



First Session - Thirty-Sixth Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(Hansard)**

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Louise M. Dacquay
Speaker*



Vol. XLV No. 19 - 10 a.m., Friday, June 16, 1995

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Sixth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Party</u>
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	N.D.P.
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	N.D.P.
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	N.D.P.
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	N.D.P.
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	P.C.
DACQUAY, Louise, Hon.	Seine River	P.C.
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	P.C.
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	N.D.P.
DOER, Gary	Concordia	N.D.P.
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	P.C.
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	P.C.
DYCK, Peter	Pembina	P.C.
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	P.C.
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	P.C.
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	N.D.P.
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	N.D.P.
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	P.C.
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	P.C.
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	N.D.P.
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Lib.
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	P.C.
HELWER, Edward	Gimli	P.C.
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	N.D.P.
JENNISSEN, Gerard	Flin Flon	N.D.P.
KOWALSKI, Gary	The Maples	Lib.
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Lib.
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	N.D.P.
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	P.C.
MACKINTOSH, Gord	St. Johns	N.D.P.
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	N.D.P.
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	N.D.P.
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	P.C.
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	P.C.
McGIFFORD, Diane	Osborne	N.D.P.
McINTOSH, Linda, Hon.	Assiniboia	P.C.
MIHYCHUK, MaryAnn	St. James	N.D.P.
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	P.C.
NEWMAN, David	Riel	P.C.
PALLISTER, Brian, Hon.	Portage la Prairie	P.C.
PENNER, Jack	Emerson	P.C.
PITURA, Frank	Morris	P.C.
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	P.C.
RADCLIFFE, Mike	River Heights	P.C.
REID, Daryl	Transcona	N.D.P.
REIMER, Jack, Hon.	Niakwa	P.C.
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	P.C.
ROBINSON, Eric	Rupert's Island	N.D.P.
ROCAN, Denis	Gladstone	P.C.
SALE, Tim	Crescentwood	N.D.P.
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	N.D.P.
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	P.C.
STRUTHERS, Stan	Dauphin	N.D.P.
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	P.C.
TOEWS, Vic, Hon.	Rossmere	P.C.
TWEED, Mervin	Turtle Mountain	P.C.
VODREY, Rosemary, Hon.	Fort Garry	P.C.
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	N.D.P.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, June 16, 1995

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Committee of Supply

Mr. Marcel Laurendeau (Chairperson of Committees): Madam 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 Riel (Mr. Newman), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Madam Speaker, I would like to table the 1994 Annual Report for the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill 23—The Health Services Insurance
Amendment Act**

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Mitchelson), that leave be given to introduce Bill 23, The Health Services Insurance Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'assurance-maladie), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

**Bill 19—The Intercountry Adoption
(Hague Convention) and
Consequential Amendments Act**

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mrs. Vodrey), that leave be given to introduce Bill 19, The Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) and Consequential Amendments Act (Loi concernant l'adoption internationale (Convention de La Haye) et apportant des modifications corrélatives), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

**Bill 20—The Child and Family Services
Amendment Act**

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mrs. Vodrey), that leave be given to introduce Bill 20, The Child and Family Services Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services à l'enfant et à la famille), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

* (1005)

**Bill 22—The Municipal Amendment
and Brandon Charter Amendment Act**

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Rural Development): I move, seconded by the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship (Mr. Gilleshammer), that leave be given to introduce Bill 22, The Municipal Amendment and Brandon Charter Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur les municipalités et la Charte de Brandon), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 21—The Rural Development Bonds Amendment Act

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Rural Development): I move, seconded by the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Findlay), that leave be given to introduce Bill 21, The Rural Development Bonds Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur les obligations de développement rural), and that the same be now received and read for a first time.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been advised of the contents of this bill, recommends it to the House. I have a message from His Honour.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 24—The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mrs. Vodrey), that leave be given to introduce Bill 24, The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi de la taxe sur le tabac), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been advised of the contents of this bill, recommends it to the House, and I would like to table the Lieutenant-Governor's message.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Rural Development): Madam Speaker, may I seek leave of the House to revert back to Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable Minister of Rural Development have leave to revert back to Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports? [agreed]

Meeting the Challenges of Local Government Report

Mr. Derkach: Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to present the report entitled, Meeting the Challenges of Local Government. This report is a culmination of more than two years of hard work and diligence. I am pleased to be able to present this document today because of the hard work of scores of Manitobans who care deeply about local government. They took the time to review the initial discussion document, make presentations and, again, to review the draft report. In many ways, this document was written by them.

The final report is also possible because of the diligence of the five-member review panel that was appointed in the spring of 1993, who were charged with providing this government with valuable advice needed to overhaul The Municipal Act and other provincial statutes that affect local government.

This review panel consisted of Mr. Henry Wiebe, who served as the chairman, Mrs. Margaret Hodgson, Mr. Jack Nicol, Ms. Susan Shineton and Mr. Gil Strachan, whom I am pleased to recognize today, Madam Speaker, as they join us in the Speaker's Gallery.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to this 164-page report, from the Manitobans who attended one of the numerous public meetings held throughout the province or those who took time to submit a written presentation. I would also like to extend my warm thanks to the panel members and the government staff who assisted them in this task. Meeting the Challenges of Local Government is a tribute to the consultation process used to develop this report.

Panel members toured Manitoba twice to listen to the concerns and desires of Manitobans. They also received hundreds of written presentations that they had to consider when they wrote this report. Without the participation of Manitobans, this report would not have been possible. This report will serve as an invaluable resource for this government as we update the legislative framework which governs the operations of municipalities. The importance of this report can

best be appreciated only if we understand the subject matter of its discourse.

* (1010)

The Municipal Act regulates virtually all aspects of operations of local government in Manitoba. This report will also allow us to bring The Municipal Act up to date with modern realities and to address the issues and concerns facing Manitobans today. An updated Municipal Act will enable municipalities to govern themselves more efficiently and to specifically address the issues that affect those living within their jurisdictions and to be accountable to them. Not only will new legislation be reflective of the times but it will also be adaptable to future needs of municipalities and Manitobans. Therefore, it has a profound effect on the lives of thousands of people in the province and this government is committed to helping them build a strong province while preparing for tomorrow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Clif Evans (Interlake): Madam Speaker, we, too, on this side of the House wish to offer our congratulations and good work in the diligence that the committee has put forward to put together the Meeting the Challenges of Local Government study. We on this side of the House want to indicate that we do want to see a stronger rural Manitoba and, hopefully, with the hard work and diligence of the committee, the chair and the people of Manitoba, we can accomplish this.

I would like to personally thank the chairman, Mr. Henry Wiebe, Mrs. Margaret Hodgson, Mr. Jack Nicol, Ms. Susan Shineton and Mr. Gil Strachan.

Madam Speaker, we hope to be working with everybody on this—with the government, with the people of Manitoba, and, hopefully, rural Manitoba becomes strong here as it is in other parts of this country. Thank you very much.

Introduction of Guests

Madam Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, I would like to draw the attention of all honourable members to the public gallery where we have 45 adult students from Sir William Osler School under the direction of

Irene Halgren, Sondra Hochman and Sherna Posner. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for River Heights (Mr. Radcliffe).

We also have 20 adult students from Continuing Education for Adult Education under the direction of Ms. Frances Molaro. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale).

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you this morning.

* (1015)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

VLT Revenues Information Release

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is to the First Minister.

Last December, when the NDP introduced the private member's Lotteries Accountability Act, the former Minister of Lotteries indicated that it was not necessary, that they would be giving us a community-by-community breakdown of gambling soon. I quote "soon."

In March, the former minister said the same thing, and again in early April he said the same thing, that a community-by-community breakdown would be available to the public shortly.

The Premier, in the election campaign, Madam Speaker, at a debate that we all attended, said that he hoped and wanted the material on a community-by-community breakdown to be out before the election campaign.

Madam Speaker, we have heard this story time and time again and yet communities are having public hearings on gambling and do not have the information from this government.

I would like the Premier to release the information immediately so the public of Manitoba can be fully

involved in both the benefits of gambling and the consequences of gambling in their own communities.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Madam Speaker, I know this is an issue that is important to many. Certainly, the reason why the Desjardins commission was appointed was we felt that those who had concerns ought to have an opportunity to raise them at public hearings, and so the committee, under the chairmanship of a former minister in the New Democratic administration, Mr. Desjardins, is going throughout the province, is listening to people, is accepting those presentations. We will certainly await the outcome with great interest.

The particular matter of the release of community-by-community breakdown is a matter of being able to catalogue the information on a community-by-community basis. As soon as we have that information, we will release it. I have said that before.

Mr. Doer: Madam Speaker, this government can spend millions of dollars on image advertising at the Lotteries Corporation, yet it cannot provide community-by-community breakdown of information that is available, according to our sources, at the Lotteries commission. This corporation is computerized. It has the data bank. The government does not have the political will to release that information to the communities because they are afraid of the consequences in terms of the debate.

Would the Premier stop the secrecy at the Lotteries Corporation and give Manitoba communities the community-by-community breakdown that surely they are entitled to as these community hearings take place?

Mr. Filmon: I have said before there is no lack of will on our part as a government. As soon as the information is available, it will be able to be provided publicly.

Mr. Doer: Madam Speaker, after the election debate where the Premier indicated that the material would be released—that is after his minister said the same thing for the last six months—the Ombudsman was informed by the Lotteries Corporation that the data is available at the Lotteries Corporation. We have also been told by

employees of the Lotteries Corporation that all the material is available, machine by machine, hotel by hotel and community by community.

We are not asking the government to reveal any confidential private information. What we think is that the community should know and have the right to know about the information in their own communities. Would the Premier stop the secrecy at his government's level and demand that information, which is available, be released today so the people of Manitoba can be adequately informed to participate properly in their debate about their Lotteries Corporation, not the Filmon Lotteries Corporation?

Madam Speaker: I would remind the honourable Leader of the official opposition that all members are referred to, ministers by their portfolio and other members by their constituencies.

Mr. Doer: The First Minister, the member for Tuxedo, would he please release that information?

Madam Speaker: I appreciate that. I thank the honourable Leader of the official opposition.

Mr. Filmon: Madam Speaker, that is the same question as I just answered, and the answer is the same.

Home Care Private Services

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Madam Speaker, yesterday, in the committee on Estimates, the minister indicated the government is going to introduce private for-profit home care in three areas: I.V. services, hospital discharges and backup to the regular government-run home care.

Can the minister explain how the introduction of private for-profit home care into our home care system is going to improve the home care that is presently provided by a not-for-profit operation?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): I would hope that the honourable member would keep his focus the same as other people in Manitoba, that being the patient, when it comes to health services.

I recall when a Seven Oaks project involving a profit-making private company led to no additional costs for patients and much-improved services that his response, even though the patients were very, very comfortable with that and the patients gave a very, very positive evaluation of the service, was that it is no good if it is run by the private sector.

There is room for various players in the health system, the nonprofit sector, the public sector and the private sector.

* (1020)

Mr. Chomiak: Will the minister table his studies which show that profit-making companies are going to benefit our health care system when we have years of experience in Canada that say one of the benefits of our health care system is our not-for-profit centrally administrated system? Will he table the studies that show otherwise?

Mr. McCrae: There have been very many good features developed over the years by the public and nonprofit sectors and a number of features of our health care system that drastically or desperately need change because they have not met with the expectations of the generation in existence in Manitoba today.

The honourable member has simply a philosophical problem. That is his problem. If he and his colleagues want to live 50 years ago and be hidebound for the next 50 years, that is going to be their problem.

Mr. Chomiak: Will he assure this House today—since he will not table any studies—that no patient in Manitoba will be charged additional fees as a result of these profit-run operations that are going to be introduced in three major areas of home care?

Mr. McCrae: The honourable member was present the day we made the study of the Seven Oaks project.

It was a very, very positive one, and even on that day the honourable member had a little bit of a problem being critical, although when he comes to the comfort of this Chamber, he is quite critical.

Manitoba Housing Authority Amalgamation

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Madam Speaker, poverty is a problem for thousands of Manitobans. A big part of that problem is safe, decent and affordable housing. Many people who live on low incomes pay as much as 50 percent of their income for housing.

Given that the purpose of the Manitoba Housing Authority is to manage some 20,000 properties of public housing in Manitoba and that the purpose of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation is to finance the development of affordable housing for Manitobans, I want to ask the minister if he can tell the House what plans there are to bring together these two agencies in Manitoba.

Hon. Jack Reimer (Minister of Housing): Madam Speaker, the preamble was so long, I forgot which two departments she was talking about.

Madam Speaker: The honourable member for Radisson, to quickly repeat the question.

Ms. Cerilli: Madam Speaker, the question is if the minister can tell the House plans within his department to bring together the Manitoba Housing Authority and the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation.

Mr. Reimer: Madam Speaker, with everything within the department, there is a consultation process being put in place regarding the approaches that are being handled with Manitoba Housing, the tenant relations and the attitude of their safety and their control in regard to what the member for Radisson is referring to, the pest control. These are all closely monitored in a sense of reactionary. If there is a problem, they are reacted to.

The consultation between the two departments will continue, and the problems, as they are presented, are handled.

Ms. Cerilli: Madam Speaker, I do not think the minister answered the question. I will ask the question again.

Are there plans in the department to amalgamate the Manitoba Housing Authority and the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation or to eliminate the function of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, which is to oversee the development of affordable housing for low-income Manitobans?

Mr. Reimer: Madam Speaker, with anything regarding a departmental overview or a restructuring, there is always the possibility of looking at where directions are being placed, where the emphasis is.

The fact that we are dealing with a clientele and people who are requiring affordable housing is of the most primary function, and any type of direction that is taken is naturally done on a consultation basis as to which is the best vehicle to provide this type of direction.

There is always an ongoing discussion and a dialogue between all departments within the government.

* (1025)

Ms. Cerilli: Madam Speaker, is this government going to abandon one of the biggest things it can do for low-income Manitobans who live in poverty, which is to ensure they have decent, safe, affordable housing? Is this government going to eliminate that function from the provincial government in Manitoba?

Mr. Reimer: Madam Speaker, the short answer is no.

Public Housing Herbicide Spraying Notification

Hon. Jack Reimer (Minister of Housing): If I might have time to reply to a question that I took as notice from the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli) last week. It was in regard to herbicide spraying.

If I recall, the question that was asked by the member for Radisson is what is the procedure regarding the spraying of herbicides in public housing. The practice is to give notice of 24 hours to each tenant when they are spraying with herbicide. They are also asked to keep the children off the grass for one hour after, until it dries. [interjection] And pets, too, yes.

Conservation Fund Grant—Member for Lakeside

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources.

I would like to ask the minister whether he would investigate and release details of a \$12,888 grant presented by the honourable member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) in 1991 out of a fund that was designed to protect rare birds? I would like to know what that grant was used for. What happened to the money?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Natural Resources): Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, state that the program was established prior to my taking over the department.

The special conservation fund that is there has funded many, many very worthwhile projects, and the people who have participated in them over the years have done a tremendous job with that. I think that is a very good program that is out there. There is a process in place in terms of applications that come in and how they are being dealt with.

I will investigate what the member is alluding to, but I want to also raise some sensitivity in terms of people that make accusations. They better make sure they have their facts straight, because we cannot run around investigating all these kinds of accusations that possibly come forward through the media.

I would have hoped somebody would have come forward and raised that issue with the department or with the government itself instead of going through the media on that issue.

Mr. Maloway: Madam Speaker, clearly, we will not get any answers from this minister.

My supplementary, Madam Speaker, is to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Community Places.

Point of Order

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): On a point of order, Madam Speaker, the member for

Elmwood just indicated that they would receive no answers from this minister. He just gave an answer and has responded to every question that has been put.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I believe you will find that is not a point of order.

Madam Speaker: I thank the honourable Leader of the official opposition for his opinion and information. Now I will rule on the point of order.

The honourable government House leader indeed did not have a point of order. It is clearly a dispute over the facts.

Manitoba Community Places Grant—Member for Lakeside

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Madam Speaker, my supplementary then is to a different minister, the Minister for the Manitoba Community Places.

Would the minister investigate and release publicly all details of a grant that took place January 9, 1992, a grant of \$44,490 presented by the member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), and I would like to know what it was used for?

* (1030)

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Madam Speaker, I can confirm that there was an application in the spring of 1991. It was approved later in 1991. The work was subsequently done. The project was inspected by the regional staff and the facility consultant on August 22, 1991. All costs were paid and supported by receipts and cancelled cheques. The Community Places Program grant was paid in one instalment on December 12, 1991.

This is a facility that is used by many in that area for the local baseball league or as a recreation centre and the Interlake Metis Association.

Mr. Maloway: Madam Speaker, my final supplementary to the same minister is this: Could he investigate and release publicly what a 1990 grant

presented by the same honourable member for Lakeside for property in St. Laurent was used for?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The member asked about a Community Places grant. I have provided him with that information. If it is another Community Places grant that he is asking about, perhaps he could give me further information on that.

Port of Churchill Grain Exports

Mr. Eric Robinson (Rupertsland): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation.

