the city is not growing very quickly.

I know that the Minister has argued the other side of this question before, and I was just attempting to have a dialogue with him on the appropriateness of this increase in his current role as Minister of Urban Affairs.

Is it the Minister's view that the province is doing its job in its financial assistance to the City of Winnipeg? Is he concerned that the stingy nature of the grant this year could be placing more and more pressure on the City of Winnipeg to increase property taxes?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):** First of all, I think we are doing everything we can in regard to the grant to the City of Winnipeg.

As the Member realizes, they increased their taxes by 2.5 percent and we increased our budget by 3 percent. So we have done better than what the City of Winnipeg has done. We are over and above what their tax increases are for 1989.

Also if you want to do a comparison of what has happened, a recent comparison put out by the City of Edmonton, out of nine cities we are ranked about fourth in property taxes and levies from the provincial Government.

If you want to compare business taxes the City of Winnipeg right now is far below, maybe that is ways and means, in those stats showing that they are lower drastically in getting taxes from other means. I am just saying that we are in about the middle of the cities, and when you give more in the year of grants, and your budget is higher than what theirs was, I feel that you are doing your job.

The Member has suggested that I have sat on both sides of the table and I would be foolish to say otherwise.

I have sat on both sides of the table. Maybe the Member on the other side would some day like to go back and sit on the other side of the table, maybe that opportunity will come some day. It is not an enviable position to be in, but it is when you are dealing with the City of Winnipeg after being on that side of the table.

It is the same as everything else, you are a negotiator, you try to look, and you do look at everything in a global aspect, and you do as a Minister, and you do when you are a councillor sitting at the EPC level negotiating for the entire City of Winnipeg which is 600,000 people.

So the negotiation process carries on whether you are the Minister of Urban Affairs or whether you are the chairman of EPC. You have a job to do and you take on that responsibility in that role.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairperson, the grants to the City of Winnipeg are really in two categories. Some are block grants with no strings attached, and others are given to the city for particular purposes such as the transit grant.

What is the Minister's own view of the appropriateness of grants from the province that do have strings attached, and where does he intend to take that granting process down the road? Is he wanting to move us to an entirely block-funded system, or does he intend to add more strings to transfer payments as they emerge from year to year?

\* (1440)

**Mr. Ducharme:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, my views have not changed from when I was at City Hall in regard to the grants. When I sat in City Hall, and when the previous administration had made a grant on transit, subject to no fare increase, I was very offended. I felt that when you get involved in that confrontation that occurs when you make them subject to certain conditions. I think that the process of ourselves going out to the City of Winnipeg, and we might see some civic matter, responsibility that we feel that we should be part of. We go to them and we say, maybe you would like to partake and maybe you would like to get involved in, through Urban Affairs, our capital granting that takes place. So it is an ongoing relationship, and I do not like to put ribbons or attachments to these types of grants.

The reason why the Transit is there is because it is a negotiated figure when they go into budget to try to make sure that they—if it was an outright grant on Transit, then they could come back with any numbers that they want. So what you do is you predetermine what their expenses will be at the beginning of the budget process, and then you say to them, we will give 50 percent of that particular grant. That is what they operate on. If they are over that predetermined amount, then we feel that we are not involved in that particular budget of the Transit.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, what is the nature of the negotiation and the consultation between the City of Winnipeg and the province? When you are talking about

grants that will be given to the city in the following year, does the Minister meet with the official delegation? Are there meetings between the Urban Affairs Committee of Cabinet and the official delegation? Just tell us what the process is. How much lead time is required for the city to make their own financial projections, and whether or not he considers that process to be working?

**Mr. Ducharme:** Right now, we had suggested this year that we would start meeting. The administration has been meeting with the city. I appreciate that the city must start with their prep papers by December. Remember, their fiscal year is at the end of March or the 1st of April, and they must have their budget in place. We start long before with our negotiations in the process that we get involved in.

This year is a little different because it is tough to negotiate when the Parties are out there from July or the end of June, and you have councillors—and I have been there. It is not an enviable time to be sitting on Council, from the end of June to the end of October. Many things happen. The Chairman is laughing in his seat because he has been through that. It does come almost to a standstill.

Fortunately the administrations keep that negotiation process ongoing between the board of commissioners and the people at the administration level. So it does not come to a standstill at the administration level, but I will tell you it comes to a slow down when it comes to dealing, talking budgets, talking taxes, and talking that type of thing during a civic election.

While I am on my feet, I notice that the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) had asked a question yesterday in regard to Handi-Transit. I told him I would get back to him on the ridership of the Handi-Transit. Of the 12,300 people that are registered under the Handi-Transit, 5,000 of them are seniors, and 71 percent of rides on Handi-Transit are to seniors. Just to give you that information, I told you I would get back to you on that information.

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** Mr. Chairman, just following up on a question from my colleague in Question Period so that we have it on record in Estimates, could you tell us what the status of the negotiations are for the Point Douglas scrap yard? and what the Government's intentions are?

**Mr. Ducharme:** When we came in office, one of the items on official delegation was long-standing because as you can appreciate that it was on there for quite a while. We committed to the previous administration's commitment of the \$50,000.00. Apparently they have now negotiated a position with the scrap yard, and they have come back and asked us for X number of dollars more.

We have not replied to that. We will be replying to that shortly when we meet with the official delegation. Hopefully it is with whoever are the new people sitting on that committee. We will be getting back to them in the next short while. You have to remember though that was out of their capital programs of their \$90 million

urban capital. So they come to us and ask us on the urban capital, and then we look and see whether there are sufficient monies available.

What we are doing now is we are looking through our funds to see whether there are any monies that will fall through the—they have actually received all their commitment for their year including 1990 on their capital works. We are looking now and seeing what monies might fall back, and as you know they are on a demand basis. So we are looking now and seeing what monies will become available, because it is not only that particular one that they are asking for, they are asking for others for us to come on stream with.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, that was going to be my next question, and that is the negotiations that are taking place are on the very small scrap yard in Point Douglas. Of course, the one that has been causing the major concern is the Western Scrap yard. Has there been any indication from the city that they are looking at proceeding with taking over Western Scrap yard and having it moved out of the residential area?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I can say that I have had no approaches from the City of Winnipeg. We are not negotiating on that particular scrap yard.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us some information under the Core Area Agreement about the Main Street Revitalization Program? What money has been allocated now for the revitalization of the streets, such as Corydon? I am particularly interested in the Main Street revitalization. How much money has been allocated for each of those major arteries or streets?

**Mr. Ducharme:** The obligation is \$200,000 to the Main Street, to the existing street. There is \$570,000 to Corydon Avenue. The city had decided that they had some Works and Ops. projects to do, and they are going to have it come in conjunction with them when they do their Corydon Avenue at the same time. It was supposedly going to be done this year, but apparently they have delayed it till next year and then we will bring our core monies on stream when the city does their Works and Ops. at the same time.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Minister thinks that the \$200,000 is a reasonable allocation, considering the seriousness of the problems on Main Street. Is there a commitment by this Government whether it is all in this budget year, or subsequent budget years, to begin to move in a more significant way to deal with some of those issues?

If you were on the two streets, Corydon and Main Street, and you looked at the condition of the streets, one would wonder why the \$570,000 did not go to Main Street and the \$200,000 to Corydon. So could the Minister tell us why they have the priorities that they do? Are they serious about Main Street, and do they have any intentions of making a more significant move in that area?

**Mr. Ducharme:** Are you talking about the Main Street itself or are you talking about the latest Main program

there was some mention of in the paper a few days ago, and that you have probably received a letter from a group on Main Street?

**Ms. Hemphill:** I am talking about the programs.

**Mr. Ducharme:** You are talking about the original. Okay. The original program as you appreciate out of the first Core, Main Street, did get \$1 million. Now they have gotten \$1.2 million. I have to say that out of that particular program and when it was put in place that is probably the reason why the other ones now are coming on stream. Now you are getting more and more streets coming on stream asking for that utilization.

Remember, core management are the directors of the monies to that program. So I am saying to you that they have now received \$1.2 million out of the two core area programs so far.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, I think to the program that I think he was referring to, I am wondering if the Minister has received the plan from the north Main revitalization corporation. I am not sure if I have the name totally correct, because they have changed their name but I think that their plan is to totally raze, I do not mean up but to destroy, all of the buildings actually on Main Street and to start fresh. I think probably the assumption is that if the facilities are destroyed, well, then the people who are causing the problems will, if not disappear, at least go somewhere else.

Could the Minister tell us whether they have had this proposal presented to them and what attitude they have over that kind of a solution to the problems of Main Street which is just to raze it and sort of start fresh and put up all fresh buildings?

\* (1450)

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, I did go down as Minister and I visited the people involved because Mr. Donahue who I talked to at the time when I was there. It is basically a model that we saw. There is no real development plan that has been put forward to us as Government. I think that there is a general meeting going on between the three levels of Government, a continuous—you have to remember, to the Member, that this is not something that you would even look at under the present core program.

This is \$100 million in itself and that is a very, very outside figure. That is without taking into consideration probably a lot of the expropriations. As you know, expropriation costs get very high, especially when you are taking over businesses. The buildings might not seem too much on that street, but when you start taking over businesses and you get into the courts, you start looking at hotels that are along the way. Unfortunately, in expropriations the businesses are probably a lot more to expropriate than the buildings.

There has been no development plan that I have seen as Minister. I saw the model, I did talk. I spent about an hour and a half with the individuals there and advised them that this would have to be something completely different than what we know of the core,

When you invest in two core programs, \$100 million in five years, another \$100 million in another, and they are asking for \$100 million on one particular program, that is a whole new consideration that would have to be considered by all three levels. There is not a Government around at one level that could handle it.

If you notice the comments that came out of the city, they were quite in agreement with that. They were quite startled by the amount of monies. I think we are all concerned about that Main Street because so much has been done right down north of Portage right up to Main Street. The fine buildings are there, the Centennial Concert Hall, the new Pantages under the core agreements, all this has taken place and it would be certainly nice to see something done on Main Street and to solve that problem of what is happening.

I particularly was not that sold on Nashville North. That really did not, as a Minister, really did not, I thought maybe if something is going to be done it could be, I was not too excited about that because anybody who has been to Nashville recently will see what has happened in Nashville. After you get away from the record producing places and you look right around with the streets beside there and it is like, unfortunately, it is like Main Street. It has completely deteriorated so it has to be something else other than what they have proposed.

I am looking forward to maybe some type of proposal and development that they might bring forward. I look forward to discussions with the federal and civic Governments.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, when the Honourable Duff Roblin established the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation back in the late 1960s and had a dream, a vision for Main Street, he built along with the help of literally thousands of volunteers in our community the Centennial Centre, the Manitoba Concert Hall, The Planetarium, and then we had the City Hall built. There was really a sense of hope that finally the City of Winnipeg was coming to terms with the incredible problems of north Main Street. Well we have not.

As a matter of fact, nothing has happened except they have grown worse. The Minister says that it would be nice to see. Well if there is a word that is more inappropriate than the word nice to describe the conditions on north Main Street, I cannot find it. There is nothing nice about the conditions on—well, no, the Minister did not say that they were nice, but he said it would be nice to see. I am talking about a commitment of the Government to take a leadership role. We know that the Core Area Initiative Project One and Two has done very little in that part of Winnipeg. We also know that this Government has no proposals on the table to initiate some sense of hope. We are not only talking about buildings. Too often when we talk about urban reform, we talk about what people call the edifice complex, we talk about buildings, we talk about bricks and mortar, but there are serious and deeply-rooted social problems with the people who live in that part of Winnipeg.

As a matter of fact, when we—I say we—when Governments agreed on the North Portage

Development Corporation there was some talk of, well, we are cleaning up a situation on the north side of the street and we are going to make it better. They made the north side of the street better, but then you walk on the south side of the street and you realize the problem was not cured, it was not solved, it was just moved.

There has not been enough attention, enough leadership, enough resources, enough commitment from any Government, and I do not single out this one, to solving the fundamental problems of poverty and of unemployment in the inner city of Winnipeg. You have symbols of that poverty; you have symbols of that unemployment; you have symbols of the social problems which really threaten to overtake that part of our downtown.

I do not know the last time the Minister or members of his staff actually took a walk on a Saturday night down north Main Street. I know most Winnipeggers do up their windows, lock their doors and drive right through, because they want the problem to go away. They do not want to see it, they do not want to smell it, touch it or feel it. That is not good enough, and it is not good enough putting up shopping malls on one side of the street so social problems only move across the street.

I am hopeful that in this exchange now with the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill), who I know is very concerned about these issues, and the Minister, that we can maybe between us come up with some creative ideas at least to commit ourselves to a plan to solve the fundamental socio-economic problems associated with that area and doing it in a way which gives people who live there hope that there are people who care about them.

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, to the Member, I did not use "nice" to describe the area. I did spend quite a bit of time down there when I went to look at the model.

I have to say to the Member there have been considerable amounts of money put into the employment, into the area through our core. He asks of vision. He went back to the Centennial Concert Centre and what was developed at that time. I think the secret—and you have to remember that under the second core agreement and the first core agreement people were asked to come forward with their ideas of what could be done with the monies.

I think the secret on the Centennial one is that you were able to get people involved. It had something about the community that said, we have to do this. You had people who got involved from the movers and the shakers of the area, and you know there are those people in the City of Winnipeg. There are the Frazers and the Naimarks, these type of people who are the shakers.