Currently, there are 30 people working at the Port of Churchill preparing for the 1995 season and hoping that it will not be a repeat of last year. I would like to ask the minister what amount of grain, to his knowledge, has been committed this year, and when will grain begin to be shipped through the port?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, I am sure the member is aware that the Port of Churchill is operated by Ports Canada, a federal undertaking, and that the shipment of grain through there will be done by the Canadian Wheat Board which at this point has not announced any volume of grain that is to go through the Port of Churchill.

I will stand with him and say, we hope that the Canadian Wheat Board can move more volumes of grain through the port this year than they have in the past two years.

Mr. Robinson: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, as well, whether he has consulted with CN to ensure that enough grain cars are available to ship grain through the port, unlike last year when two ships were forced away two weeks—each for grain to be shipped through the port.

Mr. Findlay: Madam Speaker, certainly the relationship between CN and the Wheat Board for moving grain through there is a contractual obligation. I actually had discussions with a CN official last night, and my understanding is that the necessary

arrangements when the Wheat Board has contracts will occur with CN.

Again, we hope that the process of arrival is more timely with the ships this year than last year.

Gateway North Project Status Report

Mr. Eric Robinson (Rupertsland): Madam Speaker, my final question to the same minister is, how much has this province committed to the Gateway North project? What is the status of the Gateway North interim committee report?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, clearly, the Gateway North proposal that the member has seen that is a result of a task force involving Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the federal government, CN and a number of other interested groups, was a very good report in terms of identifying commercially how that port and the bayline can continue to operate viably for the good of Manitoba and anybody who moves product through that particular port.

We have contributed through the process, particularly with staff. The Gateway North committee has written a particular recommendation to the federal government. To my knowledge, they have not responded yet. But it is a very significant issue which we hope that the federal government will act on in very short term as the Gateway North committee continues to pursue aggressively, as we will through our department to be sure that the federal government recognize their obligation to keep that port viable and increase the economic opportunities through there in the years ahead.

Garment Industry Employment Opportunities

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Madam Speaker, there have been hundreds of jobs in the garment industry that have gone unfilled over the last seven years. Yesterday, when I asked the Premier the question, he responded by saying the fact of the matter is it is in the area in which traditionally we need to have

open borders and opportunities to hire immigrants with skills. When I asked a similar question to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey), his response was: Am I taking it that the member for Inkster is saying he wants to import people to take the jobs of people who are here, to take jobs away from them, is that what he is suggesting?

Madam Speaker, my question to the Premier, because there is apparently some contradiction in possible government policy, is: Is this Premier prepared to take the action that is necessary and look in terms of what was done in the late '60s, early '70s in order to fill those hundreds of jobs in the garment industry, so that we will see something finally done to see those jobs being filled.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Speaker, far be it for me to try and figure out the policy of what is left of the Liberal Party in this House, to determine what, in fact, they would do.

First of all, we are extremely pleased that the economic climate in this province has generated the kinds of opportunities in the garment industry. That, I think we should all be happy for. In fact, that was one industry that was not to survive with the Free Trade Agreement. We were told that industry would in fact disappear. Well, very much the opposite has taken place.

Yes, we believe we have to make sure there are people available for the garment industry. We would hope, if there are people unemployed and capable in Manitoba, that they would be able to be trained to take on those opportunities.

Secondly, if they are not, we should encourage immigration to this country to fulfill those jobs. That is what the Premier (Mr. Filmon) referred to yesterday. That is what built this country. So we are not at any odds. We believe strongly in satisfying the demand in the garment industry. It is how best we can accomplish that. If it is immigration, that is an opportunity. If it is further training of people in Manitoba, that is an opportunity. The point is, there are jobs and we want people to fill them.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, can the Premier indicate to this House a commitment to adopting a policy that would be similar to the late '60s, early '70s that would see these jobs being filled? The Deputy Premier can say what he will, but the truth of the matter is, this government has failed in filling these jobs for the last seven years.

Will this government take action today and ensure that the federal government is contacted so we can achieve an agreement that will fill these jobs?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Madam Speaker, as was indicated by the minister, first and foremost, there is a healthy economy in Manitoba which is in fact seeing expansion and greater opportunities for the garment industry. That is an important point to be repeated.

The second point, of course, is that because there are jobs that go unfilled, we need to consider every avenue for filling those. Training of Manitobans who are looking for employment is one of those opportunities and that is being pursued. The second, of course, is having more liberal—and I use that in a small "l" sense—immigration policies, is absolutely key to the process.

All the way back to the time of my father's generation when he came over to fill an opportunity and take a job in the garment industry back in the early '20s, this has been a source of opportunity for specific skills and expansion of our economy. That opportunity has been damaged by the policies of the federal Liberal government. I said that yesterday.

We are trying to achieve an agreement for a federal-provincial immigration policy so we can have a greater role so that we can target people to the skill shortage needs in our society. That is not being done, thanks to the efforts of the federal Liberal government.

I would say rather than get up and attempt to criticize this administration, he should pick up the phone and phone his federal Liberal counterparts and say, sign an agreement with Manitoba, get on with the job of opening up the borders to greater opportunities for immigrants.

* (1040)

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, can the Minister of Finance indicate to this House how much loss of taxation revenue we have suffered because this government has been unable to fill not one but several thousand jobs, because this government has not been able to rise to the challenge of the economy in terms of providing a trained, skilled workforce?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, what the member should be most embarrassed about is the fact that his party has voted against each budget that this administration has brought down that has created the kind of climate that is creating jobs right here in Manitoba—14,000 more jobs today than a year ago.

We are the only province in all of Canada today to have five consecutive months of job growth. No other province in Canada can match that record, Madam Speaker, so he should be ashamed of his performance in terms of not supporting budgets that have created a whole series of advantages to locate and expand activities right here in Manitoba.

I could give him a long list, and I will gladly share that with him at any point in time, but we have created the kind of climate here. Jobs are being created, opportunities are being created, and we have significant job growth in this province, Madam Speaker.

Association of Community Living Salary Levels

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Madam Speaker, I believe it is well known that the Association for Community Living branches' employees are dedicated, hard-working people who serve the people they serve to the best of their ability. Regrettably, the per diems from the Department of Family Services works out to \$5.01 an hour.

I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services how ACL branches and community option programs and shelter workshops will pay their employees once the minimum wage is increased.

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): I thank my honourable friend for that question. It does give me the opportunity to talk about our commitment to Community Living and the resources that have been put in place, Madam Speaker.

I think I indicated in Estimates yesterday that we are supportive in trying to find opportunity within our community for those who need our support and our assistance. It is the one area within my department, Madam Speaker, that I have indicated if there are any additional resources whatsoever available, it is an area that I want to see given a very high priority.

That is why, Madam Speaker, we, over the last two budgets in the Department of Family Services, have committed I think it was \$4.5 million last year and another \$2 million this year to provide additional support, so that we can keep people in the community and have them live productive lives. So, Madam Speaker, it is an area of high priority, and as the resources become available in our department and there are additional resources, it is an area that I want to receive that additional support.

Mr. Martindale: If it is true, as the minister said in Estimates, that there is more money for Community Living Programs, can the minister tell us why then, when ACL Beausejour requested more money to pay their staff decent wages, they were turned down?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Again, I thank my honourable friend for that question because it allows me the opportunity to inform all members of the Legislature that what we want to do is put the person who needs the service first, and if, in fact, there is an ability for us to serve more individuals with increased resources, that is where our priority will go, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Martindale: Can the Minister of Family Services tell us what she plans to do to stop the high turnover rate of employees in this occupation, who have no incentive to stay on when the wage right now is very low and the minister will not give the Association for Community Living branches more money to even meet the minimum wage? What is she doing to settle the strike in Beausejour? Will she offer them wages that are higher than social assistance?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Madam Speaker, it is rather difficult for me to determine which of the six questions just posed I should answer, but, indeed, I will reiterate our position as a government.

We are supportive of Community Living. What we want to do as a government is ensure the people that need our services get those services. It is difficult in these economic times to look at where the priorities should lie. We try to provide the resources to the best of our ability. We have increased resources in the area of Community Living, and as a result of that, more people are being able to be served. We will continue to ensure that as more resources become available, the dollars will be there to serve the people in need.

Northern Affairs Communities Unconditional Grants

Mr. Eric Robinson (Rupertsland): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

I would like to table a list of grants to Northern Affairs and First Nations communities from 1988 to 1994.

As the minister is aware, the province is responsible to share a portion of personal and corporate income tax to First Nations and Northern Affairs communities. This is known as the unconditional grants.

I would like to ask the minister to explain why these amounts have declined from \$1,792,574 to \$906,125 since 1988, despite an increase in population and revenues from these communities.

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, without accepting any of the preamble of the member, I will certainly look into that issue and get back to him.

Mr. Robinson: Madam Speaker, I would like to also ask the minister whether or not he will consult with the Ministers of Rural Development and Northern Affairs, and table in this House within the next week a detailed explanation as to why these grants have decreased and whether or not the communities were consulted with regard to the decreases.

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Speaker, I have already indicated I will look into the matter, and I will pursue whatever avenues are required to do just that.

Mr. Robinson: Madam Speaker, I would like, as my final question, to ask the minister also, in responding to my questions in the next few days, whether he will commit his government to ensuring that these communities I am talking about will get the exact amount of their share of these revenues.

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Speaker, as indicated, I will look into all aspects of the issue and respond to the member and to this House.

Forest Fires Status Report

Mr. Stan Struthers (Dauphin): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources.

At the beginning of this month, the member for Flin Flon (Mr. Jennissen) asked the minister a question regarding the forest fire situation in northern Manitoba. Since that time the situation has worsened with many more fires burning and many more out of control. Hot, dry conditions continue to threaten communities such as Lynn Lake, Wabowden, Split Lake, Nelson House, Cranberry Portage and others.

At the beginning of June, the minister assured the House that there were adequate resources to handle the forest fire situation. Could the minister, first of all, give us an update on how many fires are burning and how many of these are out of control?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Natural Resources): Madam Speaker, as of 12:30 yesterday, we had a total of 63 fires burning. Forty-six were under control, 11 were out of control, no action on six of them, and approximately 17 new fires started the day before, and I do not have the final figures as to how many started yesterday.

The situation is very volatile and critical. The temperature is rising up to 35. Tomorrow, it is predicted to be 36. The dry conditions and high-wind conditions could not bode well for the province in

terms of the fire conditions. We are on the verge of the situation of '89 at the present time in terms of the seriousness of the conditions.

Firefighting Resources

Mr. Stan Struthers (Dauphin): I thank the minister for that report.

Can the minister tell the House whether there are enough fire crews within Manitoba to handle the situation or whether help is being sought from outside of the province?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Natural Resources): Madam Speaker, we have well over a thousand trained people in the northern communities that have been trained for forest firefighting.

We basically use the people that are available as required. When you have that many fires going, just human manpower is not enough. You have to have the equipment with that.

I have been extremely pleased and proud of the efforts made by our firefighting teams in terms of getting on these fires fast. The fact that most of the fires, you know, we catch them early on with the kind of equipment and identification system that we have in place. We can get most of the fires before they break out. Every once in a while, we lose one, and then, of course, the costs go up.

I have to say that a lot of money is being expended at the present time in firefighting, but compared to Saskatchewan and Alberta, we do a better job, I believe, with less funds because of the kind of people and equipment that we have in the field.

* (1050)

Mr. Struthers: Madam Speaker, can the minister explain then, given the situation that we have with the forest fires in northern Manitoba, why communities such as Duck Bay and Camperville, who have trained and experienced firefighting crews, have, according to their town councils, not been contacted to provide assistance?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Speaker, I will not even start to second-guess how our firefighting operations go on, because I have had the opportunity to look at exactly how they do it, because very qualified people have been doing this for many, many years, senior people who know what is required in terms of movement of staff and equipment, and possibly, as pockets of fires start throughout the province, depending on the thunderstorms, men and equipment are moved there.

I just have to indicate to the House that we have a travel ban on, what we call phase 1. There are three phases of bans. If we have to, under these conditions, we might be looking at moving to a phase 2, which would basically control virtually all movement in the forested areas of Manitoba.

Winnipeg Arena Construction Conditions

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Minister of Finance refused to make as a condition of the raising of the \$111 million by the private sector, a condition for the construction of the new arena. During the frantic fall blitz of 1994 to sell club and luxury boxes, MEC apparently raised only about \$5 million in pledged sales and sold less than 50 percent of the club seats and about 80 percent of the luxury boxes. Yet they are counting on raising or having contributed \$20 million before the end of July from this source. In the heat of the summer, they are not going to likely close this sale.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the honourable member for Crescentwood has a question.

Mr. Sale: Will the government require these funds, in fact, to be in place as a condition before beginning construction?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Well, it is good to see, Madam Speaker, that the member for Crescentwood follows the consistent path of being negative continually in trying to find solutions to keep the Winnipeg Jets here in Manitoba. We know very well the position of the NDP. They want to see the Winnipeg Jets wearing uniforms down in the United States.

In terms of the issue, it is the same question we had yesterday. The private sector, the Spirit of Manitoba, have three conditions to close this transaction by August 15. One is to raise an additional \$20 million which will take the contributions from Manitobans up to \$80 million, that is from individuals and that is from an extensive grassroots campaign that had thousands and thousands of Manitobans contribute.

Another source of it is going to be some of the advance payments towards club seats and so on. The Spirit of Manitoba will be starting that activity again very shortly, picking up on where they left off in terms of marketing season tickets, marketing club seats and so on.

Winnipeg Jets/Arena Private-Sector Funding

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Is the minister then, Madam Speaker, confirming that the private-sector fundraising target has now shrunk to \$80 million from \$111 million? Is that what the new target is?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): No, I am not confirming that at all, Madam Speaker.

What the private sector will require as an original capital pool will be \$111 million. That will come from individual contributions. It will also come initially from some contributions towards payments on club seats and so on. There will be a continuing process of the private sector to continue to get more public contribution to this operation.

I am sure, Madam Speaker, that if a successful solution is found here that will be an ongoing requirement for many years from the Spirit of Manitoba to continue to have the support of Manitobans, whether it is through purchasing season tickets or club seats or whether it is through making ongoing contributions to the Spirit of Manitoba here in our province.

Mr. Sale: Madam Speaker, could the minister explain how the sale of season tickets, which are clearly operating revenues received in advance of an operation, can be considered as \$10 million of capital in MEC's operating plan?

Mr. Stefanson: Well, again, I think unfortunately the member for Crescentwood is confusing capital and confusing cash.

There are, Madam Speaker, cash requirements. There is the requirement to create a cash pool of \$111 million to deal with the purchase of the hockey team, to deal with covering losses over the next two years while the team is in its existing facility and to create an endowment fund to sustain the team here for the next many years.

In the initial stages, some of that cash will come from the kinds of contributions towards club seats, contributions being made by Manitobans and so on. Over the next period of time, the private sector will continue to raise additional capital and continue to get contributions to the Spirit of Manitoba, to the endowment fund and so on.

I wish for once the members of the NDP in the opposition would start to try to be constructive on this issue, Madam Speaker, and work with Manitobans who want to find a solution to keep the team here in Manitoba.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. There is time for one very short question.

The honourable member for Crescentwood, with a new question.

Winnipeg Jets/Arena Endowment Fund

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Can the Minister of Finance tell the House whether the endowment fund and the charitable donation request is still part of the deal or not?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, in many respects, the member should be asking that of the private sector and of the Spirit of Manitoba.

My understanding is there is still potentially a requirement for an endowment fund, as we have told the members on many occasions. The issue of whether

or not that qualifies as a deduction is an issue to be determined by Revenue Canada.

The Spirit of Manitoba have indicated at their own news conference that they are dealing with Revenue Canada. They have indicated they have three conditions to close this transaction. One of them is a favourable ruling from Revenue Canada, Madam Speaker, and the Spirit of Manitoba will continue to deal with the federal government on that issue.

Madam Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

NONPOLITICAL STATEMENTS

Harry Bergman Louis Riel Medallion

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): May I have leave for a nonpolitical statement, please?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for St. Boniface have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Gaudry: Madame la présidente, j'ai l'honneur de m'adresser à cette Chambre aujourd'hui pour saluer l'initiative de M. Harry Bergman, un fier Manitobain et Canadien. M. Bergman a réalisé le dessin et la frappe d'une médaille qui honore Louis Riel, fondateur du Manitoba, et qui commémore aussi l'entrée de notre province dans la Confédération. Cette oeuvre de M. Bergman fait revivre de manière toute spéciale un moment important de l'histoire du Canada et du Manitoba.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to address this Chamber today to acknowledge the initiative of Mr. Harry Bergman, a proud Manitoban and Canadian. Mr. Bergman executed the design and the striking of a medallion which honours Louis Riel, the founder of Manitoba, and which also commemorates the entry of our province into Confederation. Mr. Bergman's work is a very special reminder of an important moment in the history of Canada and Manitoba.

[English]

And I would say that Mr. Bergman is present in the gallery here this afternoon.