I hope when we come forward with a program it will be a combination of the movers and the shakers along with myself as Minister, if I happen to be here at the time or whatever the Minister, or whatever the Government, that maybe we are going to have to relook at how the other ones were so successful.

If you go back in history you can take a look at the planning that was done years and years ago. It was not just the political, because there are a lot of people out there who can give the advice that the politicians cannot do. You have people out there who can give that advice on how it should be done.

Right now we are in the finalization of a core. I am sure we will be talking about a core—and I am just using that as a word, core—we do not know what the third result will be of an agreement with three levels of Government or what our responses will be in regard to that agreement. The vision is there, the concerns are there.

We will constantly talk to these people that are there, and I have no problems. If it was a case of unlimited resources, now it is up to us to say, here is where we feel our financial resources should go to. We have to also know where the federal is coming from, and we have to know where the civic people are coming from.

I think something will be done in that particular area. At this moment I cannot tell you where the feds are or where the city are on this particular issue.

\* (1500)

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed that the Minister cannot tell us where the federal Government is on this issue. I am disappointed that he cannot tell us where the city is on this issue. What does that say, that there have been no, partisan politics aside, conversations between Ministers and between city councillors and the mayor on the problem of north Main Street? Maybe I should clarify the Minister's comment. Was he referring to no discussions on the renewal of core or no discussions on the problems associated with Main Street?

Mr. Chairman, when the Minister told us a minute ago that there had been no consultation with the federal Minister or with City Hall, was he referring to a renewal of the core, or was he referring to the problems on Main Street?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I told you I did not know the position of the other two levels of Government. I did not say there has been no consultation in regard to the Main Street Project or to renewal of the core. We have had discussions in regard to, into core, but we have not had any confirmation from either the federal politicians or the civic politicians on where they are at and what they think the third agreement would be, whether it is a core or whatever it is.

Just to mention to the Member that there have been other programs, entrepreneurial program new to this agreement, and that was the one where Natives were one of the targets. I did go to the graduation exercises of that particular group and the enthusiasm was there. That is something new under the core.

Talking about the social aspects and requirements of the core in that particular area, there was the Employment Training Program, a very high degree of participation, and so there has been an increased number of Native, there has been an increased number

of groups that have come forward. So we have not neglected that in the core area.

You have to remember that under the agreement that was signed by the three levels of Government that they decided where they were going to position their monies. Each one has a mandate for carrying that out, and we are hopeful that, I have even remarked lately that I hope that this Government will then be at the start of the core program and maybe be one of the leaders of whatever that program is. I hate to keep calling it the core because we do not know what it will be, but when that comes then I hope that I am at that table to express the concerns of the two critics.

I am glad to see you give me ideas. I want to see those ideas so that when we go to the table we will know what the people want. That is why the whole process of inviting people to the core before they went into the second agreement, they had hundreds of people who came forward and said here is what we would like to see. I think the most dangerous part about the second core agreement is—I remember when we were at City Hall before the second agreement was made, we had all these groups out there that were looking at it as a continual basis and that was not the intent of the core programs. The core programs were to get people out there, get them started, get them going and hoping that it would be the seed that would be necessary for self-survival and maybe come back at other times to extend their programs and maybe ask for money so they can branch out and do other programs.

That is the frightening part. Now you are going to be ten years and these groups that are heavily reliant on the core program, so this will have to be addressed when we are discussing whatever agreement is going to come after, what we call the son of core.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, by the Minister's answer I take it that there have been no formal consultations with the Government of Canada or the City of Winnipeg on what will follow the Core Area 2 Agreement. The Minister says that he does not know what is on their minds about what may follow. Is that right?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I said I do not know what their commitment is at this time. There are always discussions. There have been ongoing discussions at both the political and the administrative level.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, then the obvious question to ask the Minister is, what is the commitment of his own Government? What is he saying on behalf of the Government of Manitoba during these informal consultations with the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada? Is he proposing the renewal of core? Is he proposing something else? Is he proposing that there be a continuation of the tripartite model? Is he proposing that the province strike out on its own through his Department of Urban Affairs? Is he proposing that there be some bilateral arrangement with the city? Can he let us know what the thinking is of his Government as we move towards the deadline which I believe is March of 1991 through the evaluative process of Core 2, and what is the priority and the



commitment of his Government when that agreement expires?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, you have to believe that there are still two years left in that particular agreement. I think that he has to believe that the province is showing some initiative on looking at whatever the agreement is, whether it is core or whatever it is. I have asked my staff to go back and give me a breakdown on what they felt worked in 1, worked in 2. There are concerns that I had on the second agreement. I asked him to give me a history on what has been happening with those two agreements. Then at that time when we get down to the negotiation process, and I give him my want list—I would not want to give you my list ahead of time. It is easier for me to give you my list after and hoping that we get what we want out of the core agreement. I really supported the core, the first core program. I still support the concept. I think that you have to remember that you said there is a year and a half, but remember the agreements themselves can go on to, I think it is back to the end of March of '93 of this program.

**Mr. Carr:** Yesterday, the Member for Logan made reference to a report done by the Social Planning Council in Winnipeg. Perhaps the most astonishing figure in all of its findings is that between the years 1981 and 1986 the City of Winnipeg grew by something over 5 percent, but the Native population of Winnipeg grew by something over 70 percent. These people are coming primarily from the reserves of northern Manitoba where the unemployment rate is often upwards of 90 percent. - (interjection)- Yes, the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) says in some communities it could be as high as 100 percent. Very often they do not have the skills or the training to plug into the urban marketplace and the result is a tremendous tragedy of lost potential, broken families, and it is not a subject that we feel very comfortable discussing.

The Minister mentions the name of Jack Frazer, and I think it is important that I fill out his comments. Mr. Frazer is a highly successful businessman in Winnipeg, leading one of the major western Canadian corporations. He is not a member of my political Party, yet he has taken a leadership role working with entrepreneurs in the Native community, trying to use the expertise of established businesspeople in Winnipeg, which is I believe where this organization is based, to encourage young Native entrepreneurs to establish and maintain and operate their own businesses.

What is the Minister's Government's association with Native entrepreneurship? I am interested in knowing. I am also interested in knowing just how his Government intends to react to this demographic reality in the changing face of Winnipeg and what he believes to be the role of the Department of Urban Affairs to reach out to Native people coming into Winnipeg from the reserves and taking residence in the core area of our city, finding ways for them to adjust to urban life, particularly to create economic opportunities, skills training, and just what the Minister's Government has in mind to begin answering the call for the urban Native community of Winnipeg, a call which has been ignored

by Governments of all stripes and at all levels for far too long.

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, the program he is referring to is a national program that Mr. Frazer is involved in. If the Member is wondering what Urban Affairs is involved in, we have been quite involved in the Urban Native Strategy that the Minister responsible for that portfolio will be bringing forward.

\* (1510)

If the Member wants to know what my personal feelings are, I will be very blunt to the individual. I have a brother-in-law who is Native, came here several years ago. I can surely tell the Member that I can understand to a certain point where he is coming from and the problems that he has in the City of Winnipeg. I can understand members of his family who have come and gone and moved out of the city, so I think that the Member has a good point. That is why this particular Government has suggested that we are part of the Urban Native Strategy Program and we are looking at ways and means to deal with it. People out there, and I think I mentioned it yesterday, no one even knows the numbers of what the Native population is in Winnipeg. I think we have to tackle that and then tackle the position to make sure that these people are made to feel welcome, first of all, and then we have to provide the employment and the training for the employment that is required.

I mean they come from a different environment. If you know some Native people like I do, they are very quiet people, they do not feel comfortable and I think this is something that we have to address. As Minister, I have no problems trying to address that issue. I think that when the Minister addresses the situation and we make our comments and our input, my staff, we have one person who is working on the strategy, and when the Minister is ready to present that, it will be a start.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, just to follow up a little bit on the points made about Main Street. I guess it is important that I say this did not happen overnight, it is something that previous Governments and organizations have been struggling with. But I think that what we are looking at is the question of the Government's commitment, and over and over one of the answers we seem to be getting is that we are waiting to see what somebody else is doing. Like they are waiting to see if the city will take initiative, or what somebody else thinks.

What we are trying to get here is what does this Government think they can do with the tools that they have at their disposal? When he mentioned how the people of Winnipeg, movers and shakers, had the vision of Main Street and developing the concert hall and the museum, we can see that happening because it is very easy for people who have money to get excited about something like a world-class cultural facility, and doing some fund raising and providing the initiative and the leadership and the impetus to develop a facility like that. It is much more difficult, in fact, I do not know if we have ever seen it happen, to have people with

that capacity decide to direct their interest and their initiative to the derelicts and the homeless on Main Street, and to make the issue providing adequate decent housing for the increasing numbers of homeless children, for instance, that are on Main Street, many of whom are surviving through prostitution today because they have nothing else to do.

I have a lot of sympathy with the point that the Minister makes that there is not a hundred million dollars around and that the suggestion that I was going to make to him, and it is really an appeal, is that they look at the existing tools they have, and the existing programs. Since the Minister, for instance, says they have a commitment to social housing and they are not cutting back on the social housing program, then let us take an existing program and simply direct some of it into the Main Street area, so that if there is, for instance, in the Department of Community Services, an intention to begin to do something about the homeless children on the street, that can be done with the resources in that department by making that a priority. The Attorney General could deal with the overselling of liquor on Main Street—where we know that the Main Street hotels are not complying with the laws of the land and everybody sees that everyday—insists that they do. Some of it does not even require money, some of it like that requires a decision to follow the laws on Main Street like they would be followed anywhere else.

So I guess I am suggesting that the problem could be tackled in ways other than going in with a bulldozer and destroying all of the facilities and then putting up new facilities which will cost \$100 million that nobody has, but if we wait for that we will indeed do nothing.

In the meantime, we could move in a number of these areas. We could put up some social housing in the community. I want to tell the Minister that there is a community on Main Street. There is a community. There is a social network. There is a family on Main Street. People who live there, contrary to what people on the outside think, often want to live there because that is where their family is, that is where their social network is, and that is where their community is.

So I think that we could, for instance, look at the people that are housed in the top of hotels, many of which I think are in the same condition as the one that was closed down a couple of weeks ago. If the Health Department went in and closed down every house and every hotel that had cockroaches in it, I can tell you that half of the houses and half of the hotels and facilities in the inner city, might be a slight exaggeration but not a great one, would be closed down, because many of them have cockroaches and many of them are ones that the city and the province are paying the shot for.

We did it when we were in Government. I am not suggesting that we dealt with that problem. My only appeal and I am asking the Minister, in terms of attitude, if their Government might not just decide to wait until there is \$100 million sitting on the table somewhere to go in and clean up the whole area. If they might decide to direct some existing resources in a number of ways, deal with one program with homeless children, deal with the overselling of liquor with another, and deal with the question of the homeless, through your

existing social service programs. I think if that is the way we attack it that we will indeed have a chance of cleaning up Main Street.

That does not mean cleaning out Main Street or getting rid of the so-called derelicts and poor people that inhabit it, but making it a decent place to live for them and giving them other opportunities for literacy and training, direct some of the training and the literacy programs on to Main Street. What better place to put literacy programs than right on Main Street where the people are.

\* (1520)

So I guess I am asking the Minister an attitudinal thing. Will he consider, since he seems to be suggesting that he is open to some thoughts and ideas on the subject, not just waiting for the \$100 million to appear, but really attacking the problem with the resources that they have in the different areas?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all to the Member, as she can probably appreciate, she was part of the previous Government that actually had committed most of the monies under the core for the different programs before we were Government, I must tell her that I was quite involved in the Veteran's Manor and I made sure that I did everything in my Housing Department to make sure we got that one on its way.

If I was ever complimented as a Minister, it was the compliments that were given to my particular Department of Housing to get that one on its way and get it done quite quickly. As she can probably appreciate the monies that we put, in conjunction with the Salvation Army Hostel, we made sure that again MHRC gave very considerable almost nil-interest funding to that particular program.

Also we tried for the people on Main to try to get people involved with the—there is for instance a member of the Native Business Council that sits on the Investment Review Committee of the entrepreneurial program. Core has continually worked. As I talked about earlier the Native people are a little quieter, a little shyer, and I guess it is like anybody else, they must believe you or trust you before they get really committed.

We have also in this core program brought in English as a second language. I was at the program just recently. It was a week ago Saturday that I was at the school where they had their graduation exercises of the English second language. The student that made a presentation got up and gave her presentation. She was from the class, I think there was about 16 or 17. She got up and here the mayor, myself, Senator Spivak, and everybody else had notes. We all got up and we gave our notes at the start of this program. She gets up as the spokesperson for her class, and does not use any notes at all. She admitted to us that she could not speak English when she started that particular course. So there are resources going in. There are ways to get involved in that particular program through the existing core and any chance that I have had to direct those monies I have done so.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, this may be a little off topic but I think it is worth putting on the record. During the Meech Lake Task Force hearings throughout the province we heard almost 300 people, men and women who represented organizations and themselves. If you were to ask me which of those 300 presentations left the most powerful impression on me, it was a speech given without notes by an urban Native by the name of Victor Payou, who spoke from the heart about Canada, what Canada means to him, about his own roots as a Native person, about his relationship to the environment, to the land, to the animals. You could hear a pin drop in the room as he was speaking. He had never spoken in front of an audience before. He was speaking not only to Members of the Task Force, but to a television camera, and therefore to likely thousands of Winnipeggers and Manitobans. I will never forget the power of his words. It was not only the expression of nationalism, of Canadian nationalism from a Native person, but it was also the value that we all placed on his sense of himself, his sense of his community. Stereotypes of people are often very hard to break and they lodge in the mind.