I know that through the grace of God I am the founder of Manitoba. After more than a century those memorable words that Louis Riel spoke at his trial in Regina on July 31, 1885, are finally being recognized and appreciated for their true worth. Louis Riel was, indeed, the founder of Manitoba and it is with pride that Manitobans and Canadians acknowledge this fact in this year commemorating the 125th anniversary of the entry of our province in the Canadian Confederation.

C'est grace au leadership de Louis Riel qu'aujourd'hui nous avons une province bilingue. Ce jeune homme de vingt-cinq ans, ce visionnaire, caressait le désir de créer une vision d'une province qui serait la pierre angulaire d'un pays qui s'étendrait d'un océan à l'autre. Certes, les 125 dernières années n'ont pas toujours été faciles. Mais, malgré tous les obstacles, ce fier peuple a persévéré et a obtenu la reconnaissance de ses droits.

[Translation]

It is thanks to Louis Riel's leadership that today we have a bilingual province. This young, twenty-five-year-old man, this visionary, held close to his heart the desire to create a vision of a province that would be the keystone of a country extending from ocean to ocean. Certainly, these past 125 years have not always been easy. Yet, despite all the obstacles, this proud people has persevered and gained recognition of its rights.

* (1100)

[English]

I am proud to acknowledge that my roots are deep in this soil of the Red River in this land that we now call Manitoba. My ancestors were the proud Metis nation who fought to have their rights and those of all peoples recognized by the governments. Theirs was the brave fight, theirs was the right cause. If today we have democratic institutions, representative of the population

and answerable to it, it is because of the leadership shown by the brave people of the Red River who 125 years ago stood up for their rights.

Merci beaucoup, Madame la présidente.

[Translation]

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I wonder if I may have leave to make a nonpolitical statement.

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable Minister of Agriculture have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Enns: Well, Madam Speaker, I simply wish to rise and express similar sentiments that have just been so eloquently expressed by the honourable member for St. Boniface and certainly want to associate the government that I am proud to be part of with those comments.

It is a source of great personal satisfaction to me that I have been in this Chamber at a time that recognition officially came to somebody who I have always believed to have been a founding father of this province. I am pleased to see that recognition was extended in the federal Parliaments in the past few years. I am delighted, Madam Speaker, that we have at this particular time in our evolution of our province in the Lieutenant-Governor's house, a representative of the Metis people, that the honourable member for St. Boniface speaks so eloquently of, serving us as Lieutenant-Governor. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Madam Speaker, may I have leave for a nonpolitical statement?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for Selkirk have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Dewar: Madam Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I would like to begin by thanking the member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) for his letter

today and his presentation to all members on this side of the House of the medallion designed by Mr. Bergman. I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Bergman today for the medallion.

We, of course, on this side of the House have recognized the efforts of Mr. Riel, both in this Chamber and at his graveside in St. Boniface. It was a pleasure a number of years ago for us to rise here to take part in the debate, the all-party resolution recognizing Mr. Riel as the founder of the province of Manitoba. As a Metis person myself, it is with great pride that I stand up today to support and congratulate the individual who designed the medallion and, once again, it gives us the opportunity to recognize the significant role that the Metis people played in the history of our province, especially this being the 125th anniversary of our province, Madam Speaker.

So with those few words, I thank you for the time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, would you please call Bill 13 for second reading.

SECOND READINGS

Bill 13—The Split Lake Cree Northern Flood Implementation Agreement, Water Power Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Northern Affairs): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship (Mr. Gilleshammer), that Bill 13, The Split Lake Cree Northern Flood Implementation Agreement, Water Power Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi concernant l'accord de règlement de la première nation crie de Split Lake relatif à l'application de la convention sur la submersion de terres du Nord manitobain, modifiant la Loi sur l'énergie hydraulique et apportant des modifications corrélatives, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Motion presented.

* (1100)

Mr. Praznik: Madam Speaker, I am going to speak very briefly on this matter. As members of the former Legislature may recall, this particular bill was introduced into the House in February, March of this year, and died, of course, with the prorogation of the last Legislature. I am reintroducing it today. It is the same piece of legislation. I am introducing it today for second reading.

It is the legislation which comes out from the settlement of the Split Lake Northern Flood claim which was signed in June of 1992 between the Split Lake Cree First Nation, Manitoba Hydro and the governments of Canada and Manitoba. It, of course, meets the outstanding obligations to the Split Lake Cree First Nation under the Northern Flood and deals with the matters that arise out of that agreement that require legislative approval of this Assembly, including the extinguishment of individual claims, et cetera, which was part of the comprehensive claims process that was agreed to some years ago that have led to the resolution of this particular matter.

I know that some members opposite, particularly the member for Rupertsland (Mr. Robinson), the member for The Pas (Mr. Lathlin), have expressed to me some issues or specific questions that they have.

I look forward to having that discussion with them in committee when this matter does move to committee. I know there are some specific issues that they wish to address, and I would hope that this House would find it possible to move to that stage as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): I move, seconded by the member for Rupertsland (Mr. Robinson), that debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Darren Praznik (Deputy Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, I would move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Findlay), that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve itself

into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the honourable member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinsson) in the Chair for the departments of Family Services, and Culture, Heritage and Citizenship; the honourable member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine) in the Chair for the Department of Education and Training; and the honourable member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) in the Chair for the Department of Health.

* (1110)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (Concurrent Sections)

FAMILY SERVICES

Mr. Deputy Chairperson (Ben Sveinsson): Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This morning this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 254 will resume consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Family Services.

When the committee last sat it had been considering item 3.(e)(1) on page 60 of the Estimates book and on page 67 of the yellow supplement book.

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Chairperson, while we are on daycare, it reminds me of something that I have written to the minister about but I have not delivered the letter yet. It would be helpful if we could discuss it briefly, and that is the future of an institution that is in Burrows constituency, namely the North Y Community Centre.

I am hoping that the minister will be sympathetic on this issue, because she was probably a user of the North Y in that community as well at one time.

I asked a question of the Premier (Mr. Filmon) in Question Period a couple of weeks ago about provincial government support for helping to keep the doors open, and I thought that the First Minister's answers were quite gracious and sympathetic. I have

written to him and thanked him for that and sent copies to other ministers.

There are three government departments that fund programs there, Justice, Family Services and Health. The reason is that Sunny Mountain Day Care Centre is located there.

I understand that they have a reprieve from the YM-YW of Winnipeg until October. The rest of the building is closing June 30th unless a new partner can be found, but the daycare will be continuing at least until the end of October.

I would like to ask the minister if she is sympathetic to continuing funding for the daycare at that location for a number of reasons. First of all, the facility really needs the rental income from Mental Health, Child Day Care office and Probation in order to keep the building viable. So if those three government departments continue to fund programs in that building it really does help to keep the doors open.

I know that a couple of years ago Sunny Mountain tried to find an alternative facility in the neighbourhood, and because of the current crisis they have been looking again for a facility. There really is not anything, particularly in the immediate neighbourhood. Many of the users there are on subsidy, and they are low-income people. They do not have cars and the location is ideal because it is at the junction of two bus routes, Mountain and McGregor. They are very reluctant to move out of the neighbourhood, particularly any great distance away. So I am wondering if the minister can provide assurances that she will do her best to try to keep the funding going for the daycare at that site, which would be very helpful in keeping the doors open.

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Family Services): I appreciate the comments and the contribution that my honourable friend has made to this issue. In the interim I understand there is a community group that is trying to work very proactively to find a resolution to the situation that the north end Y faces at the present time. I think we will be very interested in hearing what they have to say and working with them to see whether there is not a solution to the problem.

I can make a commitment to ensure that funding remains available. I cannot today make any further commitment than that, but I think we want to work very closely with the daycare centre and with the community to ensure that the needs of the parents and children are served to the best of our ability.

So we will work and we will dialogue and we will be very interested in seeing what the community group that has pulled together has to present.

Mr. Martindale: I would like to thank the minister for offering her support. I am sure it is very much appreciated by Sunny Mountain Day Care and by the new group in the community, North Winnipeg CARE Incorporated—CARE being an acronym; I cannot tell you what it stands for offhand—because they are the only group that has come forward.

No other existing organization has come forward and offered to be a partner with the Y. But this new group has formed and would like to operate the facility and keep the current tenants, including Sunny Mountain Day Care.

Going back to questions on daycare policy, I would like to ask the minister if she plans any changes in the area of caps on subsidies, cases versus spaces and the parent charge of \$2.40 a day. I know that the minister is familiar with all these issues, and I know that cases versus spaces has been a big problem for daycare centres because directors can no longer share spaces and that causes staffing problems and funding problems.

Mrs. Mitchelson: The issues surrounding daycare, I think the comments that I made during the election campaign at the child care forum would indicate that we are prepared to sit down with members of the child care community and parents and look at what the best solution is to try to change our system to the degree that we need to change it in order to provide affordable and flexible child care right throughout the province.

I am prepared to look at all issues in daycare, not one in isolation of the other though. I think they all fit together and we have to take a look at the whole package of daycare recognizing and realizing, as I have

said in the past and I will reiterate again today, there is no more money. So within the parameters of the funding that is available, how do we find better ways of delivering the service so in fact we can address some of the issues that are outstanding in child care right throughout the province?

I am open to dialogue and discussion and working with the child care community and parents to see how we can best accommodate the needs of children and families in our Manitoba community within the resources that presently exist.

Mr. Martindale: The minister will be aware, and I think I am right on this, that there is no capital funding available for daycare centres for renovations or improvements. In spite of the fact that many daycares have financial problems now exacerbated by low enrollments, occasionally centres do have small surpluses, which they find very helpful, because they need money to match for grants such as Community Places. If they do not have those small surpluses then they have no money to make improvements to equipment or buildings.

I am wondering if the minister has any suggestions or any plans to work with the child care community to find solutions to these very real problems.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I think in my last answer I indicated that I am prepared to take a look at the whole issue of daycare in the context of how we best address the needs of children of working parents and families.

I believe there needs to be dialogue and discussion, and everything that we do presently needs to be looked at with those that are providing the service and with those that are needing the service to ensure that we have a system that will meet the needs of the future of Manitoba's working families.

I am not opposed to looking at all issues in the overall context of service delivery for families and children in need.

Mr. Martindale: This minister is fond of talking about self-reliance. Interestingly, that word is used in the Dr. Brian Postl report on the health of Manitoba's

children. He specifically mentions poverty and child care.

He says, and I would like to quote: Although increased access to quality daycare for those individuals will not solve the issue of poverty it may be viewed as a vital component of a broad-based effort to support the achievement of self-reliance and to break the cycle of poverty.

He recommends that the allocation of subsidized daycare spaces be reviewed to ensure access for children of the poor to support parental efforts towards self-reliance.

I am wondering if the minister can tell us how she plans to promote self-reliance through making child care more accessible to children of low-income families.

* (1120)

Mrs. Mitchelson: I think this all fits into the whole bigger picture of co-ordination of early intervention of working with families to ensure that parents have the skills to parent, to budget, to ensure that children's basic needs are being addressed and that our children get off to a healthy start to life.

I have challenged the child care community to help look at the total picture of what the needs of families are and focus some of their energies and efforts on looking at how they can fit into solving some of the problems that do exist and some of the recommendations that have been made in the Postl report and some of the research that shows us that we need early intervention. We need early child development; we need to work with pregnant women during their pregnancy to ensure that they have proper nutrition and refrain from using alcohol or other substances that might create issues like fetal alcohol syndrome and other problems that do exist as a result of women not looking after themselves and understanding what the consequences are of not doing that.

I think it is part of the bigger picture. I would like the child-care community to be involved in a major way in the process of sort of broadening their minds

and looking at how they can help with some of the expertise and the training, that they have to work with us on the Health side, on the Education side and on the Family Services side.

That challenge has gone out, and I would anticipate that they are—I know quite frankly from talking to many early childhood educators, on an individual basis, that there is a willingness for them to want to participate in the bigger-picture process in looking at how we deal with the issues of children at an early age and early child development and some of the other problems that we are facing today.

Mr. Martindale: Is the minister going to review the recommendations of the working group with the representative groups to create a plan for child care in the future?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, the working group was—that report I guess was presented to us back in 1991, I believe, 1991-92, and given the changing dynamics and given the research and the information and the major amount of work that has been done by Dr. Postl and his group, I think we need to be looking at what research and what recommendations have come forward, and put all of our future efforts and energies into trying to address the issues and the recommendations that come out of that report in a co-ordinated fashion. If there are those recommendations from the working group that would fit in with some of the recommendations that were made in the Postl report, I think we have to look at addressing them in that context.

Mr. Martindale: I understand that the minister has been involved with discussions, or her staff have been involved with discussions with MCCA and the Crocus Fund, and that the wroker project—I am not sure I am pronouncing that right; it is spelled w-r-o-k-e-r co-op project—has been improved in principle.

Could the minister tell us when the project will be able to begin, or is it worker co-op project? Worker co-op project. Okay.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, it is worker co-op project. The idea is a very interesting idea, and we are

still trying to work out some of the details around that so we are not at a final stage of approval.

Mr. Martindale: During the election campaign, of course, I read the Conservative Party's policy on child care and the only thing I could see that was any different was the use of the word flexible. I wonder if the minister could tell us what she means by providing more flexible daycare.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I think the issue has been raised on many, many occasions with our government and probably—well, maybe it is seven or eight years ago. It was not an issue that was as critical as it is today, but when we talk about flexibility, it is flexibility for those workers who are working shift work and weekends.

We know that many of the areas of job opportunity today do require people to work weekends and work shift work, and the present child care system I do not think addresses the needs of those working parents. So when we talk about flexibility, I think we have to look at creative ways of trying to meet the needs of the families and children that need support and care other than the nine-to-five, Monday-to-Friday workers. So when we talk flexibility, we need to look at how we address the needs of those children and families.

Mr. Martindale: I wonder if the minister could tell the committee briefly what she thinks happened to the federal Liberal government's promise of 150,000 new child care spaces. Is the funding still available for that or has it disappeared?

* (1130)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I think I indicated yesterday in some of my comments that there is no new money. Any money for child care that was available or the CAP money for child care is rolled into a new pot now that has been reduced, so there is not more money in that pot for child care.

I suppose it is speculation on my part, but I think that the whole national child care strategy has fallen by the wayside. We know that within the Human Resources Investment Fund there is supposed to be money for

child care. I did indicate I think to my honourable friend yesterday, and I will repeat it again today, that all indications are, at the bureaucratic level federally anyway, that any new money for daycare will have to compete with requests for support for Vocational Rehab and Community Living and all the training programs that presently exist at the federal level. That pot is a pot that is shrinking on a yearly basis. I would venture to guess that the federal government has abandoned its red book commitment.

Mr. Martindale: I would like to briefly ask a couple of questions on behalf of an individual child care centre that has written to the minister and sent a copy to our Leader. This is from Le P'tit Bonheur Inc. child care centre in St. Boniface. They point out that they are the only Francophone daycare. They are located close to Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface and they serve students who attend the college. They have a shortage of spaces and they have to turn down requests, which in turn means that parents cannot attend the college. They are requesting six additional subsidized spaces.

I am wondering if the minister has considered this request—the letter that I have is dated June 2, 1995—and if so, if Le P'tit Bonheur has received a favourable response.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, we did receive the letter and are still looking at the issue. I know the request has come forward. Not unlike the other requests and the other sort of evaluation of child care centres across the province, when we looked at specific requests for increased subsidized spaces we made the decision to give several different centres more subsidized cases. We will look at this request in the same light and same context as other requests that have come forward.

Mr. Martindale: Before we pass this appropriation I would like to table a letter which really has to do with income security. It is a letter to the Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canada. It is from Chief Louis Stevenson. It has to do with responsibility for social assistance. I would just like to table it so that it is part of the record. As the minister knows, we have raised the issue and the concern of treaty people living off

reserve in Manitoba many times in Question Period and in Estimates, and we would just like to table this letter so that it is part of the record.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Thank you. I will read it.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 3. Rehabilitation, Community Living and Day Care (e) Child Day Care (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,065,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$519,200.

Mr. Martindale: Could you just bring me up to date on what page we are on again?

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Page 60 of the blue Estimates book.

An Honourable Member: Page 67 in the supplementary.

Mr. Martindale: Page 67, okay.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 3.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$519,200—pass; (3) Financial Assistance and Grants \$44,679,200—pass.

Resolution 9.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$141,340,100 for Family Services, Rehabilitation, Community Living and Day Care, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1996.

Item 4. Child and Family Services (a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$406,700.

Mr. Martindale: I would like to just spend a couple of minutes on the list of external agencies, funding to external agencies.

Could the minister tell us if there are any significant changes this year over last year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, there are no significant changes. My understanding is, there may have been a slight increase in some of the grants to some of the organizations. Independent Living Resource Centre for one has received an increase.

If I could just add too, all the shelters received their rent increase and \$140,000 also for second stage housing.

Mr. Martindale: Could I ask the minister what kind of shelters she is referring to?

Mrs. McIntosh: Women's shelters.

Mr. Martindale: Thank you.