My question to the Minister is really a very simple one. As he moves toward the renegotiation of the successor to Core 2, what priority will urban Native issues have to him and his Government as he takes the view of his Government to the federal people and City Council?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I think we made that commitment quite clear in the throne speech when we committed to the urban Native. I think that made it quite clear. The direction of our Government was put there. I do not know how much more clear you can be than to accent that in your opening statements to a Legislature. I can assure him that I know myself, my staff is working in regard to that. As I told him, we put a person on staff in responsibility dealing with that particular part of the program. I think it is just a start, as I told you earlier, that you are investing these monies to get people to believe, and this just did not happen with this particular Government and did not happen with the previous administration. This has gone on for generation after generation. Native people can come to Winnipeg and they can be here 12-14 years in a reasonably good occupation, coming from some other area of Manitoba, and yet there still is that feeling of being uncomfortable. I think that it is up to us to address that when we are discussing that, whatever, as you said, whatever you call the agreement. When we are discussing it, I can assure the Member that I will be bringing that message loud and clear.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, the old CP station at the historic corner of Higgins and Main is up for sale. Has the Minister had any discussions with CP or their realtors, and what can he tell us about the interest of the Government in the way in which that transaction finally occurs?

**Mr. Ducharme:** As a matter of fact, I met with a group, I saw the building when it first came up. When it first came up it was offered I think provincially and to the city before realtors became involved, and then the

realtor has not gotten it on the market. There is a feasibility study being done to look at it and that is being done by Core. When I receive that feasibility study well then maybe I can make some comment on that. It has been known quite a long time that the building was being offered to many levels and groups throughout the city and now I believe a realtor is marketing it and all I know is that when they bring forward that feasibility study then I can make some comments, but until I get those I would not want to make any comments on it.

**Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona):** Mr. Chairman, the Minister and critics have been most informative and helpful to me personally on matters related to relations between the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. I understand in particular that the Minister is very much involved in a crucial policy formulation stage at present as we approach expiry of the Core Area Initiative Program.

On a different but related matter, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he feels there is any scope at present for provincial involvement in the City of Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone Program?

**Mr. Ducharme:** There has been one in the downtown area. I think it was approved by this particular Government a short time ago.- (interjection)- Well, the city still came forward to the province and this particular Government did provide the enabling legislation to provide that so it had to have our permission because it was something that required ours. We will look at that program and study it and see what the result of it is. It is very, very new and I understand that the Member has a Private Members' Bill that is coming forward and I congratulate the Member on that. I will be talking on that Private Members' Bill when it comes forward to the House and maybe if he would wait for my remarks at that time, I will give him details then.

**Mr. Kozak:** My thanks to the Minister for his courteous response. I would not want the Minister to comment on the matter I am raising before he feels fully prepared to do so. However, I would point out to the Minister that, in fact the Province of Manitoba has had considerably more involvement in the Business Improvement Zone Program than he put on the record just a few moments ago.

In the case of business improvement zones, Mr. Chairman, that have been founded and operate within the boundaries of the Core Area Initiative, which of course does have a component of provincial Government money, has seen fit to give seed money or sustaining grants to the business improvement zones in question. Just a matter of a mile away or two miles away or in the case of my constituency, five miles away from the boundaries of the Core Area Initiative there is an equally historic, equally important in terms of community sentiment and community survival, a regional downtown, in this case the Regent Avenue Business District of Transcona, to which a different policy applies.

\* (1530)

No Core Area Initiative money is available as seed money. No provincial money is available as seed money and there is a certain sense among merchants in historic commercial districts outside of the core area that they are, by simple virtue of the fact that they are outside the boundaries of the Core Area Initiative, treated in a different and in fact, second-class manner. I wonder if this is a matter of some concern to the Minister, the fact that provincial money is given to business improvement zones strictly on the basis of location in some areas, and denied to business improvement zones strictly on the basis of location in other areas, only a matter of one or two miles away?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, the city had approved—the downtown Exchange District has been supported through the core, and when the boundaries were supported when they were first drawn on the first core area agreement, they were changed under the second, and I have to say that even some of the boundaries that were changed in the second area went on to Osborne Street and areas that because of the local concerns of the individual who was the M.P. at the time. I have to say that what you are saying about BIZ does not only effect BIZ but it also affects other programs that are not available unless they are in the core.

(Mr. Rose, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

The whole idea of the core was to try and address the decaying area of downtown Winnipeg, and I am not saying there is not a decay area in Transcona, or some parts of St. Vital, or some parts of other parts of the city. We know that. However when three fathers of Core got together, those were the boundaries they suggested. I agree that there are times when you might not just be miles away, you might be the next street over, but that happens when you are drawing up a map to deal with a certain specific area.

I think that city staff would be available to assist the Regent Avenue merchants and others in their BIZ programs. There is nothing stopping them from going to their local councillor—whoever he might be—after the 25th and addressing that position. They do not need core and they do not need the Province of Manitoba to do that. They have gone through that route. They have gone through it with their own BIZ, and they could be assisted by the city staff. There is nothing that is suggested they cannot do that, and so I agree with the individual that there are always problems with people that have not been dealt with under Core because they are on the boundary, but that happens.

**Mr. Kozak:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I will not belabour this point. I would like, however, to suggest to the Minister that an opportunity is available to him. There is in Winnipeg's historic commercial districts a significant amount of interest in the potential of the Business Improvement Zone Program sponsored by the City of Winnipeg. There is a determination on the part of historic downtowns to survive, and to rise above the decay that in fact has beset them in recent years.

I would suggest to the Minister that providing a kick start to action of self-help on the part of regional merchants in this city would be an extremely inexpensive

proposition to the provincial Government. I would suggest further that equity strongly argues in favour of this approach, and that some of beneficiaries, as we all know, of Core Area Initiative money have been neighbourhoods that can hardly be called down-at-the-heels.

I would simply like today, given the shortness of time, to leave with the Minister my suggestion that a small amount of seed money could produce tremendous good will and local pride in expansion and survival for historic commercial districts in this city.

**Mr. Ducharme:** To the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak), I understand. I did read his Private Member's Bill, that maybe the appropriate time to look at older—and I will call them older, so they are not called decayed—areas. They are older areas, and they are not just in Transcona; there are areas in the constituency of the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose); there are areas in the constituency of the Member for Riel (Mr. Ducharme); there are all kinds of areas throughout the city that maybe could be looked at when you are addressing the third agreement, whatever it may be. That would be the appropriate time to look at them.

That is all that I can add at this time other than the comments I gave to the Member that if he wants to start getting his people on Regent Avenue ahead of it, that maybe they utilize their councillor to go and utilize the staff at City Hall who have been involved. Maybe that would be a good way of going. It is not involving a lot of money so they understand what the BIZ is all about. They understand the procedures, and then maybe they will be the first people to tap when they are ready with that third agreement.

**Mr. Kozak:** My thanks to the Minister. I will follow his advice to be active at a community level on this matter as well as following his advice to pursue this again and again in this House until provincial action is forthcoming. Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman.

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupert's Land):** Yes, just a couple of questions, Mr. Acting Chairman. In regard to the urban Native strategies, I ask the Minister what involvement he has had. I know the Member from Logan (Ms. Hemphill) had asked these questions earlier, but there was a tremendous amount of importance placed by Native people on urban Native issues. I know the core area was one program, one agreement, that the Native people looked toward for some sort of opportunity. Unfortunately the agreement did not create any real meaningful opportunities for Native people.

\* (1540)

During the course of my term as being a Member of the Government, we worked on trying to come up with a strategy dealing with Native people. We were on a course with the Core Area Initiative people that the three levels of Government—the municipal, the provincial, and the federal Government—as a means, as a forum, to deal with the urban Native strategy. The reason for doing that was not to isolate ourselves from the whole process. Unfortunately what happened was

when we got defeated in Government the new administration went and I guess had not tendered a contract but has awarded the contract to a firm to deal with the urban Native strategy.

What happened as a result of that is the feds backed away and of course the city backed away and waited for the report to be delivered as to what the recommendations would be. Our strategy was to sort of work together and have the Core Area Initiative take the lead role, because we did not want them to slip out of the focus and not be involved.

During my experience as a Member and also as a Native person living in a city, the feds are always looking for a way to opt out of being involved in the urban Native affairs. The only process that they were really involved with was with the friendship centres. I was wondering, as a result of the urban Native strategy report or the conference that took place, has there been anything to report? What has happened since then?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, the report that was suggested was done by the Minister, the Honourable Jim Downey. In regard to receiving that report, since the report has come forward, and during the process of dealing with the urban Native strategy, my department has been involved. We have made recommendations and suggestions.

You have to remember that through our involvement with the core area and because we had this heavy influx of the Native population into Winnipeg in the last five or six years, a lot of my people have been sitting on these boards and people have been expressing their concerns. I felt that it was the right place for some of my people to be on. They have expressed those concerns and brought that information back to the Minister. We have sat on the committee. When that Minister I believe was questioned by yourself, he said he will bring that forward to the House. I hope that this solves some of your concerns. I agree with you, not enough has been done. I am talking about, and I am not blaming the previous administration, or anyone else, but I am saying, decades and decades. Now it is getting to a point where we have this heavy population that is now in the city that you have to bring forward the educational programs and get them employed. They are only happy if they are employed.

I think I mentioned this earlier, and no remarks to yourself, that the Native people that I know, to me are more on the shy type. They do feel uncomfortable when they come into the City of Winnipeg, and I think we have to learn to make them feel welcome. I hope we address this in our mandate of Government.

**Mr. Harper:** I thank the Member for that answer. I know that I will be questioning the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) when this report comes in. I will be dealing with him the questions, the approach that was taken by this Government. I felt that the Government lost the opportunity to maintain the cohesiveness and working together of the feds, the municipal Governments together, and by this awarding the contract it led the feds and municipal Governments

away from being involved. I felt that the feds, through the core area, should have been the leading role.

I mentioned before that there was going to be a lot of expenditures made by the provincial Government as a result of the lack of the federal Government's spending on Native people. An example would be the Bill C-31 where a lot of people were reinstated because they lost status as a result of the laws under the Indian Act.

These people cannot benefit under Bill C-31. As a matter of fact, the Act created another class of Indian people, because even if they were classified as registered Indians they were not necessarily Treaty Indians. They have to be members of the Indian band in order to receive any kind of Treaty Indian benefits.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

So in a sense, what is done is that maybe even in the worst conditions, even beyond the Metis people, because it is another class of citizens, registered Indian people, who do not belong to any particular band and they may be worse off than non-status Indians. So what the Government did, I do not think there was much planning or foresight.

There are a lot of problems, complicated problems, associated with Native people, the provinces, the municipal Government, the federal Government, they seem to pass the buck as to whose responsibility it is. I know it is going to be a tremendous problem, but I will deal with that with the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey).

There is one final question I want to ask the Minister. It is in regard to the CP Station. I was approached by one individual at this organization, and the organizers I think it was Ma Mawi, that was interested in maybe obtaining that building. I was just wondering if there had been any discussions at all relating to that, and whether CP would consider even handing it for a dollar, because they would benefit as taxpayers not paying their taxes. So I was wondering whether there would be enough interest where they would even turn it for a dollar back to the people of Winnipeg or to the Government. Can the Minister advise me on that?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I did mention earlier that there is a feasibility study being done by Core. The other good news I have for the Member for Rupertsland is that apparently without talking out of school, the Minister will be filing his report within days. When I receive the feasibility study out of the core I will make sure that I have my staff take note, and I will make sure you get that feasibility study so you can go back to the other group and show them that. I will get you a copy as soon as I receive that at the core.

**Mr. Chairman:** 2.(a)—pass; 2.(b)—pass; 2.(c)—pass; 2.(d)—pass.

Resolution No. 138: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$43,962,500 for Urban Affairs, Financial Assistance to the City of Winnipeg, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1990—pass.

Item 3., Urban Policy Co-ordination which provides urban policy formulation, planning advice and inter-governmental liaison with respect to Urban Affairs. Provides for the province's share of expenditures related to improving the core area of the City of Winnipeg and provides for the effective participation of core area residents in employment and development opportunities. 3.(a)—the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**Mr. Carr:** There are very many issues of policy contained within this item of the Estimates. I would like to start with one that is of particular interest to constituents of mine, and that is the plan to develop Louis Riel Park.

Let me begin by thanking the Minister and his deputy and Heather McKnight, a member of the department, for their consultative approach to this development. The Minister, and through the Minister's staff, has consulted with us about the nature of that development, but we have not heard a great deal about it lately. So I wonder if I could begin by just asking the Minister to give us an update on the project.

**Mr. Ducharme:** As the Member for Fort Rouge, it is in his backyard and it is in our backyard, we have something mutual. As you know, the process was to proceed with the outside groups and advisory group. Heather worked with them along with my department, and the project basically was approved I think back in August of '88 when we first started to look at that particular park.

\* (1550)

As he knows, Gaboury and Associates were appointed as project consultants, and as he appreciates there is the core area funding that will do the dock in that particular area. We feel that particular part of the project would probably be done in the winter. It would probably have to be done sometime in December or January, and I hope to make an announcement on all phases of the park and how we are going to stage them.

My main concern is that I do the dock first, because we do not want to lose those monies that are available under the Core. I think there is about \$900,000 - (interjection)- \$900,000 just to do the dock, and then the rest of the monies would be to do the rest of the park. There has been a concept plan and I think the Member will be aware through consultation with his people that were in the advisory on how we are doing that. I hope to make that announcement very shortly.

To be quite frank there are ongoing discussions of the Louis Riel statue. I might as well be right up front with you, there are several groups out there that have said they would like to remove the statue. There are groups out there that you have to deal with. There are the arts groups that will have to come on stream, and I have asked the Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson to get those people involved. The park will not stop as a result of the statue because we can do the riverbank under the Core, and I am hoping everything else will get resolved to make that announcement in the next month, month and a half.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, as the Minister will recall, one of the principle concerns of the residents who live on Assiniboine Avenue and in the neighbourhood was that the street not be blocked off. I think that those residents, and many others who have access to that part of downtown, would like to be reassured that within the Minister's plan there is no consideration of blocking off Assiniboine Avenue.

**Mr. Ducharme:** I can commit to the Member that absolutely that street will not be blocked off. I think there was a consensus from that advisory group that it be a one way to allow the—

**An Honourable Member:** West to east?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I think it was west, and to make sure that their main concerns were the fire protection and ambulance coming from Osborne Street and that has been addressed. If that was the least of the problems to be solved, I could make your announcement. So I am saying that there are other things we have to resolve before I make that announcement.

I can assure the Member, and I did promise him before I made my announcement that I would contact him and let him know exactly what we are doing and I am not at that stage right now. I can assure him because he is the MLA for the area that I will consult him before I make the announcement.

**Mr. Carr:** I appreciate that, but the reason that I wanted to have the Minister on the record on the subject today is because when we went through the Estimate process last year I asked the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) what his plan was for the area behind the Legislative buildings. He told me that he wanted to extend the park right back to the riverbank, thereby closing the street. So I am glad to see that the Minister has realized that that kind of decision would have created havoc for the neighbours and residents who live in this area. I am sure that we can now tell the people who live on Assiniboine Avenue and on Kennedy Street, and Edmonton, by the way some of whom are colleagues of his in the Government of Manitoba.

I know that I have more than a few Members of that Cabinet who are constituents of mine. I do not know why it is they do not call me when they have complaints about the Government, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Gladstone, the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson), who is one of them, says that she will give me a call and I look forward to it. She knows that her MLA will respond with alacrity and with immediacy.

I would like to know a little bit more about the plans on the riverbank. I know that there is a plan utilizing core money to connect the riverbank between Osborne Street and the Forks. Does the Minister have a timetable? I know that there were some questions of riverbank erosion, and it is not the easiest job to create that walkway, I believe, that is going to go right across the bank from the Forks to the Osborne Street Bridge. Can the Minister let us know how that project is proceeding, how much it will cost, and what the schedule for implementation is?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, my main concern is to develop the riverbank and get our money so that we have the link at Osborne Street and work from the Forks up. If it was just a simple case of a path, I could probably give you those estimates, but there is, as you can probably appreciate—you have been down to the Forks, you were there at the opening—the one stretch that you looked at there, around the park there, I think there is somewhere between \$3 million and \$4 million just to do that little section. Behind the Leg is probably going to run around \$1 million, just behind the Legislature. So you are talking of large amounts of money, and my main concern is to get that one point, and that would be the one at Osborne and work back. Whenever money allows and as the money comes up, whether it be through Core or whatever, or through Government funding, it will gradually be done, and then you have negotiations with the people that are along the river.

To the Member, he did mention that he receives calls. I think he is being very fair in saying that the advisory group should know too. These people who worked on this committee over that long time have not been advised either of when the announcement would be, and I think it is up to us to advise them soon. I am just saying to him I do not want to make an announcement and then have to tear it up. I will advise them, and I will advise the Member when we are ready to do that. I can tell him right now the worst we will be off this year would be doing the bank and the dock, and then if we can get everything else cleared, we can probably start and do up to the roadway. I do not see changing anything up to the roadway for this particular year.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, another area of development, I wonder if the Minister would tell us what his Government's attitude is towards the continued development of the Forks. I know that we have the market in place now, but there is still a lot of property and a lot of questions being raised about what level of development will go in there.

I think there are two competing philosophies. They are two very different philosophies. One says that whatever development is in there has to pay for itself, that it has to be commercially viable, and it has to be able to pay for itself, which really, as a basic principle, then really establishes the idea that there will be commercial development in the Forks, largely commercial development that will pay its own way.

The other philosophy feels that we have lots of development, that we should not be putting competing businesses into the Forks that are going to compete with businesses that are already struggling, that we have put in north of Portage, Main Street, that there is lots of space for any business expansion that needs to take place, and lots of businesses there that are already struggling. We do not need to set up a competitive base with them, and that this should be a more natural park. The market is there and people are enjoying it, but a lot of people do not want to see concrete and pavement and parking lots, and condos and commercial development filling that whole space. I would like to know what the feelings of this Government

are in terms of the attitude and the two different competing philosophies and ideas and what their intentions are?

\* (1600)

**Mr. Ducharme:** The Member has asked that question, because I have got it on the record I think once or twice that the whole area of the Forks, the 70 or 80 acres that we have, is land that we will never receive again. It is an opportune time, even if it takes 15 years to develop this particular land, take our time developing. I think I have gone on record a couple of times in effect to that, as I say, go slow. I hope that the park takes longer than our chief executive officer is there, because this is what I have told him, that any impressions I have had with him, any message I have sent to him is, take your time. You are not going to put housing in there right now simply because if you look at North of Portage and you look at the vacancy rate on our senior housing, it is great in North of Portage. So we are not going to put housing in there.

The commercial aspect is, I think people in the Forks, if someone who is out to Christmas in the park, someone who is out to the market opening, someone who has been there at summer, and Saturdays and Sundays walking around, someone who was there laying the sod for the opening of the games when they come in 1990, they will tell you what they want in that park. I think that we have to have those people tell us that over a period of time and things will come forward to the park.

If you look at the difference between that and the North of Portage, the North of Portage was large lands of private owners that we had to expropriate, so recovery costs had to come back quickly, because you had large carrying costs. With the Forks, you have got your infrastructure there, sure, you have invested probably \$20 million in sewers and water mains and roads, and acquisitions of land that you had to obtain; however, that is all we have invested, and we do not have to recover the monies that we have expropriated people for. It was land that was almost a book entry, a book exchange from the federal Government. So if the Member is concerned that while this person or this individual is Minister, I can assure her that I have said it time and time again in the interviews or anytime I commented, take it slow, because we are not going to get these types of acres again.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, I think that that is a piece of good news to hear, what the Government feels and what the Minister feels, but what I think needs to concern us all is I think two points.

One is he mentioned that people who would have gone there have very strong feelings about the area and ideas about what should happen. I would like to know, and he suggested that they would make that clear, how they do that and whether or not there might not be something set up that would allow the people of Winnipeg and indeed Manitoba to participate in some public dialogue and to have some opportunity to say what they think should happen. Because I think what is concerning everybody who believes in the philosophy

we have just described is that I think the corporation is off on a different tangent.

You may be saying, well, go slow, but when you get these corporations who believe that they are not only arm's length but their arm's length allows them to be separated enough from Government that they do not really have to take any direction from one, because you know it makes it very difficult because when you have got three people involved or a number of levels of Government, then it is easy for the attitude to be, well, you cannot tell us what to do, or we do not have to listen to you, we have our own mandate and we are going to follow it. They go off on their own and do exactly that.

They have written in, I do not know if it is written in blood or in stone or in writing, but the fundamental principle that the Forks has to pay for itself, and until you get rid of that notion, they are going to be off on a tangent that I think is in opposition to what this Minister has suggested and what I believe most of the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba would want were they to be given an opportunity to tell you that. Other than saying, go slow, I do not think that is strong enough. I do not think it is clear enough. As my colleague said, it is not a policy, and if they disagree with it, are they going to pay any attention to you, or are they going to go off on their own?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, when the Forks was first started and they had their groups that came forward, I think a lot of the groups that came forward did not anticipate what the Forks would really look like once you took out the tracks and once you made the walkway and what you perceived what people of Winnipeg wanted. I guess they were of the same perception as yourself, that you were going to build buildings there.

I have two means of getting the message across, tell my people that I appoint—and I do have two members who sit there—how I feel that the Forks should be addressed. I am hoping now that the market has come on place, you see your walkway, that people will now come forward who had not maybe made presentations at the original one and now have their ideas. There is an annual meeting sometime in January that will be held. They did have one last year that people can come forward and give their ideas. I think this is a forum that if down the road you could probably have more of a presentation that people could come forward and tell you what they want at the Forks so that they get their message across.

I can assure the Member that whether she calls it policy or not, go slow. The perception out there is that we would not provide housing, we are not going to fill it with monumental buildings, we are going to provide it with a people's meeting place that we have named it. I do not know what else you can say but go slow. I think people will tell us what they want at the Forks. I think over the process they will tell you. You might say you are not setting policy, but we are setting policies as the result of people telling us what they want there and I think that is the right way to develop the Forks.

I am very excited about it, I have been excited since I went to Ottawa in November of '84 when I met with

Mr. Mazankowski, along with Nick Diakiw and the mayor, and we convinced them that we wanted this seven or eight acres of land and they turned it over to us within a year.

**Ms. Hemphill:** The Minister did say that he had two ways of directing and making his feelings known and I think he mentioned having two people on the board and it might have slipped, but I do not think I picked up the other one, so he can add that in the beginning of the next question.

If the Minister believes that is a forum for the public when they have their next annual meeting, will he take the responsibility of putting forward the requirement that there be a high level of communication and publicizing, that opportunity, so that the people know that is a forum that they can attend and make their views known, and that that not be done just through the traditional media, but that some effort be made to get the information into the inner city which this is a part of so that the immigrant population, various member of the ethnocultural community, the Native community, I think, may have a lot of interest in communicating so that there is a widespread participation and knowledge that this is an opportunity to get their feelings known before any continued development takes place? Because, as you said, after it does it is too late, and I would much rather go slow and still be looking and deciding what we do years from now than levelling it with concrete and parking lots and condos on the banks of the river, making it look like any other area, instead of the very unique area that it is.

**Mr. Ducharme:** You talked about condos. Well, as you know, there are people in the city would love to put condos in the middle of the Assiniboine Park. I agree with you that this particular development is one that—and I mentioned the two ways—my members, and then through the process of the annual meeting, and I will take your point that we should probably advertise quite a bit ahead of time so people can set up their mechanisms for appearing before it, that maybe they ask to appear. However, when they appear at the meeting they appear before the board and one aspect about that is that if there is something there that looks like it is along the ways that we feel would be beneficial, then the board will continue to call in people who have made presentations. You might be right, maybe we should be doing more of getting away from the original people who made their presentations because it was a dream. Now you can see what the results are and what can happen with that particular piece of land.

\* (1610)

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, I can recall my journalist days writing columns about the Forks and I wrote them after I had taken a walk with some friends down to the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers and you know what, I could not get there. When I could not get there and when I saw the mess, the rubble, the steel, the gravel and the weeds overgrowing at the birthplace of western Canada, I was shocked and appalled and ashamed as a Manitoban and as a Winnipegger.



The confluence of the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers were the birthplace of western Canada. In 1738 Pierre La Verendrye established Fort Rouge on the north banks of the Assiniboine River within a stone's throw of the Forks.

**An Honourable Member:** I was not there, but I heard Filmon was.

**Mr. Carr:** Perhaps a distant cousin was, and I want to put on the record again, Mr. Chairman, how unhappy I am as the Member of this Legislature for Fort Rouge to have lost the name of that constituency in the redistribution of boundaries. The Boundaries Commissioners, for whatever reason, chose to say no to the name Fort Rouge, and I already made a speech in this House mourning the passing of that name because of its particular significance to Manitoba history.

The Forks of the Assiniboine River is also in my constituency, as is the North Portage Development Corporation, as is much of the core, as is the corner of Portage and Main, as is the Osborne Village. That historic site, not only for Winnipeggers and Manitobans, but for all Canadians—because the trade routes went through those rivers, and we established ourselves as a community right there, the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine. So we ought not to take the future development of that site lightly.

The Minister is right, we should go slow, but we have to go with a sense of where we are going and why we are going there. We know that there ought not to be developments on that site which compete with other centres of activity in the downtown, that is obvious. The Minister says now he is ruling out housing, at least in the medium term. Good for him, we agree that there ought not to be any housing development at least now on that site.

This site lends itself to recreation, to archeology, to a sense of our place as Manitobans with historical antecedents which are so important to us, the multicultural nature of our province, because the CN station which brought immigrants from all over the world stopped there within a stone's throw of the site.

I mean, this is important real estate. The fact that it was neglected for, how long, hundreds of years, is a shameful commentary, not on one political Party, not on this Government, but on all Governments and on all Manitobans that we had lost sight of the special place that was the Forks. It took us until the 1980's to realize that we were hundreds of years behind the times, and it was time that we did something about it.

I do not hesitate in congratulating the federal Minister. He was the one after all who was able to reclaim the site from the CN, but now what we do with that opportunity is squarely in the hands of us in this Legislature, members of City Council, and the Government of Canada.

The Minister is looking for advice, well I will give him some advice. Do not squander this opportunity. Do not overdevelop that site. Do not spoil the skyline of the City of Winnipeg from St. Boniface. Do not overbuild.