I guess I will start Child and Family Services now. I apologize to the minister if it seems like I am jumping around a lot, the reason being that I will be.

One concern that I have is the youth hostel that is operated by Macdonald Youth Services. I was there to visit it recently with the member for Osborne (Ms. McGifford), and we had a meeting with the staff. The staff are quite optimistic that they can keep the facility open, but I think it requires some commitments of ongoing funding. I wonder if the minister could bring us up to date on the status and the future of the youth hostel operated by Macdonald Youth Services.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairperson, I was out to visit the youth hostel and meet with the staff from Macdonald Youth Services a week or two weeks ago and am certainly aware of the issues surrounding the hostel. Our staff are working with Macdonald Youth Services right now to see if there is anything that can be done and, if so, what. We are aware of the situation and we are working with them.

Mr. Martindale: Is there currently Family Services money going into the youth shelter?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, nothing directly from the department, but Winnipeg Child and Family Services agency does fund them for certain things, activities that are ongoing.

Mr. Martindale: Is it possible for the minister to either directly fund the shelter or to provide more money to Macdonald Youth Services or more money to Child and Family Services to keep the youth shelter open?

Mrs. Mitchelson: As I indicated, we have met with them. We are aware of the concerns and we are meeting with them to see if there is a resolution that can be found. I could not commit today to any one solution to the situation, but we are working with them and we will see if anything can be done.

Mr. Martindale: On a different topic, the minister and I both are lobbied by a group called Links or post-adoption Links. They have done a lot of research in terms of legislation in other provinces and other countries around the world which they have shared with me and I am sure they have shared with the minister. I would like to ask if the minister has reviewed legislation in other provinces and if she plans to make any changes in Manitoba.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, yes, there are all kinds of issues around post-adoption services that need to be looked at. I know there are many different points of view out there in the community. That will be one of the areas that will receive full consideration as we enter into the review of the legislation. There are many areas within the act that will be subject to that process, and post-adoption services will be an area that will receive a major focus.

Mr. Martindale: Does that mean that the minister is contemplating changes in legislation for adoption?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There is a high likelihood that there will be changes and amendments to the legislation on the adoption side.

Mr. Martindale: It seems to me that both adoption and Child and Family Services lend themselves to public consultation before a change in legislation, because these are very important areas and they touch a lot of lives. Would the minister contemplate any kind of public hearings on changes to adoption legislation?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I think I indicated yesterday that there will be full public consultation before any major amendments are made to the act.

Mr. Martindale: Just to clarify, does the minister mean public consultation before legislation is drafted or at the committee stage of a bill?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Before legislation is drafted.

Mr. Martindale: Could the minister tell us about the Family Support Innovations Fund and how the monies have been allocated and to what organizations? If there is a list of organizations, if the minister could table the list, that would be appreciated.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I could read into the record all of those grants that have been given or I could get a clean list and provide that.

Mr. Martindale: Would it be possible to get the list before twelve o'clock?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Martindale: As the minister knows, when children are apprehended, and I am speaking of Winnipeg, frequently there is a shortage of even temporary placements in homes and so children are put up in hotels and motels. Of course, this is at great expense, as the minister knows. Of course, we do not talk publicly about the names or locations of those facilities, but the first large hotel that was used—we will call hotel A—could the minister tell us how many children, on average, are there on a daily basis in these hotel suites?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I am trying to get that information but, in the meantime, I will pass over the list of the Family Support Innovations Fund grants.

I am informed that it varies from time to time based on individual circumstances and children's needs and that from time to time it might be a large family, where it is difficult finding a placement, but I understand where my honourable friend is coming from. I have the same concerns over the issues around putting children in hotels and what kind of treatment and what kind of care they get, an issue that I do not have an easy answer to, but I think it is an issue that we are going to have to look at trying to address sometime in the near future.

I do not think it is the best solution and maybe there are ways to explore, along with the agency, other options and other opportunities. Maybe it is reaching

out to the community to see whether there is not an ability to attract more foster parents to provide the service, but that is an issue I have some major concern about. We will be working to try to find a more positive resolution.

* (1140)

Mr. Martindale: I understand that there are so many children in need of protection and there is such a lack of spaces that a second hotel is being used. We will call it hotel B. Can the minister confirm that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, it is my understanding that from time to time there is more than one hotel that might be used depending on the circumstances or the situation or what the agency feels is most appropriate.

Mr. Martindale: I am also concerned about people in rural Manitoba. I had one call from The Pas, where someone said that there was a waiting time of six to nine months for a trial and because of a lack of placements, a child was sent to Winnipeg, which meant that the parent was not able to visit.

I am wondering if the minister can confirm that this happens and how frequently.

Mrs. Mitchelson: If my honourable friend would like to share the detail of the specific incident with me, I would look into that and see. I guess the consideration is always given to what is in the best interests of the child at the time. There might be circumstances, unusual circumstances, that would require that kind of thing to happen, but if I could have some detail, I would certainly look into the specific incident and try to get more information.

Mr. Martindale: I will try to get that information.

On several occasions, I have said that Manitoba has the highest number of children in care per capita in Canada. I would like to ask the minister if that is true.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, it is.

Mr. Martindale: Can the minister tell us why?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, that is a question I have asked, and I am not sure of what the answers are.

I think one of the issues and one of the things we been trying to do with the Winnipeg agencies specifically, and other agencies, is the new focus and the new direction around family support, family preservation and family responsibility, where the Family Support Innovations Fund and the projects that I have just shared with my honourable friend that have been approved are supposed to be testing new ways of delivering service, so that children do not have to be taken into care, but they can be provided with supports in their families to see whether we cannot decrease the number of children that are coming into care. So that was really the whole focus of the Family Support Innovations Fund.

We are hopeful that as these projects get up and running, we will see a significant change in the numbers of children who have to come into care. It is a matter of new ways of delivering service and trying to keep families together, reunite families more quickly if it is at all possible, as long as it is in the children's best interests.

Mr. Martindale: Has the Family Support Innovations Fund been running long enough that Child and Family Services would have statistics that might show that there is a decrease in the number of children coming into care?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, no, the projects have not been running. Many of them are just getting up and running right now. Some of the approvals were made about six months ago, so it does take some time to get the program up and running and to evaluate the success.

The funding is for 18 months, and we are hopeful that by the end of that 18-month period, we will see a significant change, and that will be able to be documented.

* (1150)

Mr. Martindale: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that sometime ago, a promise was made to have a youth

care worker training program at Red River Community College, perhaps as long as two years ago.

My understanding is that this program is not up and running yet. Could the minister confirm that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, all four departments, Justice, Health, Education and Family Services, are supportive, have identified resources, and we are working very proactively to try to get that up and running as soon as possible. It may be as early as this fall.

Mr. Martindale: Well, the minister says possibly. Are you aiming for September or not?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, we are hopeful it will be this fall, but it does depend, to some degree, on the community college.

Mr. Martindale: Will some of the funding come from this minister's department?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, a significant amount will come from our department.

Mr. Martindale: I have in front of me some statistics from one of the areas of Winnipeg Child and Family Services for the calendar year 1994, and it has to do with family preservation.

I presume that means keeping children in families rather than having them apprehended, so, obviously, Child and Family Services is keeping track statistically of what is happening, with the goal, I guess, of fewer apprehensions and more children staying intact with their families. Could the minister, first of all, confirm this, that statistics are kept with a goal of family preservation?

Mrs. Mitchelson: My understanding is that they are. Yes, I understand they are kept.

Mr. Martindale: How long have those statistics been kept?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, I guess we have always tracked how many children are being served in

families and how many children are being apprehended and served in care.

Mr. Martindale: Are any of those statistics available to me?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, if I could refer my honourable friend to the annual report on pages 86-87 and around there, there are lots of statistics. It does indicate the number of children in care and the number of families receiving services and probably that information would come to light through looking at the charts in the annual report.

Mr. Martindale: I would like to ask the minister a question about I believe it is the Winnipeg Development Agreement which according to—I am not sure whether this is a final copy or an earlier draft—but Program 8, Innovative and Preventive Child and Family Services, there was \$4.5 million allocated. I would like to ask the minister if this is new money and if it is something different than what her department is already doing.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, yes, that is new money. It is part of the Winnipeg Development Agreement which is managed by the Department of Urban Affairs, but it was a request that I had made indicating that I felt it was a high priority that the Winnipeg Development Agreement have a component such as this.

We will be developing criteria and guidelines around receipt of proposals to look at pilots that will be innovative new ways of working with families and children in Winnipeg to see whether we cannot achieve some positive results.

Mr. Martindale: Could the minister tell us about the current status of the Child Abuse Registry and whether there is a backlog there and, if so, how many cases are waiting to be heard by the panel?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, there are 31 cases to be heard as of March 31, 1995.

Mr. Martindale: How does this compare with, say, a long-term average? Is it higher or lower?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, it is lower than it was at the same time last year.

Mr. Martindale: This is changing topics again. Could the minister tell us how many women from Flin Flon have gone to The Pas to seek shelter since the Flin Flon Crisis Centre was closed?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, in the 1994-95 fiscal year, a total of five women and eight children from Flin Flon accessed services at The Pas.

Mr. Martindale: How would that compare with the number of women who made use of the shelter service in Flin Flon when the Flin Flon Crisis Centre was still open? How many clients did they have in one year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, as we know, the shelter in Flin Flon did accommodate many women from Saskatchewan previously. We do not have the kinds of statistics that would tell us how many were Manitoba women and how many were Saskatchewan women, because there was a good percentage of service provided in Flin Flon for Saskatchewan residents. We do know that they are now receiving services in Regina and Prince Albert.

Mr. Martindale: Would not your department have billed the Province of Saskatchewan for residents of Saskatchewan using the shelter in Flin Flon?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, the arrangement with Flin Flon was that the Flin Flon child care billed directly the Saskatchewan government.

Mr. Martindale: So could you not have subtracted the number of Saskatchewan clients from the total to come up with the number of Manitoba clients?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, we will go back and get that information and provide it.

Mr. Martindale: We have heard from employees or staff of women's shelters that gambling intensifies abuse, and that would certainly seem to be logical. I am wondering if the minister can tell us if women's shelters across Manitoba are keeping track during their admissions procedure of women who are seeking

shelter either partly or wholly because of abuse which they believe is partly or wholly because of gambling addiction by a spouse.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, it is my understanding that not all shelters are gathering that kind of information. I guess what happens very often with addictive behaviours, there are many cross-addictions, so gambling might be one addiction that is also related to alcohol addiction and possibly drug addiction or other things, so very often there just is not one cause. There are often circumstances that do precipitate abuse and it is often not just one reason.

I do want to indicate that we have been working—the Association of Women's Shelters and the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba have been working together on a cross-training process so there is an understanding of those that are working in women's shelters of what the issues around gambling addiction and other addictive behaviour pose to treatment and support for women.

So we are proactively working with women's shelters and with the Addictions Foundation to ensure that there is the training available to attempt to meet the needs of the women that do need protection and shelter.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: The honourable minister.

Mr. Martindale: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, I would love to be the minister.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: My apology.

Mr. Martindale: Well, I am also a minister.

I did not ask any questions about Vital Statistics. I was going to say that I gave up my licence to officiate marriages and I have regretted it, but someday I will get my licence again and go back to performing weddings once again, because politics is not forever; there is life after politics.

An Honourable Member: Oh, oh, swan song.

An Honourable Member: Yes, it is a retirement speech.

Mr. Martindale: Well, I was thinking, you know, in the long term, 10, 15, 20 years.

I received a complaint from an individual who stayed at a women's shelter. I am not going to name the shelter because it was only one complaint, I know the shelter and I am sure they are trying to do a good job.

But the complaint was that this individual, while she was there, received no counselling, that she was not allowed to make phone calls and that she could not leave. If that is true, it is quite distressing. I guess the reason I am not naming the shelter is that I find it really hard to believe that could be true.

I would like to ask the minister, do all shelters provide counselling, allow clients to make phone calls and leave the shelter during the day?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, we do have standards in place and we do have service and funding agreements with all shelters and those certainly are not actions that would be consistent with what we have in place. As my honourable friend indicated, it was an isolated issue and if there is something on a broad basis that is going on, we certainly would be interested in wanting to try to resolve the issue or the problem.

* (1200)

Mr. Martindale: I will follow up. I will phone the staffperson who is in charge of shelters in your department.

Back to Winnipeg Child and Family Services, I understand that a number of years ago a children's foundation was established, and I am wondering if the minister could tell us if that children's foundation still exists and, if so, how much money is in the foundation?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, the foundation does still exist but we are not sure what is in it. We would have to ask the agency and get back to the member.

Mr. Martindale: When the previous minister centralized the Winnipeg Child and Family Services agencies, I believe part of the rationale was to save

money, particularly on administration. Now that there has been one Winnipeg Child and Family Services agency for a number of years, could the minister tell us if in fact there have been cost savings?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, they are working towards efficiencies as a result and I think there has been some central amalgamation of finances that has just recently occurred, so they are still working on it.

Mr. Martindale: So the minister does not know if they have saved any money or not.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, we are spending more on Child and Family Services today and every year, more than we spent in the past, but the money that is being provided is going to children that have needs and need support and care. On the administrative side, I think, with the amalgamation that has just recently taken place, we should see some efficiencies.

Mr. Martindale: Well, I know that the budget is going up, but that is probably related to the number of people being served, but the question of saving money and amalgamation really has to do with the administrative costs. Surely the minister can track the administrative budgets and tell the committee whether or not there have been savings in administration because of the centralization.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, there have been some savings on the administrative side, maybe not as much as we would have liked to have seen by this point in time, but we are continuing to work with the agency to ensure that direction continues.

Mr. Martindale: Could the minister provide comparative figures to me on the administrative costs of the old separate independent agencies and the new centralized Winnipeg Child and Family Services agency so that I can see whether in fact the original rationale has proved true or not?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We can certainly attempt to get that for my honourable friend.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 4. Child and Family Services (a) Administration (1) Salaries and Employee

Benefits \$406,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$61,100—pass.

4.(b) Child and Family Support (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,232,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$2,261,500—pass; (3) Maintenance of Children and External Agencies \$97,974,600—pass; (4) The Family Support Innovations Fund \$2,500,000—pass.

4.(c) Seven Oaks Centre (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,819,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$271,000—pass.

4.(d) Family Conciliation (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$724,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$165,100—pass.

4.(e) Family Dispute Services (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$298,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$89,800—pass; (3) External Agencies \$5,216,900—pass.

Resolution 9.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$114,021,500 for Family Services, Child and Family Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1996—pass.

The last item to be considered for the Estimates of the Department of Family Services is Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$22,800.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Chairperson, could I just ask a point of clarification. I do not know where in the Estimates book the Child and Youth Secretariat falls. Is that a separate appropriation? I am just wondering what the will of the committee is. Will that be passed before my salary, if that was to be passed under—[interjection]

Mr. Martindale: I had a chance to talk to the director of the Youth Secretariat, and he tells me that they spent seven hours on it in Health Estimates, so I do not think we need to ask any questions here, and if it is in the appropriation, then we have already passed it if the Minister's Salary is the only thing that is left.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I know it is not in my appropriation. It is a separate appropriation unto itself. It does not belong to any department. Do we want to just leave it and—[interjection] Okay.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: At this point, we request the minister's staff leave the table for the consideration of this item.

Item 1. Administration and Finance (a) Minister's Salary \$22,800.

Mr. Martindale: Before I excuse myself, as I have to go to an event in the north end, I would just like to thank the minister for being so co-operative.

We do not agree on a lot of issues, but certainly the minister's co-operative style has been the reason that we only took seven hours this year, and I just want to go on record as saying that I appreciate her co-operativeness. She has also, in the spirit of co-operation, offered to provide a lot of information to me after Estimates are over, and I look forward to receiving it.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I do want to thank my honourable friend the critic for the New Democratic Party too for his speedy passage, I think probably a record that cannot be matched for the number of hours that have been spent in Family Services Estimates. I think we all would agree that we have, setting of philosophies aside and maybe different approaches, we all have a genuine interest in the health and well-being of some of the most needy citizens in our Manitoba community. I thank him also for the co-operation and the ability to move through the Estimates in the fashion we have today.

Mr. Martindale: I will try to make this a final comment. I am not sure I want to be on record as having the shortest Estimates time for such a large and important department. There is a reason for it, and that is that we have new members in our caucus, such as the member for Osborne (Ms. McGifford), and we had to divide up the Estimates time and give our new critics more time, and that meant that some departments that have got many, many hours in the past, including this department that has had up to 30 hours, were allocated

less time within our caucus, and so out of courtesy to my colleagues I requested fewer hours this year.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): I just have a couple of questions of the minister, and you will have to excuse me for not necessarily being able to probably pose them in the best opportunity in terms of when the staff would have been here. If in fact the minister does not necessarily have the information that she feels would be beneficial for me to have, I would appreciate if she could get back with me with some better or more clarification and so forth.

The questions that I had actually come out at least in part from discussions that I have had with some people from the north end and some of the discussions I had with the Minister of Health. It is with respect to residential care homes and board and room homes, if you will.