Do not create centres of commercial activity which compete with south Portage, which compete with the Exchange District, which compete with the housing market in the inner city of Winnipeg, rather see it as an opportunity to reclaim a sense of history to develop fully the potential of that site and what it means to us as western Canadians.

Sorry for the homily, Mr. Chairman, but now I have some questions.

What is to be done with the B & B Building?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, we have asked for proposal calls on the B & B Building in Johnson Terminal. There is a letter of intent on the B & B Building to the Children's Museum, subject to them coming up with financing. There is a group, the German Society is now looking at part of the Johnson Terminal Building. We have just had recent discussions with the German Society, with the Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson and myself, and a couple of people on the board. I am sure that there has been a consensus that you will see some type of letter of intent dealing with the German Society. The German Society had asked that they be put into the B & B Building. The Children's Museum asked to go into the B & B Building. We felt that because of the site of the B & B Building and the consensus on the corner that it would be a group more along the lines of the Children's Museum.

I guess the biggest problem with the Children's Museum is that they are now out looking at ways to raise monies. Through the core area we addressed the problem and gave them some monies to address on how to fund-raise. What the amount was for the feasibility study, it was somewhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000.00.

I am hoping that they are successful in their fund-raising. I think it is the type of attraction, because the B & B Building remember is, at least its concept, the building itself would have to be done in a situation that you would have a lot of openness-type of area for people to come to. It would be very different than probably the market concept. The B & B Building is going to be very tough to preserve and very expensive to preserve. So, they will do their concept and they will do their fund-raising and try to resolve that.

The Johnson Terminal, the German Society has shown an interest and they have asked for X number of square feet and theirs will be one of the proposals that go into that particular building.

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** I thank the Member for Fort Rouge for the opportunity to ask a question. I have not even a constituent under the new boundaries, but a person I think that has been greatly aggrieved in the Valley Gardens area of Winnipeg, a person named Mr. Baird, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering whether the Minister has been made aware of any situation where a person of that name has bought a house that obviously was zoned for a new house. It was zoned by the City of Winnipeg for the purposes of accommodation that has since the time he has been there a new house has been in a constant state of flooding.

I would ask, I would mention a few facts about this case and ask the Minister to please investigate it. It seems to me that this is a person that cannot beat City Hall, cannot win in the Courts, spent \$20,000 in the Courts and has a gotten a \$2,000 settlement, just an average working person. His house is in such a flooded state since he has bought it that he has to continually run a sump pump.

The City of Winnipeg has recognized the situation a bit because they have lowered his property taxes based on the fair market value, but the individual is stuck with the house that he cannot resell. He is stuck with a house that he bought as a new house unaware of the water table problem. He feels, and I think he is correct, that the city zoned the kind of drainage situation in an incorrect way for the Flair home situation. The house was built contrary to any intelligent draining kind of system in the City of Winnipeg and he has been left not high and dry but just absolutely soaked. He cannot afford it. He is just an average citizen that bought a new house and spent \$20,000 in court and got a \$2,000 settlement. Nobody is coming to his rescue. I told him I would raise it in the Urban Affairs Estimates, and ask the Minister whether he is aware of the case, and if he is not whether he can investigate it because I think this person has been shafted and everybody says it is not my job to solve it, you have to go somewhere else.

**Mr. Ducharme:** I can mention to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) I am not aware of this situation. If he would like to hand the information he has and the correspondence he has. I will give it over to my administration and I will see that they at least write on your behalf and on behalf of Mr. Baird. I will write on his behalf and see where we are at. I could at least do that for the Member for Concordia.

\* (1620)

**Mr. Doer:** I thank the Minister very well. It has been reported in the media, it has been in the courts and it has been everywhere else, but I do not know—there is something really, really wrong about this situation and every time this individual turns somewhere they cannot get anywhere. I would like us to turn over every proverbial rock to see if there is something we cannot do to give this citizen some justice. So I thank the Minister for that and I know it is an unusual request for the Department of Urban Affairs, but I think this person has gone everywhere else, his councillor, the courts and everything else and just not seeming to get what I would consider to be fair justice in our system.

I thank the Minister for taking that under advisement and ask his department to look at that situation. Although I recognize the jurisdictional issues have not been well briefed by the same people who are sitting at the table in past years, I recognize it does not fit in all the normal jurisdictional issues but justice seems to be denied and I think we should do something about it.

**Mr. Ducharme:** I think the Member who was the Minister of Urban Affairs and knows the staff that I have, that they will do everything that is feasible under

that department. I am sure they look forward to receiving your information.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, back to the Forks if we could. What other developments does the Minister contemplate for the Johnson Terminal Building and at what stage are proposals?

**Mr. Ducharme:** Okay, first of all, the only concept that I have seen other than the proposal calls for the particular site would be the tourism visitor centre which is in a concept stage. There is talk, as you have seen, in regard to the proposal calls of these two buildings. Other than that there have always been rumours out there about the CBC. There have been rumours out there of many projects.

There has been talks about a leisure centre, there have been talks about the Native centre maybe utilizing the grounds on the other side of the walkway, and you mentioned about the Seine and the Red. There is the old railway bridge that goes across. There is across that walkway that maybe something could be done in regard to that piece of park that would be for maybe the Native groups. There is another concept as you know that diggings were going on over the last summer and it has almost been a stroke of luck that those diggings will now be a part of the Forks for the next 25 years. They will incorporate that as part of your Forks.

The main item that we want to do right now is to receive the proposal calls for the B & B Building and the Johnson Terminal Building. We would like to do something with the stack that is there. We are mainly looking at those types of buildings to see whether we can do something with those first to tie in with the market.

I know you knew that the games were going to be held there, or the presentation of the awards would be held in 1990 at the Western Summer Games, and that is why the sod was put in that place and that was done by the games people themselves.

So as I say, there are lots of concepts. There were many when the first presentation was given, when the Forks was first presented to the three levels of Government. I can only say that I hope that we get the B & B Building and the Johnson Terminal done the way we want it to be done so that anything else that is done in that particular area is done in conjunction with that. Other than those particular projects, I have not heard of any others.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, what is the Minister's own view, his own sense of how the remaining land in the Forks ought to be developed?

**Mr. Ducharme:** My point of view is that I think over a period of time you should have items that would bring people together with more of a space concept, that you have the feeling that you are walking in a park-like setting in downtown Winnipeg. If you destroy that, and I think you look at that and if you were there at Christmas you saw that the lights of downtown Winnipeg, you will go across the waterways and you

still see downtown Winnipeg, you are standing in the middle of—it is amazing, it is called the Meeting Place.

I have to give you a story about when I was involved in the diggings. I was there and this young lady came up to me and she says, "Gerry, you do not know who I am." She says, "I have not seen you for 25 years, 30 years." I mentioned to her, yes, I do, because she had not changed at all in the 30 years. She still looked as young as ever. I gave her her name, and she said to me, "How did you know my name?" I said, I do not forget the nicest looking girls in class. None of us forget what they look like."

We call it the Meeting Place. The reason why I gave that -(Interjection)- yes. The point to this story is, and then we had the opening of the market, and I have to go along what we have called the Meeting Place. There was a fellow I met that I had not seen for 30 years at the market, that was in -(Interjection)- yes, I did remember his name, and he was not so good looking. He met me in the market, and I had not seen him for 30 or 40 years—30 years. Down in the same day, within an hour, I met another individual. So I got them together and the three of us were standing in the market discussing what had happened in the last 30 years.

The concept is—and we have to redefine, not redefine, but make sure we keep that message that it is a meeting place. You cannot call Portage and Main a meeting place.-(interjection)- That is right. You cannot even walk across the street, but if we keep that setting, that is what I believe the park setting and the whole Forks is all about.

**Mr. Carr:** I am delighted with the Minister's vision of the future of that site. I think he is on the right track. As long as he stays on that track, he can count on the support of the official Opposition.

I am interested in some issues of financial accountability. Firstly, I am interested in knowing how much of the \$20 million that was handed over to the Forks Corporation has been spent, and when they expect to be out of cash, and ought we to expect them to come back for more?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, maybe going back, you asked about what we perceived for the park. You know we are going to conduct winter programming in co-operation with the festival, to join that together, across the river, the river trail, and I think that some of it mostly—was it not down in your area, down by Osborne, to extend the river trail right through to the Forks, and have Christmas at the Forks again. These are just programming that will be as a result.

You asked how much money has been spent. What I am aware of, it is all basically gone. In the inner structure that has taken place in the area, in the market itself, and we have not suggested in any way that the Forks Corporation at this time come back for more money to build any more structures in this particular area. I would assure the Member that if there is something to be built that required Government funding, it will not be coming from the core, because they did get their monies from the core for the Forks. It would

have to be a separate type of concept, but I think that probably will slow down the growth of the Forks. If we said, keep coming back for money, you are going to get nothing but these type of buildings that everybody seems to be leery of happening in the Forks program.

**Mr. Carr:** Can the Minister give us an update on the number of stalls which have been leased by the market? I believe that when the market opened some 60 percent of the available stalls had been let. Can the Minister bring us up-to-date and also look into the future a little bit and let us know when he expects there to be full occupancy?

\* (1630)

**Mr. Ducharme:** The latest update I have is the same as you have received—60 percent. You must realize that we could have waited to complete and fill up the market. All studies that were shown at Granville Island, at Boston, at New York, the concepts of the markets were that not to fill it up immediately—it would be nice to, but open it up without completing the occupancy of these particular stalls. We are finding that, and you can see if you go there now, that it is a very busy place. I understand that more and more interest is being shown.

When we get to our next meeting you will find that by the time your restaurants come on play, there are a couple restaurants, there is a couple concepts of the restaurants, different types of restaurants. I believe that there are four to six companies since we have opened have now shown a greater interest in the stalls. I think there is a possible seven or eight stalls left. There has been quite an interest in those available stalls.

**Mr. Carr:** During the week or so before the opening of the market, there were a number of stories published in the press about differing business arrangements that had been conducted by the Forks Corporation with potential tenants.

Within one of those accounts, the chairman of the Forks Corporation was quoted as saying that he believed that the Forks was a private corporation, and therefore there was no requirement to make leasing arrangements public. Well there are arguments on both sides of the issue whether or not leasing arrangements ought to be public, but there is no debate on whether or not the Forks is a public or a private corporation. I think that the comment made by the chief executive officer was indicative of an attitude that there is not the same kind of scrutiny, there ought not be the same kind of public accountability for the operation of an arm's-length corporation such as that as there is, for example, this Minister now, who is here in the legislature answering questions about the way his Government operates in the area of Urban Affairs. Has the Minister had any conversations with the chairman of the Forks Corporation about the nature of accountability, and would he now disassociate himself from that comment that the Forks is a private corporation?

**Mr. Ducharme:** Well first of all to the Member for Fort Rouge, I did answer his questions in Question Period

telling him that maybe private corporation was not the right word. I felt that the right word is that you allow them to operate at arm's length because they have to compete out in the commercial market. I can assure the Member that if you take a look at the shopping centres as we know them today, they operate with different leases between different tenants.

I think one of the main concerns that I had as Minister was that when we filled up the market, we did not fill it up with national types of companies. If you look through the people that are involved in there you had people that were from the local areas that were filling up the market. You would have a different lease arrangement for someone who was, because of the operation, taking up more square footage because they are producing on-site. So you give them a little break on their square footage. I think that these arrangements have to be made between the different tenants.

I think the end result is what we should be looking at. We believe in the market concept. We believe that we should not have to put any money into it, and if they are operating under that concept why would the Member be concerned about what one tenant gets square footage cost than another one. I think I counted them. I had one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine—you have about 10 or 12 very local people, family-operated business, mom and pop stores. If you go to some of the other markets in North America you will find the most successful markets are the ones that have the mom and pop. They seem to add that spice to a marketplace that you need. You also need—I visited one in Boston—and they got away from the concept of giving breaks and square footage got so expensive, they found that people were taking out their manufacturing, say, of baking the bagels on site, doing the baking on site, doing the noodle making on site because they were renting to other people.

I think the concept of those people producing on-site is very important. So if someone is going to bring in a lot of equipment, give that atmosphere of a market to walk around to keep it away from what we know as a supermarket, I think this is very important.

I do not completely agree with what the word of the chairman was that it is private, but however we have to remember that we have to allow these people to operate this establishment, and as long as they are not coming back to us for more monies that we have to operate at some type of arm's-length type of proposition.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Chairman, what is the plan of the city, I wonder if the Minister knows, in terms of the extension of York and St. Mary Avenue?

**Mr. Ducharme:** It is in their five year, I cannot give you the year exactly, I think it is within—1990 or 1991 is when they are going to proceed, and what would also tie in is I think they have new ideas for the Provencher Bridge. They are going to twin it. They going to do one side and then do the other, and fill in that whole project of getting to and from the Forks site.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can give me some information on a couple of core area

projects. One is an overall project, and the other is a small one that is inside one of the major programs. What is the status of the Neighbourhood Facilities Program under the Core Area Initiative?

My recollection is that it had a budget of about \$5 million, and had been sitting for over a year and a half without having approved one project, and without having any cash flow for any project, and also having a great deal of problems with the board, board members from the community resigning because they believed they did not have an opportunity I think to really make a contribution as a volunteer on such an important program. So could the Minister give me some idea of what the status is there? Are there projects flowing? What kinds of projects? Is there a list of projects that has been approved?