One of the things that we had talked fairly extensively about in health care Estimates is that one of the things that we need to start to doing is the whole concept of change and that deinstitutionalization and providing more services, for seniors in particular, in homes, and one of the things that I entered into a bit of a dialogue with the Minister of Health on was the idea of the board and room homes and residential care homes.

I am interested in knowing and, again, excuse me if the questions have already been asked, does the Minister responsible for Family Services, where we provide monies to clients, in particular residential care homes and board and room, see, or what sort of plans does she have for these two areas?

* (1210)

Mrs. Mitchelson: The Department of Family Services' responsibility in the whole licensing of residential treatment is in fact just a licensing activity. There is no funding provided from the Department of Family Services for support. We license a residence and then the funding comes from Health or from other community organizations, whatever might be. I think I am accurate in saying that. I do not have my staff here at the table, but our role would only be licensing

of residential facilities. We do not necessarily provide the funding to support activities that are ongoing in those facilities.

Mr. Lamoureux: Would the minister have a committee that would be reviewing licensing requirements and looking possibly at the whole idea of board and room? As I have indicated, in this particular area, I have had a couple individuals that have raised the spectre of not necessarily providing care in terms of prescriptions, but believe that they too have a future role in some form of licensing through the Department of Family Services. Does the minister actually have a review body that looks at this whole area?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess I might seek a little clarification, because I am wondering what types of individuals my honourable friend is wanting to discuss. Are they individuals that would be supported or funded through the Department of Family Services? Are we talking children—

Mr. Lamoureux: Some would be on social assistance—adults, seniors.

Mrs. Mitchelson:—adult seniors. They may be on social allowances, if I am understanding correctly.

You know, maybe I could make a suggestion or recommendation that we have the opportunity to sit down and discuss this and have some of my staff available at another time so we could talk about specific instances, so I could get some understanding of where my honourable friend is coming from. Maybe we could, I could provide the answers at that time.

Mr. Lamoureux: Yes, I appreciate the gesture. What I will do is maybe sometime over this summer get in touch with the minister's office and try to arrange a meeting with some of the people that have met with me to talk about what their requirements are, what the areas are which they would like to move in to. I do understand that the Department of Family Services plays a vital role in it. So I will take her up on that offer and prepare to pass the Minister's Salary.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$22,800—pass.

Resolution 9.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,574,000 for Family Services, Administration and Finance for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1996.

This completes the Estimates of the Department of Family Services. The next set of Estimates that will be considered by this section of Committee of Supply are the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

Shall we briefly recess to allow the minister and the critics the opportunity to prepare for the commencement of the next set of Estimates?

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Deputy Chairperson (Ben Sveinson): Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply will be considering the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. Does the honourable Minister of Culture have an opening statement?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much, and I do have an opening statement. I would like to proceed with that at this time.

With the introduction of the 1995-1996 Estimates for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, I would again like to emphasize the important role that this department plays in the health and well-being of Manitobans. It is our vision to enrich the innovative spirit and well-being of Manitobans, and we expect to place significant emphasis on this vision. As we look to the future, we will increasingly be working to building awareness and appreciation of the link between lifestyle issues and overall well-being. It is our function to celebrate the collective identity of Manitobans by exploring our heritage, expressing our creativity and promoting our diversity and opportunities.

In Manitoba, the department and staff fill a significant role in the preservation and protection of many aspects of this province's history so that we can

continue to build on past strengths. Arts, culture, recreation, immigration, libraries and multiculturalism are vehicles through which thousands of employees and hundreds of thousands of volunteers and contributors play fundamental roles in the promotion and development of the skills and talents of Manitobans.

What must be appreciated is that the services, programs and initiatives which fall under the auspices of my department have both direct and indirect impacts on the artistic growth, economic success and long-term health of Manitobans. In the process of meeting the needs of Manitobans, my department has developed strong and productive partnerships with communities and community-oriented groups. These partnerships, programs, services, initiatives and staff are important components in Culture, Heritage and Citizenship's endeavours to meet the needs of Manitobans. Combined, they help us continue to make Manitoba an exciting, dynamic and prosperous community in which we are proud to live and raise our families.

Under my department's Culture, Heritage and Recreation Programs division, we support a vast cross-section of individuals and organizations, ranging from museums, arts organizations, galleries and artists to libraries, recreation and special events. These initiatives reflect the diversity of activities and celebrations which take place every year and celebrate the contribution they make towards Manitobans' outstanding quality of life.

Nineteen ninety-five is Manitoba's 125th anniversary in Confederation. It is a time for celebrating our growth and achievements, reliving experiences, exploring our countryside and our many geographical and historical attractions and expressing our pride in Manitoba's heritage.

My department's Historic Resources branch has been working with various heritage and historic groups to promote public awareness of this milestone. They are a resource for the development of informational packages as well as a special-edition newspaper centring on Manitoba history and heritage themes. These materials were mailed to a wide audience, including museums, schools, historic societies and archeological societies.

Beginning in 1994-95, and continuing this year, my department has also provided administrative, financial and consultative support to the special initiative, Celebrate Manitoba's 125th, as part of our commitment to encouraging Manitobans' pride in our past. The program is administered by a 21-member Premier's committee of volunteers with staffing functions being provided by an executive director and two support staff. The activities of the committee and staff have included a major public awareness campaign, as well as the planning and development of celebratory events in honour of our province's 125th birthday.

We developed and introduced the "proud buffalo" logo and the "Year to Remember" song which were very well received by the public. Communities have been embracing the notion of celebrating our birthday with over 1,000 community events being officially registered with the Celebrate office. In co-operation with Industry, Trade and Tourism, the guest of honour program has been very successful, with over 13,000 inquiries for information received from potential tourists, friends and relatives wishing to visit Manitoba during its 125th anniversary year.

My department will continue to place a priority on Manitoba's cultural industries, both through direct programs for book publishers and through its support for film, video and sound programs operated by the Manitoba Cultural Industries development office. Support to Manitoba's cultural industries encourages the production and marketing of Manitoba books, films, videos and sound recordings.

* (1220)

Some recent projects sponsored by CIDO include the film "Long Way Home" now being shot at Winnipeg sites such as the Fort Garry Hotel, and sound recordings by prominent artists such as Tom Jackson and Walle Larsson. CIDO has co-sponsored, with CKND-TV, a competition for a new short film drama. CIDO is also involved in attracting foreign film productions to Manitoba.

Earlier this month, CIDO organized a five-day tour of Manitoba by major U.S. film producers. These producers were taken throughout Manitoba to discover

the film opportunities of many of the locations in our province and were impressed with both the talent of Manitoba crews and its locations.

Department support to Manitoba book publishers has included assistance to upgrade computer systems, staff training and marketing projects such as the quarterly newspaper, *Prairie Books NOW*, which is distributed to 40,000 book buyers throughout western Canada.

My department's close interaction with Manitoba Cultural Industries has provided significant economic benefits for urban and rural communities. They have also helped foster a positive international reputation for Manitoba. Manitoba appears to be on the verge of crossing into a new level of activity in cultural industries. My department works with many sectors of the community to enhance and develop other cultural resources.

(Mr. Mervin Tweed, Acting Chairperson, in the Chair)

I am pleased we were able to assist the Jewish Community Campus of Winnipeg with funding towards the campus project. Campus is a \$20-million multipurpose educational, cultural and recreational complex designed to serve all ages in Winnipeg's Jewish community and the broader community of Winnipeg as well. Not only will campus amalgamate a number of existing services and agencies throughout Winnipeg, it will also provide new uses for heritage buildings in the Fort Osborne Barracks site.

Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, through its Recreation branch, is committed to helping Manitoba communities develop recreational opportunities which will provide identifiable benefits. Based on the success of a two-year pilot project, a second certificate program to train recreation directors in northern and remote communities is being delivered at Keewatin Community College in partnership with Northern Affairs and Education and Training.

These recreation directors, who are employed by the community, are being trained to develop and deliver recreation opportunities which positively impact the health and well-being of the communities.

I have spoken in the past of the results of the research on the pilot program which showed the incidence of crime in communities where a recreation director was employed was reduced by as much as 25 percent. The positive effects of this program include improved physical and mental health of residents and enhanced individual community pride. These effects have an incalculable benefit on community health.

As we approach the 21st Century there is an increasing emphasis on the adaptation of our communities to the emerging information technologies and the opportunities they represent. Access to these technologies is recognized as an essential part of Manitoba's ability to be a competitive participant in the global marketplace of today and tomorrow. My department is working with communities across Manitoba to enhance our abilities to access, share and exchange informational resources on these rapidly developing electronic highways.

The Public Library Services branch is continuing its efforts to meet the recommendations of the Public Library Advisory Board, a report released in February of 1994. Recommendations in the report called for increased funding for rural and northern public libraries and the automation of all public libraries. A part of our response has been an increase of \$1 million in the operating grants for rural and northern public libraries. Rural libraries received \$750,000 directly, and \$250,000 was allocated for the purchase of materials. In 1994-95 this \$250,000 increase added approximately 10,700 English and 1,000 French language items in both print and electronic formats.

Our investment in rural libraries represents an overall operating grant increase of 50 percent from \$1.5 million to \$2.25 million. To enhance the ability of all Manitoba communities to access the new information networks and technologies we are continuing with our support to automating rural public libraries. To date, 30 of the 45 regional libraries have begun installation of automated library systems. My staff at Public Library Services have reprioritized our efforts to work closely with each library to provide automation design, technical and implementation support. They are actively encouraging all libraries to automate and become part of the Manitoba automated public library

information network, a network designed to improve resources sharing throughout Manitoba.

We are currently running a pilot to test the MAPLIN project at four regional libraries: South Central Regional Library, Morden, Winkler and Altona, Boissevain & Morden Regional Library in the Turtle Mountains, The Pas Library and Parkland Regional Library in Dauphin.

Initiatives with provincial services division reflect the wide-ranging and carefully co-ordinated efforts of my department to embrace and utilize Manitoba's vast informational resources. For example, in 1995-96 we will connect the Legislative Library to the Public Library Services automated system. As a result of this automation, the Legislative Library's clients and other libraries throughout the province will be able to borrow books more easily.

The Provincial Archives branch is actively preparing the electronic access guide to government records and information, complementing the print version currently used. The production of this guide in electronic form will allow Manitoba to enter the Internet with a practical public information application.

The move to an electronic format also has several benefits which are easily recognized. It can more readily be updated to reflect any changes in the organization of government departments. It can be searched by users very precisely or scanned broadly to find information, and the potential number of users is greatly increased given the rapidly increasing numbers of Manitobans using school, library, university and home computers to access the Net. Through these various initiatives, Culture, Heritage and Citizenship is committed to helping Manitobans prepare for the 21st Century and its information-sharing technologies.

The Citizenship division of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship plays the lead role for Manitoba in the recruitment and settlement of immigrants to the province. A strong immigrant movement to Manitoba is fundamental to the economic and social well-being of the province. The skills, education, experience and individual abilities of immigrants historically have been what has helped the province to grow and develop.

The role of immigrants today is no less important. Immigration brings us talented, skilled people who are an important resource for our future. However, recent federal decisions have had a detrimental effect on the flow of immigration to this province. It has therefore been important to have aggressive measures undertaken by the Citizenship division to actively promote Manitoba as a destination of choice to potential emigrants from other continents.

The three main approaches under the independent immigrant promotion and recruitment strategy are No. 1, an advertising campaign involving the promotion of Manitoba through direct response by using specific numbers for a 24-hour, Winnipeg-based call centre; secondly, the use of worldwide bulletins promoting immigration to Manitoba on the Internet system with regular E-mail correspondence and home page promotion to support it; and thirdly, an information and education program involving joint promotion and recruitment initiatives with federal posts abroad.

From this campaign, our results have been very encouraging. Between the advertising and Internet activity, we have made 846 contacts with potential immigrants to Manitoba; 569 of these were made through the high-tech forum of the Internet. Of the 846, we remain in active contact with 804. By our reports as many as 15 percent of those appear to be in various stages of immigration to Manitoba. Citizenship has distributed more than 1,400 Manitoba Advantage fulfilment kits in answer to direct inquiries.

* (1230)

As well, an active initiative is underway to involve community organizations in our promotion activities. We intend to be expanding our media campaigns into other parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, South China, United States and the Philippines.

We will also build on the success of our Internet campaign through expanded, regular bulletins and updating of our home page. Through the contact made by these mechanisms, staff are able to follow up on a case-by-case basis to identify economic and labour market opportunities and niches to match the response

expertise. We share an interdepartmental committee which improves our co-ordination with other government departments to deal as promptly as possible with the needs identified.

In addition, as we develop a stronger connection to the community supports and resources that are available within some communities, it will mean that potential immigrants can have a better, more realistic view of the current labour-market needs in Manitoba. We are confident that this will ensure those cases supported by Manitoba will actually be selected by Canada.

Throughout this year staff will also work with communities who have identified an interest in promotion and recruitment, such as the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, the Philippine Association of Manitoba, the Chinese Cultural Centre, and the Ukrainian National council. It is our plan to actively work with other communities, as well, as they identify an interest in promoting Manitoba.

The promotion of Manitoba in other countries is an essential component of our planning for the future development of the province. As Manitobans, we know the value of the style of living in Manitoba and believe that this is an important feature in attracting immigrants. We are developing an aggressive campaign to ensure that potential immigrants are informed when making their choice of a new home.

Recognizing the value of immigrants to Manitoba's future and attracting them are only a part of the immigration process. We also realize immigrants often need very specific support services to help them integrate into their new home. The Adult English as a Second Language Program supported by Citizenship is one of the most important services for newcomers. This training consists of multilevel partnerships co-ordinated, supported and monitored by the Citizenship division, jointly funded by the federal government and delivered through community groups, employers and school divisions.

Unfortunately, while the provincial commitment remains steadfast knowing the importance of language and people's integration into our society, there will be

a reduction in federal funding in all ESL programs, some of them quite seriously.

Other areas concerning Manitoba's role in immigration continue to be defined with our federal counterparts. We remain concerned that the present settlement renewal process that has been undertaken by the federal government will result in further federal funding cuts to immigrant services in Manitoba.

In May, Manitoba met with federal immigration officials as part of the follow-up to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in October of 1994. At that meeting we again raised the province's concern that the proposed federal sponsorship bond is not a positive initiative, in our view, nor is the imposition of any type of landing fee.

We will continue to work with all parties to resolve and clarify these concerns. Manitoba is committed to having a strong voice in the recruitment of immigrants for our community, and I am confident our current differences will not prevent our achievement of this goal.

Culture, Heritage and Citizenship is responsible for a very diverse array of programs, services and initiatives. Members opposite should be cognisant of the benefits which fall to our Justice, Family Services and Health budgets, and our economic attractiveness, when all Manitobans achieve a sense of pride and well-being, and an enhanced quality of life within their communities.

Since I became minister, I have come to appreciate the far-reaching impact of this department's actions and to be proud of the excellent staff who contribute so much to this department's success.

From innovative immigration initiatives to the electronic development of our informational resources, Culture, Heritage and Citizenship is making tremendous progress in helping Manitoba prepare to be a strong competitor in the world of the 21st Century.

We are confident that our efforts will enhance the ability of Manitobans of all origins to enjoy our rich heritage, explore their creative talents and artistic skills,

access diverse recreation opportunities and to reach their fullest potentials.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship is very proud of its role in working with Manitobans to build a better community today as well as for the generations of tomorrow. The information contained in the 1995-96 Estimates before you reflects our commitment to meeting this great responsibility through the effective and efficient use of our fiscal resources. With those few words, I would be pleased to hear from the opposition critics and take any questions they may have.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We thank the Minister of Culture for those comments. Does the official opposition critic the honourable member for Osborne have any comments?

Ms. Diane McGifford (Osborne): Yes, I do. I would like to begin by thanking the minister for his remarks. He has already begun answering my questions.

I would also like to say that I share his respect for Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. I also appreciate the holistic nature of his ministry.

This is my first time in Estimates and I am looking forward to it as a challenge. I am looking forward to working with the minister. I am looking forward to the Estimates process and I suppose, more than anything, I am looking forward to broadening my knowledge of the ministry through the Estimates process.

I understand that our time is brief and my Estimates time will be shared with the honourable member from Point Douglas (Mr. Hicke). Therefore, I am going to keep my opening remarks rather brief.

I wanted to begin by sharing with the minister my view of culture. I wanted to tell him that I see culture, as I am sure he does, as more than a frill which enhances the quality of life, but rather, it seems to me, culture is a visible manifestation of our civilized life itself. It is a cornerstone or a building block in our definitions of ourselves both as individuals and as a people. Without arts and culture, indeed, without heritage and citizenship, it seems to me we would have

a society of mere anarchy or I suppose another extreme would be bloodless technocracy.

* (1240)

Therefore, like the minister, I am sure I view culture not as necessarily leisure but rather as the heart and spirit of civilized life itself which, of course, is not to deny that culture provides us with entertainment or that we engage in cultural activities most often in leisure time.

But I think the primary *raison d'être* of culture is to remind us of who we are as thinking, feeling, creative beings alive in the '90s, the inheritors, being Canadians, the inheritors of many traditions, we are certainly an eclectic people and culturally, we are a very eclectic society.

Some of the questions that I would like to bring up in the course of the Estimates, I am certainly interested in the minister's particular views on culture and his concerns about culture. I have some specific questions about the Film Classification Board and about MAC.

Having been a researcher at one time for the National Film Board, I am very interested in film. My personal history as a writer or an editor means that I have had quite close contact with the publishing industry in Manitoba and, of course, by axiomatically with other arts groups, so I have some points that I want to make, particularly in regard to the publishing industry.

I know that artists in Manitoba and arts groups feel themselves to be under seige, feel that their futures are threatened and that their presence are tenuous and, of course, I do not mean to dump this at the doorstep of the province. This is, in a large part, the climate of the times. I have spent a lot of time during the past few weeks speaking to various groups about their concerns, and I hope that Estimates will give me time to raise some of those community questions and especially questions related to policies and granting procedures.

The artists that I have spoken to feel concerned about funding staying relatively the same. They feel that when it stays the same that people often breathe a sigh of relief, but in reality the arts community is growing

and inflation is increasing costs and artists feel that there is little recognition of these factors. For example, tax legislation does not really work in their interests, and I understand that to be a federal jurisdiction, but nonetheless it is a concern for artists when they need to have materials and this sort of thing that cannot be deducted, always. I am sure, in some cases, it can.

The arts community in Winnipeg is particularly concerned about the threat of a 10 percent amusement tax and wonders about its effects on ticket sales and performance attendance.

The community is also concerned about the trickle-down effect to the arts on the cuts to federal transfer payments. I think that is obviously a very legitimate concern and we have to pay attention to it. Some of the groups have expressed fears that with the huge influx of public money to the Jets, fundraising in the arts community will become more difficult. I have heard that particularly from people at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. I suppose that would be even more a threat if donations to the arena are awarded charitable tax status.

Small magazines fear that the cancellation by Cultural Industries of the Marketing Projects Supports Program for magazines, which was cancelled two years ago, has seriously eroded magazine subscriptions. This was a program that provided money for direct mail campaigns, and I know from personal experience that magazines depend on direct mail campaigns and without them subscription lists dwindle and a lot of our small local magazines have or will face threat of closure.

Here I speak very personally as a former editor of Contemporary Verse 2, which very nearly closed this spring and only continues by the skin of its teeth, and I would say also by exploiting its staff, but that is another matter.

Certainly our small local magazines, of which I think we all can be very proud, magazines like Prairie Fire, CV2, Border Crossings, they have all been recognized with literary awards. Certainly these magazines, with the end of the provincial marketing and project support programs and in conjunction with cuts from the Canada Council Marketing Programs, feel that they have been

dealt a double whammy, which makes it also impossible for them to achieve their full potential and, as I said, maybe stay open at all.

I do not want to speak as if Culture, Heritage and Citizenship begins and ends with small magazines, but I do have a couple of other points about publishing. So let me make them quickly.

First of all, I would like to point out that it is extremely difficult for small magazines to attract private donors and funders. For one thing, magazines are less focused than other arts. They travel well but they are not performance art and they do not have the profile of other arts forms. So I think that they really do require public support.

The second point I wanted to make again is related to small magazines. Most of our Manitoba writers begin their publishing careers in small magazines, and if we are to lose these magazines we will certainly lose our poets and our writers. It will deal a blow to our entire literary community. The literary production in our province will suffer. I think that we are all aware that we have a very proud literary history.

One thinks immediately of Carol Shields and how she was honoured just this spring. Of course, we have writers like Margaret Laurence—well, we do not have her anymore—but my point is that we have a very proud literary history in Manitoba. It certainly would be a shame to lose our reputation and our writers.

So my almost last point is one that I want to refer back to the broader community of artists. Many of the artists and the groups to whom I have spoken feel that their contributions to the economy are not properly respected. Book publishers, sellers, cultural organizations, filmmakers, entertainers of every stripe, many feel that through their cultural industries they generate incomes and jobs but that their economic contributions are not properly acknowledged and that they are not acknowledged as valid parts of the workforce.

I keep thinking of Bramwell Tovey, who I think is famous now for pointing out that the entire annual salary of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra falls

somewhat shy of the salary of a single Jet. I do not know which Jet he was thinking of, but I do not think the point really requires elaboration. Hockey is staggeringly important and music by comparison is not.

I am also interested in the DeFehr Report but perhaps we can return to it and I will finish for now.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Tweed): We thank the critic from the official opposition for those remarks.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I would ask or seek leave from the committee in order to give a very brief opening comment.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Tweed): Is there leave from the committee for the member for Inkster to make an opening statement? [agreed]

* (1250)

Mr. Lamoureux: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and committee members. Suffice it to say, here we are in celebration of our 125th birthday in the province of Manitoba and no doubt we could talk about the benefits of being in Manitoba. One of the biggest benefits that we have to appreciate is in fact our culture and our heritage. I personally as we go through the summer will, as I am sure many members of the Legislature will, participate in different events where we will hear how wonderful it is to be in Manitoba and how fortunate we really are.

The member for Osborne (Ms. McGifford) quite eloquently, and in all likelihood a lot better than I could have, put on the record the importance of many of the industries that are out there, whether it is the filming or publishing and the value of our arts programs, whether it would be, let us say, the ballet or the symphony, and how all of this adds up to what really Manitoba is all about.

The minister, in his opening remarks, also made reference to the importance of immigration, and even though my legislative responsibilities from within the party somewhat prevent me from participating in great depth in every different issue that is out there, immigration is an issue on which I do plan on spending

some time. It is not necessarily to defend the federal government, but it is to ensure that the facts are in fact known and to ensure that the government is doing what it can with respect to that particular issue.

With those few words, again, I appreciate committee members for allowing me to say a few words.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Tweed): Under Manitoba practice, debate of the Minister's Salary is traditionally the last item considered for the Estimates of a department. Accordingly, we shall defer consideration of this item and now proceed with the consideration of the next line.

At this time we invite the minister's staff to join us at the table and we ask that the minister introduce his staff present.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I would like to introduce the staff who are with me at the table: Tom Carson, Deputy Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, the longest serving deputy in the government of Manitoba; Lou-Anne Buhr, who is the ADM for Culture, Heritage and Recreation; and Dave Paton, who is executive director of Management Services.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Tweed): We are now on item 1. Administration and Finance (b) Executive Support (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$395,500, on page 31 of the Estimates book and on page 23 of the yellow supplemental book.

Ms. McGifford: Before discussing 14-1(b), I wanted to ask for some clarification in regard to the table, Schedule 2, which I believe is on page 5.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Is that the organizational chart?

Ms. McGifford: It is indeed the organizational chart. The reason I would like to ask about it is, I would like to ask particularly about the boxes at the top of the page, the ones in the dotted lines, and how they relate to the minister. What is the relationship? I am sorry. Probably I—why am I sorry? I am learning.

Mr. Gilleshammer: A very fair question. On the org chart we show a number of boxes at the top there which

are boards that relate to our department. I will just maybe go through a few of them, and if there is one you would like to ask questions about, I can answer specific questions on that.

On the far right, the Manitoba Film Classification Board, we have a board of about 21 members who are citizens from the community that sit on that board and perform a number of functions for government, one of which is to view films and tapes and to classify them as to the system we use here in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Arts Council is another group of great Manitobans who have been appointed to the Arts Council for one- and two- and three-year periods who meet a few times every month. There is an executive that they have in place, staff—I am not sure what the staff level there is. It is about 10-12 people, but the board is the policy-making group, and they administer a budget which we transfer to them of some several millions of dollars. They give grants to arts groups throughout the province.

The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and the Planetarium is another board which is appointed by government to oversee the operation of the Manitoba Museum, to make policy decisions. In turn, they have a staff that carry out the day-to-day work there.

Maybe I will just mention one more, and if there is any one you want to ask questions about you can do that. The Public Library Advisory Board is a board that was appointed by the previous minister who looked at library services in Manitoba and brought a report back to government that we made public last year and which generated a number of very positive changes in the library system across Manitoba.

Some of the points which I mentioned in my earlier remarks, the automation of those public libraries, the training component for rural librarians who tend to be part-time. They are not people who have degrees in library science.

Probably the other recommendation was increased funding, and we were so pleased last year to come up with about a million dollars of additional funding for our rural libraries.

Part of that was a collection development grant which has enabled them to improve their collections, and if you have travelled or when you do travel through rural Manitoba, you will see quite a variety of libraries, some much more sophisticated than others, but the fact that we are going to be able to connect them electronically is going to allow for greater sharing of resources.

So those two, four, six, eight, 10 boards are boards which are appointed by government through this department and we flow funding to them, and they all have very specific jobs that they do within the community we are responsible for.

Ms. McGifford: Mr. Chairman, I do have questions about the Manitoba Arts Council and about the Manitoba Film Classification Board, but perhaps I could delay them until later in the Estimates period.

I am wondering about the board of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and the Planetarium and the minister mentioned that Manitobans form the board. I wondered what the criteria are for appointments to that board and secondly, the length of the appointments and thirdly, if they are salaried.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Okay, I will just answer the last question first. There is no salary paid to them. The criteria is that they are Manitobans and hopefully with an interest in that area. The board consists of around 20 members; half of them are appointed by government and half of them are nominated and elected at the annual meeting which takes place. The people who are appointed are ones who have expressed an interest in the growth and development of the museum.

Certainly receiving the Hudson's Bay collection last year—I am not sure if the member was at the official opening there but there is just a tremendous interest in the museum. It is one board that we have no trouble attracting people to serve on. There is an annual meeting where they do elect half the board, and I would point out that the chairman is also elected at that particular time.

We are so proud of the museum. When you talk to school principals and teachers and groups that come in

from across the province, inevitably it is one of the stops that they make as they visit that museum. I know as a former principal and teacher we often had students from western Manitoba come in. I had a group in just yesterday from an elementary school in Strathclair and they were going on to the museum after they stopped here at the Legislature.

So the length of the appointments, I think, are two-year appointments, and there is frequently a turnover as people serve their term and go on to other interests, but that is the board that is in place at this time.

Ms. McGifford: Mr. Chairman, I certainly share the minister's enthusiasm for both the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, although I do not care for the title particularly for obvious reasons, and also for the Planetarium.

I was wondering, the government appointments, if the people appointed have particular skills that explain their appointment or is it mere interest?—which I do not mean to denigrate so perhaps I should not say "mere." Is it interest?

Mr. Gilleshammer: When the people are elected, they certainly are people with an interest in attending annual meetings and being part of the museum community. As a government when we look for appointments we look for a balance, certainly people who are interested in the development and growth of the museum. We also have an interest from time to time to appoint people with other skills, accountants, business people, lawyers sometimes. So with 20 people you can appreciate you do get a good balance on the board, but they have a lot of decisions to make around the expenditure of money and the programs that they are going to go ahead with.

There are frequently travelling shows that board members have to make a decision on along with the staff to see if that is something which would complement the history of the museum and interest the public. At the same time there is usually a cost to those shows too, and there is a business decision that has to be made. So we always look for a balance in making our appointments and take recommendations from existing board members who feel that maybe there is a

gap of either interest or talent on the board, and from time to time they make suggestions and recommendations which certainly are given due consideration.

Ms. McGifford: My understanding then is that out of the 20 members, there is a possibility at least 20 of them being community members?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am not sure I fully understand the question. You are saying community members as opposed to government bureaucrats.

Ms. McGifford: Mr. Chairman, I meant community members as opposed to government appointments.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Half of the board is appointed, half the board is elected.

Ms. McGifford: Turning to the Public Library Advisory Board, do the same general guidelines apply?

Mr. Gilleshammer: This was a board appointed by the previous minister, and it is in legislation as to who was on the board. If you give me a minute here, I can maybe give you some more background on that. I know that there is somebody from the university community, others from the community libraries across the province and somebody from the Manitoba Library Association. They work very, very diligently through the period leading up to the release of their report.

I can maybe give you the names of the current members of that board. Mr. Earle Ferguson, who is the chair, was appointed in 1989. He is a librarian at St. Paul's College at the U of M and a former director of libraries at the U of M.

Iris Loewen, who was also appointed in 1989, is chief librarian at the South Central Regional Library, that is Morden, Winkler and Altona. Marlene Genaille was appointed in 1993. She is a school librarian in The Pas, Manitoba.

Linda Pleskach, appointed in 1993, is chief librarian at Brokenhead River Regional Library in Beausejour, and part-time teacher with the Rural Library Technology program at Red River Community College.

Katharine Dawson who is a teacher at La Broquerie, and she served on this board and has recently resigned. Plus we have ex officio members, the deputy, one of our ADMs who is here at the table, and Ms. Sylvia Nicholson who runs the Public Library Services at our office in Brandon. I guess that is the current information.

* (1300)

Ms. McGifford: I have a few other questions about the Library Advisory Board. I am wondering if the positions—again, I would like to know whether there is any remuneration. Secondly, are the positions at pleasure or are they term positions? Maybe we can start there.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, there is no remuneration for these board members, and I would be interested in the member's view, whether she thinks there should be or not. Out-of-pocket expenses for travel are covered by the department, and the terms for these board members, I believe, are two-year terms.

Ms. McGifford: So then they are term positions. I would certainly have to give it thought as to whether I thought the members should be paid or receive some sort of honorarium or stipend for their work. It certainly seems reasonable for them to have their out-of-pocket expenses reimbursed. Could I ask how often the board meets?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am informed that they meet every six to eight weeks.

Ms. McGifford: They are what you might describe as a working board then.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, they are a working board, and I cannot stress enough what a great job they did in evaluating and analyzing the library system in Manitoba and bringing back to government a number of recommendations which I think have allowed us to make tremendous improvements in the rural libraries in Manitoba.

I know that I had the opportunity to go to the grand opening of the library in Stonewall last fall, and I can

tell you there was just tremendous community support for the library, which is so nice to see, because often in many parts of rural Manitoba the library is on the pecking order far below the local curling rink and hockey rink and other community facilities.

If you ever have a chance to go out to Stonewall, it is just an ultramodern library, a beautiful building, tremendous number of staff and volunteers, and the support of so many municipal levels of government that came together to contribute to that library.

Out in the western part of the province, in Brandon, there is a wonderful facility there which is part of a complex which also houses other organizations funded by government and gets reasonable support from the City of Brandon. In the Parkland Region we have just a wonderful network of about 18 libraries connected to the main office in Dauphin. They have been very, I think, pleased and impressed with the generous contribution we have been able to make to them, to develop their collections in those libraries and to support the bookmobile which they run there, which travels from one community to another and allows the various libraries to share the resources that are available.

The recommendation that this particular board brought forward to us is that we increase the grants to those libraries, and, as I say, we are pleased to increase them by 50 percent, and we have also given extra support, financial support, to develop those collections. We have given support through the Community Services Council to automate those libraries and get them hooked up, and I think some 31 of them now are partially or almost completely on their way to automation.

I think this board, maybe one of the most important things they have done is developed an atmosphere of resource sharing out there, so that knowing full well that small community libraries cannot be all things to all people, the resources are now being shared between our office and Brandon and amongst those libraries across rural Manitoba.

We have also decided that there is an ongoing role for the Public Library Advisory Board. They were set

up in 1989, I believe, to review the libraries in rural Manitoba and bring forward this report, but in my meetings with them, there is a desire on their part—at one time it was thought that that was their objective and that we would disband them. But we feel there is an ongoing role for them because even though we have put tremendous new resources in there, there are new facilities out there, there is automation, there is still a role to play.

As you could tell from the members on that committee that I read out to you, these are people that are quite involved within their own community libraries and want to continue to bring advice to government on how we can make those good and great libraries even better.

Ms. McGifford: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I could have a copy of the Public Library Advisory Board, the persons on it.

* (1310)

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told we do not have one with us, but I would be most happy to have a copy brought on Monday or when we next meet or have one delivered to your caucus office so that you can have a look at the work that they did.

Ms. McGifford: I thank the minister for that.

One other very general question, then, about this organizational chart. Can I ask if these councils, boards, advisory groups, committees, are what we would describe as an arm's-length group, or do they report directly to the minister?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I would say that they are all arm's length from government. They are appointed to run facilities and other funding that goes to organizations across the province. Our role is to meet with them to take their advice to provide funding for them which they in turn grant to groups across the province. They are in fact for the most part arm's length.

Ms. McGifford: My question about their being at arm's length and being independent, of course, was not to suggest that I saw anything anomalous about it at all.

So then the process would be, for example, to have the Manitoba Arts Council receive a sum of money which it grants and for which it is responsible internally unto itself.