**Mr. Ducharme:** Just to get back to the market. Another public event that I did not talk about to the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) was that I hope he skates in his riding as well as he skates in the Legislature. The skating rink will be open shortly in November, and that will be another public event, and I will come and skate with you—(interjection)—that is fine. We all do that do we not? The Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) says I have been skating all day. I think that we all have a tendency to skate a little bit.

First of all, you are talking about Program 6.1 Neighbourhood Infrastructure. There are 22 projects approved in principle, \$1,859,000 is committed.—(interjection)—That is the one you are referring to. Yes. I can send you an update—I can provide you a further list of the parks, the day care, and the community clubs that are apparently also involved with that. I will get you an update on that.

\* (1640)

**Ms. Hemphill:** I would appreciate an update, a list of the status of the program, but could the Minister just—first of all, did he explain that the 1.8 million and the 22 projects have all only been approved in principle and has nothing out of the hopper yet and moving? Just give me a bit of a summary on the kinds of projects that are being approved, like just name off three or four of the major projects that are receiving approval.

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, the Member has to remember that the whole idea, the objective, of this particular program is to provide financial assistance and resources; support the activities and development of targeted high-need neighbourhoods and high-need populations, an emphasis we have placed upon local involvement in the planning of these projects. If there is a delay then there would be a combination of these groups working with the core. I can assure her that there is no way this particular Government, my people advise me on core, that we are changing our mind on these particular projects.

**Ms. Hemphill:** I just wondered if the Minister could still just give me an idea of a few of the projects that seem to be receiving—just go through two or three of them. I also did not mean to suggest that the delays

in the processing of applications or the proceeding with the proposals and the facilities was coming from the Government or from the Minister.

I do want to go on record as saying this is a program that I believe has had a lot of problems and has had a lot of problems getting going. It is not accurate. I do not believe the reason these are taking a long time to get going is because they involve community people, and it takes a while for them to make up their minds.

It has had fundamental problems in process, in their operation, in their structure and their decision-making process and in the process and procedures they have established for receiving applications from the community and in processing them. I hope to some degree they have been resolved and that they are now getting on with the job of approving projects.

**Mr. Ducharme:** This part of the program, the 6.1, is implemented by the City of Winnipeg. I can assure the Member what I will do is I will ask the city. Are you referring to like the Lizzie Park upgrading, things like that? I will get you a progress report on the 22 projects and the \$1.8 million. I will ask that and get it from the city.

**Ms. Hemphill:** There is another program I would like to ask about the status of and that is the parent and child centres. I am not exactly sure which program they are funded under, but I would ask the status of the funding of the parent and child centres since they are all in financial difficulty and two of them are facing the possibility of closure in another month, since everybody that works in the inner city and with the inner city communities and organizations I think has gone on record as saying that the parent and child centres have been one of the best grass-roots community based supported programs to develop in the inner city in a long time.

The service that they are providing, not just for the care of children but for the support and the development of the single parent, most of whom are single-parent mothers in helping them (1) understand child development themselves and the care of children, but (2) have support for improving their level of confidence in training and activities for themselves to go out and move towards becoming independent is something that is very important.

I think it will be a sad day if this Government lets parent and child centres go down the tube after the amount of work and development that has gone into them. The problem, and the Minister of Education is here and he is frowning at me and I hope it is because he has no intention of letting that happen, but what seems to be happening is that right now they seem to be falling through the cracks between the Department of Education and community services and core area not being sure who should be carrying on with or picking up the fiscal responsibility that will allow them to continue.

I ask what this Minister's intentions are under his area, and whether he is communicating and consulting with child care services and Education? So between

the three of you, I can tell you nobody cares much where the money comes from as long as the funding continues and the doors do not have to close on such a very important inner city service.

**Mr. Ducharme:** There has been an evaluation study just completed, and there is a planned joint meeting between the parents and the core. That is where it is at right now. Maybe the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) can further highlight that.

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** The programs that are referred to here in the child centres are the ones that are outside the Department of Education. I would like to just respond and clarify one thing.

There are two different types of child centre programs. One set of programs is being run by the department through the compensatory programs, and we have three of those in operation now. Then there are another three that are outside the school system and are funded through Family Services or through the various agencies and the Core Area Initiative, and those do not come under the funding arrangements of the Department of Education.

Certainly we in the department, although it may be perceived that funding should come and it should not matter where that funding should come from, we believe it is our responsibility of course to ensure that those programs that we have going under the compensatory program are funded and continued, and we will see to it that they do. We can only do it within the mandate that is given in terms of if they qualify for compensatory program funding. As the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) knows because she was Minister of Education at one time, then those programs would be endorsed and funded by us. On the other hand, we do not have very much say in those programs that are outside of the school system.

\* (1650)

**Ms. Hemphill:** Just to make the point, I think, Mr. Chairman, that there needs to be some decision on where they need to be funded. There is not any suggestion by anybody, I do not think, that the ones that are operating under compensatory are sort of legitimate organizations delivering a good service, and the ones that were set up and are funded under the core are not. I think they are all providing the same service and if there needs to be some rationalization on where the services are funded and provided, that should be done, but two or three of them should not be left at risk of closing their doors because they have not been funded under a more stable funding base.

I would just appeal to them to try and sort that out so that the threat that appears to be looming does not become a reality and that the doors do not close while they sort out where there is the most appropriate place for the funding to be received.

**Mr. Ducharme:** The Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has told me that they are meeting with them on

Thursday.- (Interjection)- To the Member, they are meeting on Thursday with the Minister of Education.

**Mr. Carr:** We have not spent any time at all on the North Portage Development Corporation, I think we should. I think we should also spend some time on the effects of the North Portage Development Corporation on the rest of downtown Winnipeg.

Our research department, and I was along with them, we took a stroll down the avenue. We counted 105,000 square feet of empty space on the south side of Portage Avenue between Eaton's and The Bay more or less, and that did not include the vacant Birks Building. It did not include a growing number of vacancies on the north side of Portage Avenue and east of the North Portage development.

We have a very serious problem in the centre of our city. At the time that we announced that growing vacancy problem, we gave the Minister some suggestions about how he might be able to use the influence of his office to begin at least to start stemming the bleeding, the hemorrhaging outside of the downtown of the city.

One idea, of course, was that the whole issue of municipal tax was controversial and very damaging to businesspeople on Portage Avenue, that the tax that you pay at the corner of Portage and Donald compared to the tax that you pay in one of the suburban shopping malls, there can be a differential of as much as 20 times and more than that. Has the Minister consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Penner), on the process of municipal tax reassessment, and does he agree with us that merchants on the south side of Portage Avenue are paying taxes well beyond what would be considered reasonable?

**Mr. Ducharme:** As the Member knows, the assessment issue is being dealt with by this Government. I think the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Penner), who is responsible for the assessment issue, and I know any meetings we had during the process, the overall assessment was brought in, the city assessor, at that time it was Mr. Funk and different people from assessment, to discuss our concerns about downtown Winnipeg.

First of all, the Member mentions the south side of Portage. Just at our last meeting, our annual meeting, we believe that the only way you are going to solve the problem—you have to remember that, let us not forget what the north side looked like before the overall development. Let us not get confused with the issue.

What we need is a catalyst across the other side of the street and maybe a catalyst of some type where there would be a seniors type of meeting to go along with our north side housing or a catalyst to start building that south side. As you know, North of Portage has conducted south side Portage revitalization seminars that are taking place. Some data was collected in September and they are being conducted during the months of October-November. We understand that the south side is in that type of shape; we understand that.

I think that some of us, when I was at City Hall years and years ago, had suggested that we redirect the avenue and then cover the Portage Avenue, and they said to us, you are crazy. There were some of us who believed in that, that this Portage Avenue would go north.

So as a result we now have the south side and it is now a mandate of the North of Portage to work with them to solve that problem. To the MLA for the area, again maybe I could provide you with some of the information. I do not know if you are aware of the procedures that they are doing and how they are going about the revitalization. I do not know if he is aware of all the steps they are taking.

**Mr. Carr:** There will be more questions about this another day. Is it permissible under the rules for me to ask a question of the Minister responsible for MTS (Mr. Findlay) on an urban issue?

**An Honourable Member:** If you ask me and I do not know the answer, if he is around I could get the information from him.

**Mr. Carr:** Okay. I would like to be quick because I know the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) wants to wrap up her comments.

One of the suggestions we made in our downtown revitalization policy was the Government should look for opportunities to locate employees in the downtown, particularly storefront operations. Shortly after that position was adopted and published, the Manitoba Telephone System took a decision to move off Portage Avenue and take business downtown underneath the street to the Concourse in Winnipeg Square at Portage and Main. The result was that we had yet more vacant space on Portage Avenue running contrary to what we thought was common sense and at least taking one small step toward revitalizing the area.

The Telephone System took the decision to move employees and traffic off the street on Portage Avenue underneath into the Concourse which flies in the face of all common sense for revitalization of Portage Avenue. Why did the Manitoba Telephone System make that decision?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I think that all I can say for the Member is I will get that answered by the Minister in charge. He has to remember they have not completely got off Portage Avenue. We have an Urban Affairs Building at, I think it is, Garry and the Heaps Building, and there is still a Manitoba walk in clinic—is that the one you are talking about, that they closed down and moved? -(interjection)- Okay, that is the one you are talking about? That is the one across from the Heaps Building—

**An Honourable Member:** Yes.

**Mr. Ducharme:** —and they are closing it. I know my Deputy Minister used to pay his bill there and now he no longer can go there to pay his bill, but I will get to the Minister and I will bring you back that information.

**An Honourable Member:** I will answer it.

**Mr. Ducharme:** Oh, maybe he will answer you know.

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Telephone System Act):** With regard to the specifics, I do not know the specifics of why they did, but we will have Public Utilities here before long and Manitoba Telephones, and that would be the time and the place to address it and get into that discussion.

**Ms. Hemphill:** Mr. Chairman, just a few points to wrap up for me today. In a number of the answers that the Minister gave, I think that we, on both sides of the House, were pleased to see the attitude and particularly as it relates to the development or the non-development or the slow development of the Forks and the approach they seem to be taking there.

We will be very interested in seeing what the urban Native policy initiatives are going to look like and to participate in what we hope will be a lot of public discussion on what we should be doing for the very serious issue of dealing with the growing urban Natives in our city.

I think the area that I am a little disappointed in, and that I would urge the Minister to take another look at, is the feeling that the Government has not yet either seen the picture or grasped the seriousness of the collective problems that are facing the inner city. The fact is the trends are all on the downward trend, whether it is unemployment as I said which ranges from 12 percent to 40 percent, 50 percent or 60 percent unemployment in some target groups like the Native community, it may be as high as 70 percent in terms of single parents that low-income housing does not exist or is really on the decline. Housing is deteriorating, it is getting more expensive. The people who are buying it have less disposable income and cannot afford it. The poorer people's income is going down, their rents are going up. People who have money are getting cheaper housing and their incomes are going up.

The disparity between rich and poor is increasing, and I think we are moving toward an inner city that is going to be, if not dying, moving toward conditions that will put us in a slum city condition.

I urge the Government to look at the picture and look at the seriousness of it, and to begin to develop a policy and approach from all Government departments that will begin to deal with these trends and these very serious issues.

**Mr. Chairman:** I remind the Member that the hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Hour. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

\* (1700)

## IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

**Mr. William Chornopyski (Chairman of Committees):** 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 Transcona (Mr. Kozak), that the report of the committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Business.

## DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS PUBLIC BILLS

### BILL NO. 2—THE LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), Bill No. 2, The Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le louage d'immeubles, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns). Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing in the name of the Minister? (Agreed)

### BILL NO. 4—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (2)

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake), Bill No. 4, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant le Code de la route, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). Stand?

### BILL NO. 2—THE LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT ACT (Cont'd)

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, on a point of order.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** If the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) is going to stand Bill No. 2, I would like to speak on it.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will revert back to Bill No. 2 then, is that agreeable? It is agreed? This matter will remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns). The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address a few remarks to this piece of legislation, particularly after having heard some of the comments of the Member who introduced the legislation and I think the amendments are certainly not trivial. Unfortunately, they certainly lack the catholic nature of the Bill that was introduced by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) which supports the -(interjection)- well, the Member for Portage (Mr. Connery), whose vocabulary consists of grunts and groans, would not understand what catholic means.

The fact of the matter is that this legislation proposed by the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) certainly is not as all encompassing as a piece of legislation that is needed when it comes to governing the affairs of landlords and tenants in this province. What disturbed me, Mr. Speaker, in the remarks of the Member for Inkster was the reference, the suggestion, the implication, that somehow the previous Government had not acted on Housing matters.

The Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) does not have a long tenure in this Chamber and the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) suggests he will not have. Well, that will not be up to the Member for Arthur or myself to decide. The Member's constituents will decide for themselves and I am not about to cast any aspersions on his character just yet.

The fact of the matter is that the legislation, which was introduced by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme), follows very closely on the heels of legislation which was drafted by the previous Government. There are a few changes, some of them that are going to create some concern among some sectors and which may cause some amendments to be introduced at committee stage. By and large, Mr. Speaker, the amendments follow very closely the recommendations that were reported from the committee that included tenants and landlords and Government representatives and property managers' association members, et cetera.

Although there are some deviations from the original recommendations, by and large, they are supportive. I did not want the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) to let that recognition escape him.

The fact of the matter is that the previous Government was intent on amending the legislation that governed landlord and tenant affairs in a very serious way - (interjection) - and the Member from his seat says we were intent on doing a lot of things. That is quite true. When the intent goes so far as to producing the draft legislation, taking the time, the months and months of time, that it took to draw a consensus from those disparate groups, I think the intent was serious.

I wanted to put on the record as well, for the Member for Inkster's edification, perhaps the history of the Department of Housing. The Member for Inkster may not be aware of the fact that prior to the NDP Government's election in 1981 there was no Department of Housing. In fact, prior to my appointment as Minister of Housing in 1982 there was no Department of Housing.

The NDP Government recognized that the issue of housing, an important social and economic issue, needed to be addressed in some sort of comprehensive way and the Department of Housing was formed. The Department of Housing, Mr. Speaker, included not only the responsibility for the administration of what was then The Residential Rent Regulation Act, again another NDP initiative to protect renters in this province from unfair and inequitable raises in rent, increases in rent, which were not in keeping with inflation or the cost of operating residential accommodations.

The NDP Government not only created the Department of Housing, but created the legislation

which fell under its jurisdiction including The Residential Rent Regulation Act, an Act which has proved to be extremely supportive of the interest of tenants in the Province of Manitoba.

I remember many certainly in the Chamber in the Conservative Government and outside this Chamber, although I cannot say that the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) was among them, who criticized the Residential Rent Regulation Bill, said it was going to act as a disincentive for the investment in residential properties, who said that it was an undue imposition on the landlords of this province, who said it was going to create a bureaucracy which would interfere unnecessarily in the tenant landlord affairs and created a whole range of arguments why this legislation should not go forward.

The fact of the matter is that despite the opposition the Government of the Day, which believed in principle that access to decent affordable housing should be the right of every citizen of the province, proceeded with the legislation. The consequences of which were twofold. Number one, a moderation in rent and rent increases in the Province of Manitoba; and two, surprisingly to some, an actual increase in the construction of rental apartments.

It will come perhaps as no surprise to you that contrary to the predictions of many and certainly the Leader of the Government, the Premier (Mr. Filmon), was one who said that this was going to stall or inhibit the construction of rental properties in the province, and exactly the opposite happened. In fact, we saw a tremendous increase in the construction of rental units from the years 1980-81, even through 1987, Mr. Speaker.

\* (1710)

What is also interesting is that the Opposition from the Conservative benches of that time, which seemed to be vociferous and principled of course turned out to be nothing but rhetoric. In fact, we have seen no inclination on the part of the Government to undermine that legislation to date and of course we have to believe that comes from the recognition that the legislation was correct that its intentions were achieved and that in fact it was good legislation.

For the Member for Inkster's (Mr. Lamoureux) information, the Department of Housing and The Residential Rent Regulation Act were accomplishments of the previous Government, as was the Homes in Manitoba Program, a program that provided low-interest money to new home buyers. In fact, I would not be surprised if many of his constituents took advantage of the New Democratic Party housing program called the Homes in Manitoba Program. It provided infill housing in the inner city, housing which through the use, the integration of grants from the federal Government and the provincial Government and the core area, made housing affordable in the inner city.

Mr. Speaker, I had the good fortune to open the first infill housing unit in the province and I can tell you that the program, although its successes have been modest,



was an important program. Certainly an initiative of which I am proud and which I think shows that the New Democratic Party came to Government with imagination and creativity and a willingness to act on the housing concerns of the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the Government, the NDP Government from 1981 to '88, also worked on a host of other housing programs and housing concerns ranging from the transfer of responsibility for housing in northern communities to local autonomous groups such as the Wabowden Housing Authority. For the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), he may not realize that much of the housing in rural and northern Manitoba falls under the jurisdiction of, at that time the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, now the Department of Housing and the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Unfortunately, these many thousands of units are managed from Winnipeg or Thompson or other centres in Manitoba, are not managed by any local authority. What happens as a result, Mr. Speaker, is that units in those communities that are left empty, people with desperate housing needs are turned away, cannot be accommodated because the bureaucracy, the red tape of allowing the transfer of ownership or transfer of tenancy simply cannot be accomplished in a short period of time. The Government recognized that local authorities could manage the housing stock more efficiently and in the interests of their own local residents in a far superior manner, and that transfer was taking place.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that when it came to the construction of new housing, when it came to looking after the interests of tenants, when it came to being innovative and creating programs that addressed the broad spectrum of housing needs in our community, we were at the forefront. I am reminded by my colleague, just his presence here, that co-op housing in the Province of Manitoba grew by a factor of 2,500 percent -(interjection)- and I cannot quibble with my colleague's statistics when he says that we had the best per capita housing starts in co-operative housing in the country. The accomplishments were not minor.

I think, Mr. Speaker, when I rose to address this particular piece of legislation, I simply wanted to have on the record that we do not need any lectures from the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux). Our record in this, as in other matters, was not infallible. There were things left undone that should have been done, but by and large the housing concerns of both homeowners and tenants were addressed and, to the surprise of some perhaps, the concerns of landlords were addressed as well, because one of the features of The Residential Rent Regulation Act was the recognition that increased costs are a factor which have to be accommodated in the increase of rent. So the operating costs that landlords incurred were a recognized factor in something that tenants perhaps came to better understand when they were faced with rent increases.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would seem to me is somewhat redundant. It has some features, which I

certainly could support, but it does not go far enough. It is not progressive enough, and we believe that there are sufficient opportunities within the legislation presented by the Government for amendment that we will work to improve the Government's efforts. We will work to improve what is basically a document prepared by the NDP Government and reflect many of the concerns that we had attempted to address when the legislation was drafted.

Mr. Speaker, some would say that this piece of legislation is typically Liberal. It does not show clearly that it understands the whole range of concerns that there are in the housing community. It chooses a very small portion to address, and it addresses it in some would say a very ambivalent fashion.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) may in fact be able to get some of his colleagues to address this legislation so that we would see the Liberal position on housing fleshed out. It would certainly be a treat because the Liberal position on virtually anything else has not been fleshed out, and we will certainly want to see whether the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) or the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) have any additional ideas which they can contribute to this debate. We also be will be watching with interest to see whether the Member for Inkster or any of his colleagues have anything to add to the legislation that is being brought forward by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme).

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the debate on this legislation is going to be of necessity quite narrow, and while the intentions of the Member for Inkster may have been admirable, the scope of the legislation that he has introduced is pretty miserly. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns).

#### **BILL NO. 4—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (2) (Cont'd)**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake), Bill No. 4, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant le Code de la route, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). Stand? Is there agreement—the Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** Is it the will of the House for me to be able to put some thoughts on record with respect to this, while leaving the Bill standing in the name of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard)?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there leave that this matter remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health? (Agreed)

**Mr. Herold Driedger:** The comments we hear with respect to agendas and thoughts and words leave some of the principles at issue sometimes undiscussed. I think perhaps one of things we need to do when looking

even at an amendment for something like The Highway Traffic Act, we should look at something on principle. At issue here is—

**An Honourable Member:** And spoil a good record?

**Mr. Herold Driedger:** Well, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) asks the question "and spoil a good record," suggesting perhaps that we do not look at principle in this entire Chamber. Well, perhaps reflecting back to the NDP that put us into this impasse and then the present status of the minority Government situation, where we are having to put up with amendments to Highway Traffic Acts which perhaps should have been introduced by Government, and then the question whether or not we should actually have an election, I say why not. Let us go right ahead and do it. Yes, let us do that.

\* (1720)

Let us go back to the issue at hand here which is the amendment to The Highway Traffic Act regarding a rather significant issue the purpose of which, and I think to understand the purpose of the amendment, is to look at the original legislation which requires the registration of motor vehicles and that is the purpose of identification and the purpose of visibility. We do not normally, when you take a look at a car that is driving by and it does not have a number plate on it at all one's eyes are immediately drawn to certain parts of the windows, perhaps where there might be a sticker saying where there is a permit for the vehicle to be moved or if you recall back to the March 1 date, after we have had to put on the stickers for Autopac validation on our insurance and registration, everybody's eyes quickly go to the licence plate of the cars around them to see whether or not the little tag which indicates that the Autopac insurance has been paid, is visibly displayed. We quickly can see by the fact that the tag is a different colour or if the tag is missing, that something is amiss and this is actually at the point of this piece of legislation.

The fact that we need to have visibly clear and easily identified numbered plates which address the purpose for which they are originally put on. I think one of the things you might want to do is just look a little bit back to the European experience, where we have the same sort of necessity of identification and visibility. Herein though, I do not think we have the choice or the variety that we see in North America.

Most European numbered plates that I have seen tend to be rather ho hum in their presentation. A uniform black mat with white or silver numbers and letters, generally quite a long slew of them, because the numbers and letters are for a much larger car population than we have here.

One thing that you do not see in the European system is of course the numbers changing with years and I will not speak to the method of maintaining their registration and their insurance validity.

The point of issue here is simply identification and visibility. Now, one of the things that people in other

countries need to do, which we do not, is identify their country of origin, the state of origin on their number plates or on their cars and this is something that you will see when you drive by. You will notice that people identify themselves as German or Polish or Ukrainian, as British, as Irish with distinctive plates that they have purchased for this particular purpose. We here do not need to do that. The pride, the identification is actually supplied through the Department of Highways whereby licence plates are provided for you, clearly identifying numbers, letters clearly identifying validity of the insurance registration through the dominant or the predominant display of a coloured validation sticker. Also on each licence plate normally we see clearly identified state or province of origin and sometimes even a motto indicating the pride of the state or province.

It is this actually, which is at issue again with this particular amendment, the fact that these numbers and these messages should be clearly displayed. They are not there for the purpose of being hidden, they are not there for the purposes of sending messages other than what they were clearly intended to do, vehicle identification, identification for the purpose of whether or not the insurance is valid, identification for the purposes which as a minor aside I would also like to see in this country identification whether or not the driver in front of you has more than one or two years of driving experience. Going again back to the European experience, a driver with a legitimate driving licence, no longer having to have a licensed driver beside him whenever he is in the car still displays on his number plate, boldly, in England at least, a letter L saying he is still a learner.

Consequently, experienced drivers tend to approach him with a little bit more caution and allow this person to gain the experience necessary. But this all goes right back to the point where we are identifying the fact that the vehicle in front of us is a legitimately licensed, properly insured vehicle on the road. It is to that intent that this amendment addresses itself so that the, as we see from time to time, licence plates that are quite badly abused with mud, sleet, snow. Things that prevent the licence plate from being identified at distance suggests that it is the driver's responsibility to make certain that all the numbers and all the validation stickers and all the letters are clearly visible. This is something that he should then do, and I feel strongly that these plates should be kept in a reasonable state for the sake of drivers around, for the sake of the police who are on the road to enforce traffic regulations to identify vehicles should they need too, and also to be able to indicate by identification whether or not somebody should be stopped for one case or another.-(interjection)-

The Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) wishes me to philosophize a little bit and perhaps I can. He has asked—perhaps with his question he has given me some permission to move a little bit beyond this amendment, and I would like to address two of the issues with respect to number plates that I find personally just a little bit upsetting.

The Member for Churchill says he is numbered, therefore he is. Perhaps in his ideology, numbers count

for people. I refer to numbers for vehicles, for cars, and for things of that nature; also numbers for Social Security numbers which is an unfortunate thing we cannot avoid. At any rate, the two issues I was going to point onto, I will not pontificate for the Member for Churchill's benefit, but I will philosophize just a little bit.

We do have recently, I think it was his Government that brought it in, actually a minor amendment or major amendment in my mind which says that licence plates are no longer necessarily visible in the front of a car. In fact, you no longer have to have licence plates visible in the front of a car. This I believe was for some kind of economy of spending that was introduced. I still feel that it is very important to have some kind of number identification for vehicles coming towards you, if for no other reason than to promote safety on the road. I find that driving, particularly on long stretches of highway, which we tend to have to do in this province, where you are watching the road and watching the road and watching the road, but vehicles approach from the front and vehicles approach you from behind because you are supposed to be looking at vehicles as well. Sometimes I watch the licence plate to see whether they are out of province, out of state, whether the numbers have a particular kind of sequence. It just makes it rather interesting particularly, and I think we have to go back.

I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that one of the reasons why I tend to look at these licence plates is because again, and I believe it goes back to the previous Government's initiative which was to change the numbering system that we have from what I believe was a number, two letters, and then set of numbers or two numbers, letters, and numbers right down to the more universal three letters, three numbers combination because we end up having to try to address the need of a multitude of cars on the road which we do not really have. I think we could probably license our cars quite adequately with a less number of combinations permitted system of numbers and letters. I find at the beginning, and as I did when the first licence plates came on, I believe that all the licence plates I ever saw at the time had the letters ABC; ABD; ABE, and so on. There was never anything any further, and I really felt that this made it difficult for us who did like to watch licence plates to see some of the difference around that would have been visible had a different combination of numbers and letters been chosen.

At any rate, another pet peeve I have—I guess I should not even say a peeve, a little minor issue—is the fact that now we can also personalize our licence plates. I believe that one of the things we do with respect to the purchase of a registration for a vehicle, and the validation of the Autopac sticker is to try and have some sort of uniformity in the system which permits people to be, not have to go to great lengths to try and create messages on the licence plate which probably for a driver like me who does look at them from time to time puts us into a bid of a quandary as to see what the message actually is.

At any rate, the personalized number plates, or actually now they are letter plates, the missing front

licences go right back to the heart of the issue again, which is the purpose of these licence plates in the first place, the purpose of the registration in the first place, which is identification and visibility, identification that the vehicle is clearly registered, and also clearly visible.