* (1320)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, that is correct. The budget figure just escapes me at the moment, but it is around \$7 million that they administer. They have an office in the downtown area with a few staff. They make their decisions on their budget, on how they are going to break out their budget and make their grant awards. In many cases where it involves decisions they use a jury system to give them advice. I can tell you, from meeting with the chair and members of the Arts Council in recent times, they are very pleased that our government has been able to maintain the current level of funding for them as they face funding cutbacks from the federal government and from the municipal level of government. At the same time, funding for groups that they in turn support, we have been able to maintain that funding, and they have been able to maintain that level of activities that they have historically and traditionally supported here in Manitoba.

Ms. McGifford: Indeed, I have had the opportunity to appear as a presenter before the Manitoba Arts Council, or maybe I should say as one wanting funds. I share your respect for the group.

I have some questions about the Manitoba Arts Council as far as how one becomes a councillor and again whether—the same general questions I had about the other two groups, and I wonder if we could just deal with those quickly then.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Again, I am just trying to recall your questions. They do not get paid for it, just out-of-pocket expenses. In appointing people to the Arts Council I guess we look for some gender balance on the council. We look for some geographical balance so that different parts of Manitoba are represented on there. We look for sort of a balance of interests.

The Arts Council deals with many groups across the province who wish to have funds for a variety of purposes, and so from time to time as we need new

members, the board again may have a feeling that they need somebody with an expertise in financial matters or an expertise in some other area, and we look at those recommendations and follow those guidelines of having people from across the province appointed. It is a tremendous service they provide for government and for the communities that they represent, and, again, very appreciative that there are such a wide variety of people that are prepared to give of their time and talent to serve the community and serve government in working on these boards, and I think the system, by and large, works very well.

* (1330)

Ms. McGifford: My understanding is that the Manitoba Arts Council provides grants to writers, various kinds of artists. Are there any other arts groups or groups of artists, kinds of artists to which the Manitoba Arts Council provides granting?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can give the member just a partial list. It will just take me a few minutes to give sort of a flavour of the work that they do. They have, what they call, arts and audience development grants which people across the province and groups across the province apply for, and these are usually small grants that are given out to a variety of groups across the province. They also have funding for arts education, for organizations and for individuals. Some of their funds go for program expenses, some for jurors and assessors.

In the performing arts, some money is allotted for dance. Again, there are organizations across the province that avail themselves of some of these grants. There are organizations and individuals and, again, small sums for some of the jurors and assessors. In the performing arts, grants are awarded to music, and, again, these can be organizations or individuals. Also, in the performing arts, in the area of theatre, there is a number of grants that are given out. There are some monies set aside for touring. There is money for visual artists, and, again, these grants tend to go to individuals; grants for writers, and for publishing, and a small grant for something called anniversary programs and arts program delivery, and also a small sum for communications. I had already indicated

within their budget line that there is some permanent staff which requires some of the funds that we transfer to the Arts Council to take part of that particular budget.

Ms. McGifford: I think, from my experience, it is a very capable permanent staff. Since the Manitoba Arts Council then gives money to virtually every branch of the arts—we have mentioned dance, writing, music, theatre, visual artists; you mentioned publishing, money for touring—I am wondering if artists are included as councillors and if there is an effort to poll the community, see if artists in the community wish to nominate people to the Manitoba Arts Council?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I know that there are many times that the Arts Council receives advice from specific interest groups and specific arts groups. There is also an interdisciplinary advisory committee that provides background information to the board, and we do, in our nominations to the board, attempt to have a few artists on the board as well.

Ms. McGifford: Can the minister tell me if there are currently any artists on the board and who they are?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I do not have a list of board members here, but I can provide that for you when we next meet.

Ms. McGifford: I think that those are all the questions that I wanted to ask about the chart, and I thank the minister for his indulgence. I wonder if I could ask some questions under subappropriation 1.(b).

I have a question under salaries. I wonder, under professional and technical, first of all, who are these people, what are their positions, what are their salaries, and what do they specifically do?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, in my office I have an executive assistant and a special assistant, as all or most ministers do, and I also have three other staff. One is an appointments secretary and two clerical.

In the deputy's office there is the deputy minister and three office staff within his office. Are the salaries in your book there?

Ms. McGifford: I am referring to the line Professional /Technical and I see that there are two staff years and a total salary of \$71,600, and I just wondered who was who and how much each person got paid.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The two Professional/Technical staff within my office would be my special assistant, his name is Keith Stewart, and the other staff would be my executive assistant, and his name is Derrick Turner.

Ms. McGifford: I am also wondering about the employee benefits, because I have noticed that in just about every department they seem to be lower this year than they were last, and I did not want to ask this with each subappropriation, but I wondered if there is a kind of universal explanation for that and if the minister would share that with me.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, you are absolutely right, there is a universal answer. I am told there is one less pay period.

Ms. McGifford: I thank the minister for that. I wanted to ask a couple of questions under subappropriation 14, 1.(d), and here I notice that under the Activity Identification, one of the activities identified is, co-ordinates and supports affirmative action initiatives consistent with government policy and progress towards established goals and objectives. It is quite a mouthful. As the critic for the Status of Women, I am very interested in affirmative action, and I wondered what the objectives of the department's affirmative action program are.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Our objectives are the same as the government objectives as set out by the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. McGifford: Are there any specific objectives for the minister's department?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Our objective is to meet those targets that have been set by the Civil Service Commission and meet them or exceed them, and if you want the specific goals of the affirmative action policy, the government goal with the hiring of women is that 50 percent of the staff be women, and I might tell you that as of September 30, 1994, which is some months

ago, but this is still a good statistic, I think, because we have not had a lot of change, 67 percent of the staff in Culture, Heritage and Citizenship are women. I might also point out that division heads, the present figure we have is that 80 percent of the division heads within Culture, Heritage and Citizenship are women, and 57 percent of the branch directors.

As I indicated, we attempt to meet the guidelines and in many cases we exceed them.

Ms. McGifford: I congratulate the minister on his success in affirmative action for women. I am curious as to whether there is any specific explanation for this, because he may have hit upon a formula that he could share with other government departments or the world at large.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I would like to take the credit for it, but most of the staff that have been in this department have been here for longer than I have. I think that we enjoy a lot of stability within the staffing of our department and have many talented people who not only enjoy their role in serving the public of Manitoba but have, I think, an interest in the clients that our department serves.

I can tell you that the professional manner in which our staff conduct themselves brings forth many compliments from the public we serve. I know in the arts community, as I attend events across the province—I do not want to make my staff blush and feel self-conscious—I do get many compliments from the community we serve in the ability that they display but also the ability of government to maintain our funding and support for, I think, a very rich culture we have here in Manitoba.

As I said in my opening remarks, I see us as the department that is responsible to a great degree for the quality of life that we enjoy in this province. As I get to know the member better I guess I will get a better understanding of the interests that she has in the cultural field and the travels that she has done within our province.

I tell you, I just go to events in Brandon, in Dauphin and northern Manitoba and the client base that we serve

feel the staff have worked very hard to provide both the funding and the information and the services they require. I think those compliments and that assessment of the department goes right through the community. I know that many of the staff have been developed within the department, as well, and have spent some time here. It goes right across the entire staff. They have a heightened awareness of the issues and the importance of providing the services and programs that we have, and I know that within the staff there are professional development opportunities that many of them avail themselves of from time to time, and I am pleased to see them do that.

In our Citizenship branch, for instance, where we are struggling with issues from time to time, they have developed a program called the Respectful Workplace which has been very well accepted by staff within the department, and we have other departments across government who are asking questions about us doing some training for them. I believe we have even had some out-of-province interest in that program and some private-sector interest in that program because everybody out there, of course, with budget decisions to make and wanting to have a workplace which is not only productive but one that is happy, are looking for ways to achieve that respectful workplace. I am very pleased that branch of our department has taken a leadership role in that area.

Ms. McGifford: I wanted to assure the minister that I do have rural roots and that I do enjoy travel in Manitoba. I am particularly interested in, I suppose, our heritage properties and heritage sites throughout the province. But to get back to the question of affirmative action, as I said, I think the record on women is most impressive, and I wondered about other groups, aboriginals and other visible minority groups.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the government goal for visible minorities is 6 percent, and it happens we are at 6 percent. The native community where there is a government goal of 10 percent, we are far short of that. In the disabled community where there is a government goal of 7 percent, we are at 5 percent.

Ms. McGifford: So then I assume that the department will be working on those issues.

Mr. Gilleshammer: As my earlier comments indicated, we do have a department where I think we have not had a lot of turnover, and you can appreciate with people happy in the service that it is difficult to create those opportunities to work on those others. But we are mindful of those targets, and we will continue to work towards them.

Ms. McGifford: I wonder if we could talk about the Manitoba Film Classification Board. I said in my opening remarks, I think, that I was very interested in this board. I have always wanted to be a member of the Film Classification Board. I suppose because I love movies, and seeing free movies is extremely appealing. So I wonder if you could give me some details about membership in the Film Classification Board.

Again, I think you did mention in your introductory remarks the number of members. I think the minister mentioned in his introductory remarks the number, but I wonder if he could refresh my memory, and again I am interested in how these people are appointed, what their specific qualifications are, and whether it is a term appointment or a pleasure appointment. Maybe I can pass it to the minister.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I mentioned earlier that this was a board of 21. We have just counted them up. There are actually 22 members on the board. They tend to serve basically in panels of three, as they are called in to spend a day here and a day there, to view some of the movies that are brought to Manitoba. Of course, before they can be shown, they have to go through this process.

I am interested in the member's interest in serving on the board. I do think we have got a barrier, though, in that normally we do not appoint MLAs who are sitting to the board, but perhaps after the next election we could accommodate the member.

There is a lot of interest in the board. People write in from time to time, and names are suggested by community groups for service on this board. They are appointed basically for two-year terms, and again we try and get sort of a rural-urban balance, a gender balance, and one of the difficulties is finding people

with a flexible schedule so that they can come in for that opportunity to serve on the board.

The film class board is one board that we have not had difficulty attracting people to, and I suppose maybe it is for the same reasons the member gave for her interest in it. Most of them are there for two years, and then they can be reappointed, if the interest is still there and their time permits. They receive per diems for attending the meetings, and again we try and get representation from various backgrounds.

We are aware that some of the members have to be fluent in French. There are other qualifications we look for from time to time, and we often rely on the chair of the board to say: We have got three or four resignations. When you appoint members next time, we need somebody in this area or that area.

I do not know whether I have answered all the questions or not, but if there are others, I can take them.

Ms. McGifford: I would like to tell the Minister of Culture that if I am not the Minister of Culture after the next election, maybe I will sit on the classification board.

I would like to know who the chairperson of the board is and whether there is remuneration for this work.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The chair of the board at the present time is Barbara Cannell, and there is a per diem paid for that position.

Ms. McGifford: Is the per diem paid only to the chair, or is it to other persons when they are involved in the Film Classification Board's work?

Mr. Gilleshammer: All members who serve are paid a per diem.

Ms. McGifford: Could the minister please tell me what the per diem is?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can. The per diem for the chair is \$95, and for other members it is \$75.

Ms. McGifford: Could the minister tell me under what budget line that money appears?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I am told it is under sub-appropriation 14.1(e) the Manitoba Film Classification Board, 1.(e)(2).

Ms. McGifford: I am confused. I cannot find 1.(e)(2) in my book. I can just find—thank you for the help. Which particular line is it? Is it Personal Services? Is it Supplies and Services?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The per diems are listed under Personnel Services.

Ms. McGifford: Could the minister tell me how much we pay, the Province of Manitoba pays each year for per diems, a total figure?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, last year's actual was \$58,000.

Ms. McGifford: So \$58,000 is the cost of per diems for the Film Classification Board?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. McGifford: Does the board ever meet with the public?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that they normally do not unless there is new programming or changes, and they do have some public meetings.

Ms. McGifford: If a member of the public had a complaint, for example, about one of the Film Classification Board's decisions, would members of the board meet with that person?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I might just add for the member, we also do have some permanent staff there, so the letters of concern or expressions of concern may go to the staff. They may be directed to the chair of the board, or in fact from time to time they may write to the minister's office.

Ms. McGifford: Yes, I had a couple of questions about licensing. I understand that last year there was a

licensing—or I suppose this is an Expected Result, 900 video retail outlets.

I am wondering if these outlets are licensed every year, and I am also wondering if the licence has a—do the retail outlet people pay for the licence?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, they are licensed every year, and there is a licence fee.

Ms. McGifford: So inspectors go to the video stores on a yearly basis and determine whether it is going to be licensed?

* (1340)

Mr. Gilleshammer: The inspection is done when there is a complaint registered, and from time to time they do visit other outlets, and the licences are applied for and received on an annual basis.

Ms. McGifford: Just a point of clarification then. These 900 video retail outlets—and presumably the number will be growing—are, I guess, licensed each year. They pay for the licence and then when there is a complaint they are visited to investigate this complaint.

Mr. Gilleshammer: For the most part that is correct.

Ms. McGifford: What is considered in the granting of a licence?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, they have to have a retail operation and be of good character and be legitimately in a retail business.

Ms. McGifford: I am interested in good character.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I guess the example I would give is, if they have a conviction under the Criminal Code they are not licensed.

Ms. McGifford: I think I understand from the objective of the Film Classification Board that the point is not to censor but merely to categorize.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. McGifford: I do not think the minister told me the cost of a licence.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The official fee is \$95 and there is a slight discount for early payment of that to encourage compliance.

* (1350)

Ms. McGifford: One of the reasons for my questions about licensing is, as a member of a number of women groups there are of course, as I am sure the minister knows, groups in Winnipeg who think that there are some video retail outlets that are apparently licensed that should not be, but I do not really want to pursue that line of questioning.

I would like to ask a couple of questions about the inspection of theatres. I read that the expected result is that there will be an inspection of 20 theatres. Is that province-wide, first question; second question, what is being inspected for at theatres; and third question, why 20, is that an ad hoc number or what does that figure represent?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that about 20 theatres are inspected annually. That is both rural and urban. There are other inspections if there are complaints, but I am told that there are very, very few complaints that come in.

The inspection is, I suppose, for the purpose of complying with the regulations that exist within the province of Manitoba to see that operators are living up to the guidelines that have been set within regulations and to see that they are adhering to the age restriction that is part of the regulation.

Ms. McGifford: So then the inspection of theatres is really more an inspection of films than it is of theatres?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I guess the two are kind of entwined, are they not? The operator of the facility has certain responsibilities that they have to live up to. Some of those responsibilities relate to the clientele that are being served, relate it to the film that is being shown. They are also subject to other inspections, of course, by building inspectors and others who have an

interest in seeing that safe conditions exist, and that the regulations that are in place for public buildings are being adhered to.

Ms. McGifford: When I read that there have been licences—900 for video retail outlets and 175 inspections of video stores—are video retail outlets and video stores indeed the same thing and is it that 175 are inspected but they are all licensed?

Mr. Gilleshammer: My staff indicate generally yes. I guess in many endeavours that government is involved in you could always have more inspectors if in fact it was deemed appropriate to inspect everyone annually or more frequently. We have a rather limited staff in this particular branch. I think it is a staff of three who have other responsibilities as well.

Basically it is a complaints-driven inspection, but there is also, over and above that, some annual inspections so that these places can be expected to be inspected every few years. Again, there are not a lot of complaints that come into the branch, but when they are made they are taken seriously.

In many cases there has been some misunderstanding either on the part of the person making the complaint or perhaps on the retailer. Through discussion and meetings, often these issues can be clarified and the complaints can be satisfied. I will just leave it at that.

Ms. McGifford: I appreciate the lack of human resources that we sometimes have to deal with, so I did not mean to imply that all 900 video retail outlets should be inspected. I guess I was more interested in why these 175 would have been chosen for inspection and if it were complaint driven or if it were a rotating rostrum. If it is complaint driven, I wonder if I could have a copy, a list, is it possible to have a list of the 175 video stores that were inspected?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We certainly do not have that information here. I will check with the film classification people to see what sort of records they have. Again, a small minority of the inspections that are done are complaint driven but I would be happy to share whatever information we have with the honourable member.

Ms. McGifford: Again, I am interested in complaints about videos or, indeed, about movies more because of the feminist perspective that I bring to politics. I wonder if the minister could tell me the number of complaints that the department receives on a yearly basis or, at least, a ballpark figure?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that the complaints that come to the Film Board would be less than a dozen per year. I would also make the point that, I suppose, some complaints from the public may go directly to the police enforcement agency in that jurisdiction and, in fact, we may never hear about them because they may not be related to the evaluation or the category the film is put in. Justice may have some statistics on that but our statistics show less than a dozen complaints annually come to the Film Classification Board.

Ms. McGifford: The minister's remarks bring up another question for me about the actual work of the Film Classification Board and the idea that the work of the board is to classify but not censor film and videotape. If wonder if, does the board then look at everything? There are some quite violent, pornographic, sexist films around and I wonder what the board does with those.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told since 1972 that there has not been a censorship function of the board here in Manitoba. So it goes back a couple of decades. What they do is classify them and describe them so that the public in fact understands what the film is about. Then they make that decision about whether they are going to view it or purchase it or whatever.