\* (1730)

-(interjection)- The Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) asks if I am stretching a bit of time here and that is not the case at all. I am putting very important comments onto the record here and if he says I am doing something which perhaps none of us would admit to, I must say I am having a good teacher since I sit right beside this gentleman and I admire the way he is sometimes able to stretch things to, shall we say, address a rather moot point or minor point and stretch it narrow.-(interjection)- He says he would never address a moot point. He would like to expand a narrow point. Well I do not know if that is the case at all, simply listening to the kind of guidance and advice he has given me for these points that I need. At any rate, I will just carry on just a little bit longer here.

I think we have to come right back down to the point at issue. The amendment calls for clear identification of numbers and letters and these should be clearly labeled, clearly identified, and furthermore a validation sticker as well should be clearly -(interjection)- finally the Member for Churchill and I are beginning to make communication here.

At any rate, with those few thoughts, Mr. Speaker, I shall—

**Mr. Speaker:** By leave, this matter will remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

## COMMITTEE CHANGE

**Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some changes to the committee.

I move, seconded by the Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Neufeld for Gilleshammer.

**Mr. Speaker:** So reported.

## BILL NO. 10—THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Springfield, Bill No. 10, The Beverage Container Act; Loi sur les contenants de boissons, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). Stand?

The Honourable Member for Ellice.

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on Bill 10.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there leave that this matter remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health? Agreed. The Honourable Member for Ellice.

**Ms. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand today to speak on Bill No. 10, The Beverage Container Act. I take pleasure in speaking to this Act for a number of reasons. First, I believe in what the Bill has to say in regard to how Manitoba should be moving toward environmentally sound legislation in this province. Second, I support the Bill and I am pleased to speak on it because I think it is very important to note that when the opposite side of the House likes to say how we never put policy on the record, or we never tell the people of Manitoba what our policies are, here we have a very clear, a very concise example of how the Liberal Party in Manitoba, in putting forth this Bill, as the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) has done, that we in fact are putting forth Liberal policy and we are saying to the people of Manitoba and we are saying to this lackadaisical Government on the other side that we believe in moving forward in the area of environmental concerns, and this is one example of how we propose to do that.

So I would certainly hope, Mr. Speaker, that in fact all Members of this House, all three Parties, would support this particular Bill, because it does speak to environmental concerns that I would hope that we would all agree to in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that as we listen day after day to the Conservative Government, they like to throw words together and phrases together so that one could almost get the impression that they knew what they were speaking of in answers to questions. One word that comes to mind, in particular, is the word "pro-active." I use that example because I feel that this particular Bill put forth by the Liberals is a pro-active measure in regard to environmental management in this province. I recall the other day, and speaking of pro-active, I believe it was the Minister of Health who talked about, in regard to a vacancy of a physician in a particular community, well, we are pro-actively recruiting.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the very point there is that this Government does not even understand what pro-activity is, and they use that word in that particular context. Pro-activity means that you identify a concern that may be there, such as littering, concerns with beverage containers, and before the problem comes to a head and before severe intervention is necessary, it is much better instead to be pro-active and have legislation or rules and regulations or have programs in place which deal with a potential problem before it actually occurs.

So when the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) talks about pro-actively recruiting for a physician who has already left, that does not make sense. I think it is important to note that if we really mean, and we really talk about what is pro-active and what is not, let us first get a grasp of what that means.

This particular Bill, The Beverage Container Act, is one excellent example of how Manitobans can be pro-active in regard to environmentally sound management practices in this province.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we also oftentimes hear from the other side of the House. We hear how we do not have concerns for the needs and the issues affecting

rural Manitobans. Again I have to say that this particular Bill identifies the fact that there have been a number of concerns expressed by people in rural Manitoba about litter, concerns on our highways, in our communities in the North and in rural Manitoba in regard to litter control. So this Bill again is an example of how we can better manage beverage containers throughout the Province of Manitoba.

I think it is important to note that this particular Bill follows some similar ideas that have already been used in the Province of Alberta. It is important to note that in Manitoba we have been very much lagging behind in the last number of years in regard to legislation or good environmentally sound programs. This is an example of where we can move ahead, Mr. Speaker, so that there is a benefit to all Manitobans. When we look at the Bill we see that it is important, and that there is somewhat of a penalty for individuals or retailers who would sell beverage containers that would be non-refundable. What we want to do is encourage people in the communities, retailers, consumers, to use containers which in fact can be recycled. I think that is very important to note. It has been a number of years where we have not had any sound direction or leadership in the whole area of environmental management.

There certainly is a continuum that we can look at in regard to how do we effectively manage our environment. One small way, but a very important way, is to begin by looking at legislation that relates to beverage container Acts; that relates to recycling procedures. I know that we, on this side of the House, as Liberals are very proud of the steps that we have taken in regard to presenting this particular Beverage Container Act so that it will give an opportunity for the entire Chamber to discuss this Bill. In fact, I would hope that the Chamber would agree to move this particular Bill on to the committee stage, so that consumers in the province as well would have an opportunity to discuss this particular Bill.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that oftentimes we talk about The Environmental Protection Act and we talk about the importance of environment and we say that, but do we really mean that? We know that actions speak louder than words, and actions have to be in the way of introducing legislation into this Legislative Assembly. Actions have to be in the way of meeting with consumer groups, meeting with retailers, meeting with the people of Manitoba, particularly in rural Manitoba, who are concerned about litter, who are concerned about our non-renewable resources. I think it is very important that as we look at the whole area of environment we must consider what can we as Manitobans do to ensure that in 10 and 20 and 30 years our children and our grandchildren will live in a much better, environmentally sound province.

I think we only have to look at the provinces to our east to note that we do not necessarily want to be in a situation where we are faced with poor environmental conditions, where you cannot even see the sun in the daytime, where smog pollutes our cities, where garbage and litter pollutes our cities so much that in fact they have brought in recycling legislation as well, Mr. Speaker.

\* (1740)

We are still in a particularly rural province. We are part of western Canada, and I think we want to be seen in western Canada as leaders and promoters of any type of legislation or programs that can be seen as environmentally sound.

I think that the provincial Government would welcome this type of legislation which we have taken the time and the effort to draft and which we have presented to this particular House. I would very much welcome comments on the record from the Opposition, from the Government of the Day, as to what their feelings are about this particular legislation. Do they support the essence of The Beverage Container Act? Do they believe that we need environmentally sound practices in this province such as are represented in this particular Bill?

I again would welcome comments and I hope that there will be an agreement from all sides of this House that this particular piece of legislation would move forth to committee stage so that there can be further discussion and so that in fact this can become law in Manitoba. This is a very pro-active measure on behalf of the Liberal Party, and I think it is for the good of all Manitobans that this type of legislation be passed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** By leave, this matter will remain standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

### **BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA INTERCULTURAL COUNCIL AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Intercultural Council Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le Conseil interculturel du Manitoba; and the motion from the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) that the question be now put, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health. (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 17—THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), Bill No. 17, The Employment Standards Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les normes d'emploi, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 20—THE MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo), Bill No. 20, The Municipal Assessment Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation municipale, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 21—THE UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 21, The Unfair Business Practices Act; Loi sur les pratiques commerciales déloyales, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 22—THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 22, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 23—THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT (2)**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 23, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 24—THE BUSINESS NAMES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Maloway), Bill No. 24, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'enregistrement des noms commerciaux, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 26—THE REAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Maloway), Bill No. 26, The Real Property Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biens réels, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 37—THE MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT (2)**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), Bill No. 37, The Municipal Assessment Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation municipale, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs). (Stand)

**BILL NO. 41—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC  
AMENDMENT ACT (4)**

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake), Bill No. 41, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (4); Loi no 4 modifiant le Code de la route, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia who has 14 minutes remaining. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It takes great pleasure to be able to speak to my amendment to The Highway Traffic Act. The present Act certainly does not address the issue of the problem that we are having with the radar detectors in private vehicles. At the present time—and I have been speaking to the RCMP and the city police and other police forces in Manitoba, and they have got great concern about the present Highway Traffic Act with regards to radar detectors.

What I have done, Mr. Speaker, as I think I have addressed this in my Bill whereby if a person is found detected that he has a radar detector in his car, the police officer of course then can, under his jurisdiction, search and seize the product from his vehicle.

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

**Mr. Mandrake:** Mr. Speaker, children will play. As I was saying, the police officer has that prerogative to seize the radar detector device but, unfortunately, then he goes to court and then the court will decide whether or not it is legal, or whatever the case may be or however the judge will decide the case, and of course then returns this particular detector back to the owner.

My Bill addresses those particular issues, Mr. Speaker. It is very, very frustrating, extremely frustrating for an RCMP officer or a city police officer to be able to go through this harangue of confiscating a radar detector and then going to court, going through the process of appearing in court, wasting his time, knowing full well that piece of equipment is going to be given back to the owner. My Bill will address that issue whereby once it goes to court that particular detector will not be given back to the owner, but it is going to be destroyed. It is going to be destroyed.

Now the one that I think is most important - (interjection)- Children will play, Mr. Speaker, children will play on the Opposition side and of course in the Government side. They are like a little bunch of children not knowing what to do so they will just keep on chattering.

Mr. Speaker, the most important thing about this Bill, and I think it is long overdue, long overdue, and that is that if anybody sells this type of radar device in Manitoba will be fined. Okay. I felt that it would be appropriate to do that because when this Government was in Opposition and this is what they stated. I said the Act seems to be fairly explicit on radar detector devices then the question is why are they allowed to be sold. If it really is illegal to have them within your automobile or whatsoever, then surely we should go one step further and make it illegal for them to be sold.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Gladstone (Mrs. Oleson) is asking who said that. It was one of your Members back in 16 of June 1986 page number 929 of Hansard. Now kindly do your research and you will know who said it. The Honourable Member for Gladstone says who said it, well I will tell you who said it, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. A. Brown said it, one of their own caucus Members when they were in Opposition.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what this Government has been doing all along. When they were in Opposition they had cried for \$100 million to \$150 million extra money in the budget for Highways and Transportation. This year what did we get, 2.9 percent, 2 percent below the inflation rate. Well now we are talking from both sides of our mouth, both sides of our mouth. Let us not be so hypocritical to go around when we are in Opposition saying one thing, but once we get in the Government say another.

\* (1750)

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would have consent from all Parties on this Bill so that we can give the police force of this country or this province, an opportunity to be able to have a real comprehensive Bill whereby if they do find a radar detector in a private vehicle that they can seize it, have it destroyed and it will not be sold in Manitoba. That is the way we should operate. We want to work in concert with this Government, we do.

I truly am one of the people who will honestly say that the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) has shown initiatives with regard to VIA Rail and he is seriously considering taking both critics to Ottawa with him. That is what we call co-operation. Let us work together for the betterment of Manitoba, but obviously the third Party would prefer to sit there and jabber and chatter away and make all kinds of philosophical statements on their ideologies, of course, Mr. Kostyra's big tax grab. They do not want to talk about that, oh, no, no, no.

Let us work together in unison. Instead of fighting with each other, I think it would be most appropriate if both sides of the House, or we can eliminate the people on our left because they are non-existent anyway, and work in concert and have a good comprehensive amendment to The Highway Traffic Act. - (interjection)- The Member, the Leader of the third Party (Mr. Doer), says the radar in your mouth. Well, I think those kind of comments, Mr. Speaker, only depicts what kind of a character this Honourable Member is. Obviously he has a lot of speeding tickets, I have never had any, you see, I never travel fast. I am a law-abiding citizen.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**Mr. Mandrake:** Again, as I said, when the present Government was in Opposition they had asked that radar detectors be not sold in Manitoba. Again, I do not want to be repetitive, but in my amendment that is exactly what I have addressed, and also made

whereby once it is seized, it is destroyed. I think that is the avenue we have to take. We have to work together for the betterment of law enforcement in Manitoba to make sure that once they do their job, they know their job is well done. I feel that the Government should support this Bill because they have already been asking for it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is second reading of Bill No. 41. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

## SECOND READINGS—PUBLIC BILLS

### BILL NO. 18—THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ACT

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas)** presented Bill No. 18, The Ozone Layer Protection Act (Loi sur la protection de la couche d'ozone), for second reading, to be referred to a committee of this House.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. Harapiak:** I am pleased to speak on The Ozone Layer Protection Act, Bill No. 18. Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting in Barbados. Thank you to you, Mr. Speaker, I was able to. This was one of the subjects that was up for discussion during the conference. During the discussion it was very interesting to listen to the comments made from the developing countries, because they are the ones that are really being affected

to a much greater degree than people in the developed countries.

For instance, there was the country of Bangladesh who was affected to a great degree by the warming effect because of the ozone layer depletion in that, the results of that has been that Bangladesh was under several feet of water for about a three month period this past summer. Although Bangladesh is a very poor country they have had to go to the expense of building an eight foot dike surrounding their airport, just in the event that that becomes an annual event and the people would be able to get out of that country and leave.

I think there is going to be a much greater call on the people who live in the developed countries to share in some of the expenses that these third world countries are going to be faced with because as the warming trend continues the water levels on all the coastal countries is going to be rising and these people are going to be displaced persons. These people are going to have no choice but to be moving to other areas of the world that are not as populated as they are. I think that that is where we as developed countries are really going to be challenged to accept these people and take them in as our countrymen because they are going to have no alternative, but to be moved from their area because of the rising level of their waters in that country.

There are several low lying countries that are affected in the same way.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. When this matter is again before the House the Honourable Member will have 12 minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).