Ms. McGifford: But if the Film Classification Board were to see a movie which it believed violated our legislation on pornography, for example, what would the board do with such a film? What decision would a board make about such a film?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that most product is not submitted to the board here in Manitoba. There is a lot of product out there that never entered this jurisdiction, but we leave the decisions on pornography and other issues to the law enforcement to adjudicate as far as how it measures up to the Criminal Code.

I am told that possibly the only jurisdiction, or one of the jurisdictions in the West, anyway, that has censorship powers is in the province of Alberta. I think in 1972 changes were made here in Manitoba which moved us in a direction where the board and government do not censor films, but even though that power in Alberta is legally there, it has not been exercised in over 10 years. So I do not think Manitoba is out of step with the western provinces.

I would tell you that there are other issues around the film class board that we are working on that might be of interest to the member. It has long been my belief that we do not need 10 or 12 film classification boards across the country, and most of the other provinces agree to that. There has been a fair amount of work done in recent years with film classification groups and governments in other jurisdictions to see if there is not a sort of national function or at least a western Canadian function of monitoring and classifying movies. I have not personally attended meetings with ministers, but I know staff here at the table have, and other events that are occurring at the present time in Saskatchewan and possibly in B.C. are preventing us from perhaps making a little more progress towards a western Canadian classification of movies.

At the present time it is an example of a lot of duplication that government is involved in across the country.

Ms. McGifford: Thank you for that information. Then, to get back to the workings of the Film Classification Board, it is possible for the board to have viewed and classified a movie that will be shown publicly and for that movie then to be seized by law enforcement officers and deemed to be—I do not know what the correct word is—ineligible for viewing, degrading.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, my understanding is that the Film Classification Board does not play the role of determining whether a film would warrant prosecution or not. That is the responsibility of the police and the Justice department. Again I go back to an earlier comment, or I make another comment first, that the Film Classification Board I guess is not in a position to

make that sort of legal judgment and determination that has to be done by the courts.

I go back to a previous point that the vast majority of the type of presentation that the member is concerned about is not entering Manitoba and is perhaps vetted in different jurisdictions. Manitoba, again, a very small market for films, and even though the classification board is busy, there is a tremendous amount of product that is being produced worldwide, and I think that the producers and the distributors of the type of material that the member is concerned about are aware that there are other jurisdictions where that product is more acceptable and that our board does not see a lot of product that is objectionable.

What we tend to see has been carefully and skillfully chosen to be within the laws even if on a personal level we might be upset and deplore the presentation that is made in that movie or film. We also are aware that it is up to the Justice department to make those final determinations.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Tweed): The time is now 2 p.m. Committee rise.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson (Gerry McAlpine): Order, please. Good Morning. Would the Committee of Supply please come to order.

This morning this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 will resume consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Education and Training.

When the committee last sat, it had been considering item 16.4(g)(1) on page 43 of the Estimates book.

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Could the minister tell us how many employment development centres Manitoba intends to open, and where they will be?

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Education and Training): There are six centres, and we are opening a seventh one in Thompson.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister list where the existing six are?

Mrs. McIntosh: Yes. Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Gimli, The Pas, and Beausejour.

Ms. Friesen: There is reference in this section to both preparation for training and also for skills training itself, and I am interested in what elements of skill training this program will develop. I would say that from looking from the outside a much larger proportion of effort and time seems to be devoted to preparation of resumes, job hunting clubs, life skills work, none of which is inconsequential, but it is not introducing new skills, and it does not appear to be dealing with strategic economic sectors that, I think, the government hopes to deal with under this section. So I am looking for the evidence of that next step in this part of the program.

* (1120)

Mrs. McIntosh: There are approximately 900 who received Life Skills and Literacy, and 650 who receive Skills and Training.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister give us some further information on what skills people acquired as a result of training in this section of the department and how it relates to the strategic economic sectors?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, we have people learning construction and office skills, furniture repair, painting, more lately in call centre training, electronics, health care services, home care and correctional officer. Those are some of the categories that are the types of skills and training that are being provided there.

Ms. Friesen: Could I follow up perhaps on two of those, the call centres and the home care? Could the minister give me an idea who has provided that training and how long the training was for?

Mrs. McIntosh: The call centre training is done at Assiniboine Community College and Red River Community College, and that is 16 weeks. The home care is done in three places: training on the job; at Red

River Community College, the certificate, 20 weeks; Central Health Services and We Care.

Ms. Friesen: The last one on home care, when the minister says it is done in three different locations, does that mean that each trainee would receive a portion of that—training on the job, training from Red River or training from Central Health or We Care—or is it they would receive one of those?

Mrs. McIntosh: One of those.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister tell us how much of the training was provided by Central Health and We Care home care?

Mrs. McIntosh: We do not have that information here, but staff advises that they can get it and provide it to you.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I would appreciate that. I am also not familiar with Central Health. Could the minister explain what that is or where it is?

Mrs. McIntosh: It is a private sector company providing that type of service.

Ms. Friesen: So the training is provided in part by community colleges and in part by private trainers of a variety of types. Could the minister tell me where in this line I would find the accounting for that? Does that come under Personnel Services? Is that where the contracts are for the trainers, or is it included in Social Assistance or some of those other lines?

Mrs. McIntosh: In the Supplementary Estimates you would find it under Social Assistance, and that page is 105.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I notice that pilot projects were provided for in this section as well. Could the minister tell us what pilot projects have been conducted or are still being conducted, and have we in general terms moved beyond the pilot project stage in this section of the department or is that continuing?

Mrs. McIntosh: Those references to pilots are to pilots that are in the process of being set up now under

the Making Welfare Work program, pilots such as Taking Charge! and a project that will soon be announced on youth welfare, or helping people off youth welfare.

Ms. Friesen: Is there any connection with the federal government on any of these projects? What partnerships are there there?

Mrs. McIntosh: The Taking Charge! project is one that we are doing in collaboration with the federal government. We are currently discussing with the federal government the possibility of a joint venture on the youth, well, one that I mentioned earlier.

* (1130)

Ms. Friesen: Where do I find the federal contribution to this program?

Mrs. McIntosh: That would be under the revenue Estimates, so it would not be in here with the Estimates of expenditures.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister give us an approximate idea of what the federal contribution is?

Mrs. McIntosh: The money from the federal government, a total of \$4.5 million, breaks down into \$1.7 million for youth and \$2.8 million for Taking Charge!

Ms. Friesen: Has Taking Charge! begun yet? The minister said youth welfare had not, but the Taking Charge! program?

Mrs. McIntosh: The two ministers, Minister Axworthy and Minister Mitchelson, have appointed the board members and the board has begun to meet there in the process of drafting out their training plan.

They should have within the next four to six weeks some operations in progress.

Ms. Friesen: One last thing in this section, I noticed the considerable loss of staff positions. Could the minister explain why that has happened? It goes from 43 to 38 staff years.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, those are five staff years. Basically that was the closure of the New Careers program and those people have been redeployed to other areas.

Ms. Friesen: Just to confirm, all New Careers staff were reassigned? No one was let go?

Mrs. McIntosh: I believe one person has accepted a position outside of government with Northwest Child and Family Services, and the others have been redeployed within.

Ms. Friesen: I just wanted to go back one step. Could the minister tell us who is on the board? Do you have those names here of the Taking Charge!?

Mrs. McIntosh: The names of the people on the Taking Charge! board are Deta Cloutier who is the chair, Joanne Purvis, Ruth Gardiner, Peter Siemens, Leslie Spillett, Susan Swan, Linda Trigg, Bonnie Ash and Josie Hill.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Item 16.4 Training and Advanced Education (g) Employment Development Programs (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,716,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$900,700—pass; (3) Training Support \$5,024,900—pass; (4) Making Welfare Work \$6,310,600—pass.

16.4 (h) Workforce 2000 and Youth Programs (1) Workforce 2000 (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,244,400.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, could we begin by looking over the last three years at the amounts that have been spent in each of the three areas of Workforce 2000? I am looking first of all at the small grants program that is up to \$10,000. Maybe we should start there and take each one separately.

Mrs. McIntosh: I just would like to ask, we do not have a small grants program, and I wonder if the member could indicate what she is referring to.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I think the title that I have on the list provided from the minister is Training Incentives by Employer. These are the grants, I

believe; the maximum grant in this part of the program is \$10,000.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, I would clarify for the member the reason they are called training incentives is because they are not grants. So I think we should be really careful in our terminology because we do not give out any money that has not already been spent.

These are reimbursements for training incentives that are not given as a gift. They are not given until proof of training; all the invoices, all of the outcomes and so on have been presented, plus the bills showing paid. So it is not a grant. They do not get it unless all of the documents have been submitted and then it is reimbursed.

* (1140)

So they are reimbursements, not grants, and I think it is a significant difference. I think we should be correct in our terminology when we start talking about this because the word "grant" has been used a lot. The more it is used, the more it reinforces an incorrect perception in the minds of people. I am sure that the member would not want to do that any more than I would.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I have no problem using the word "reimbursement," and my use of the word "grant" certainly did not imply that there were no receipts and no accountability. Using the same terminology of training incentive reimbursement, we probably need some initials for that.

* (1150)

So we were looking at the last three years and how much overall in that program has been reimbursed to employers.

(Mr. Peter Dyck, Acting Chairperson, in the Chair)

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, training incentives—I will go by component—would be, in '93-94, \$1,558,000; in '94-95, \$823,000; and projected for '95-96, \$1,290,000. Industry-wide initiatives: for '93-94, \$1,294,000; for '94-95, \$1,510,000; for '95-96,

\$1,800,000. Province-wide special courses: for '93-94, \$81,000; for '94-95, \$93,000; for '95-96, \$100,000.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, in the shared cost programs that are there for the payroll tax or health and education levy rebate, has the minister got the totals for the training costs approved for the last three years? We recognize that those are not the amounts that are spent by government, but those are the training costs approved. It gives us the possibility of comparability.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, the last refunds were for '93-94, and the refund paid back or reimbursed—the rebate was \$3.5 million. The department had approved up to a total of \$9 million, but only \$3.5 million was actually paid out. The other \$6 million will never be refunded.

(Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, is it possible to get the other comparable figures for '94-95 for that? If you do not have them here, I understand, but I am just looking for longer-term trends.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, for the 1994 period, we again have approved approximately \$9 million but, of course, have not paid anything out yet because of the time that it is in the year, so I cannot provide you that. As I say, the year before we had approved up to \$9 million and paid out three and a half.

Ms. Friesen: There are two elements to some of the stated objectives of Workforce 2000, and one is to train new workers. Could the minister tell us how many new jobs have been created as a result of the Workforce 2000 program?

Mrs. McIntosh: I do not have a complete listing but I can give you some. We have for the '94-95 year leading into '95-96: for D.W. Friesen in Altona—I will give you the job description as well—entry level graphic artists, six; the Manitoba Trucking Industry Education Advisory Committee, the long-haul transport drivers is the occupation, 270; Western Reman Ltd. and the job descriptions are locomotive and engine machinists, 13; New Britannia Mine at Snow Lake, miners, supervisors and administrators is the title of the occupation, 150

people; wage assistants to individual firms, one per company, 47. That is a total of 486.

Then in '95-96 an indication of some of the types of jobs we have: for the Manitoba Fashion Institute, entry level sewing machine operators is the job description, 100—and you heard the member this morning saying how much those jobs are needed or the training for those jobs—World Star Holdings Ltd. which is a retrieval network, 13; Manitoba Tourism Education which is for touring guides, 45. A subtotal there on those ones would be about 158.

There are about 644 in those examples that I have given you. It gives you an idea of the types of new jobs. Those are all new, as you indicated. They are brand new ones.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister indicate where the training money was for the trucking jobs and for New Britannia?

Mrs. McIntosh: That would show up under the industry-wide component for both of those.

Ms. Friesen: I assume the same for the Manitoba Fashion Institute.

Mrs. McIntosh: That is correct.

Ms. Friesen: As I look at that first program that we talked about, a reimbursement to individual employers, the '94-95 one shows quite a drop. I wonder if the minister could indicate—it goes from one million to 823 approximately, and again the minister anticipates that will increase again this year. It is going to have to increase considerably from the 823 baseline.

Is there an obvious explanation for why that amount has dropped and an explanation for why the minister anticipates that there can be an increase?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, we have, as the member knows, altered the criteria for the small- and medium-sized businesses who are participants in Workforce 2000. We have a shift away from local to national and international, so we are putting an emphasis now on international and international

activities, exports and so on. Our export activity is increasing dramatically in Manitoba, one of the best in the country. I think you hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson) boasting about that on a constant basis.

We are looking at those who were in sort of local areas who are now moving to work together in clusters and are submitting applications in clusters. As we see that begin to happen and we target in, as we have on some of the emerging sectors, the new technologies and so on, we are seeing greater interest in those people coming forward, not as individual firms so much any more but as clusters of small firms or medium-sized firms.

Ms. Friesen: I was speaking specifically about the first program we talked about, the reimbursement to individual employers. Is the minister saying that there are clusters of employers who are coming together under that program to apply?

Mrs. McIntosh: What we are attempting to do is to find several employers who have a common need and then bring them together. Then the training can be provided on a more economical basis, and we know then we are getting a generic skill or a transferable skill which is another thing we are really looking for—generic transferable skills.

If we can get together, and we are encouraging it, several employers with a common need in an area where they have close proximity to each other—we have seen some success in building this kind of approach. Last year about 40 percent of our training that was done in this kind of grouping were moving it towards working in clusters.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I am still talking about the first program, the grants up to \$10,000. I wonder if the minister could give me an example of what she is talking about because as I look at the information she provided, the information is based upon what is reimbursed to individual employers, and the clustering does not show in these records. Could we perhaps have an example?

Mrs. McIntosh: Just to give one example that may clarify how this works, in Ste. Anne they have just

completed doing a small business entrepreneurship program with four individual companies. Each of the individual companies met all the criteria, et cetera, as an individual company, but one trainer was used. Instead of each of them doing it separately with four different trainers, they were able to do it with one trainer. Still, it was each of them as an individual company that took the initiative, signed up, filled out the forms and did everything, just they were able to do it more cheaply, more cost-effectively by providing one trainer for those four who each wanted the service.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, my colleague from Point Douglas (Mr. Hickee) reminds me that is one the principles that was used in the New Careers program, was that clustering of groups in that way.

I wonder if there is a way of recording that in the annual lists that are provided. I will leave that with you. I do not know if there is or not.

Mrs. McIntosh: I will take that as a constructive suggestion, and we will look to see if we could do that.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to ask about some individual grants, and they may be part of larger clusterings, I do not know. Air Manitoba received a grant for training by Flight Safety International. I wonder if the minister has any more information on that. It was for 40 hours for two participants.

* (1200)

Mrs. McIntosh: The listing there that you have is our total computer base listings, so if we needed to or if we wanted to get details on any one of those particular listings we would have to go to the office and pull the individual file. We do not have that here, but we can acquire it. It just means going to the paper file.

Ms. Friesen: Then perhaps I could list several individual ones that I would be interested in having further information on. Could the minister perhaps indicate what kind of information is available?

Mrs. McIntosh: We would have the type of training, who the trainer was, the number of people trained, the location of the training, the number of hours, the name

of the company, the topic taught or topic covered, the training category, that type of information.

Ms. Friesen: The minister has already provided a good proportion of that. I think what is missing then and what would be required is the training location and the outcome of the training.

Mrs. McIntosh: I understand that the location is listed by the region as opposed to, like, just a little community of whatever, and on file—apparently that is not on the computer, but we do have information in the file. We do not have outcomes listed in the way I think that the member is referencing them, but they do follow. They have information on the programs, but I am not sure what you are meaning by outcomes there, but we will get what we have there for you.

Ms. Friesen: I would doubt that for all training that there is a listing of outcomes in the way that the minister's new curriculum proposes. What I am getting at is public money that has been paid for training, and what I want to know is what was learnt, who taught it, what was the certifiable—I am not sure if that is the right word—but certainly the certifiable qualification which enabled worker mobility that concluded the training.

Mrs. McIntosh: We will check the files then and bring you whatever is there.

Ms. Friesen: I now provide the minister with a list of the ones that we would like information on. Could I ask the minister about evaluation of this program? She mentioned, and I have raised in Question Period, the issue of new guidelines, or "altered criteria" was the term we used.

Is it possible for the minister to table aspects of those criteria? Are there ones which are different, and new criteria which are different from those which were used perhaps in the public forums two or three years ago? I noticed, for example—the two major differences I see between this listing and earlier listings, one is that financial institutions are no longer on the list.

Does that mean they are no longer eligible? It was certainly something that the previous Minister of Education had undertaken to look at. I am thinking of

financial institutions not in the sense of credit unions, some of which I think might still be here, but I believe it was Midland Walwyn was the issue that I raised as an example of others.

The second thing that appears to me from this, and it may be simply because we have better or more precise information, there does seem to be more training being provided by the community colleges, so I am looking for—am I reading the right thing into this particular list? Have the guidelines altered in that way?

Mrs. McIntosh: I just indicate that the criteria are public and available everywhere. Hundreds of people have the criteria just simply because as employers wish to apply they have to abide by the criteria. If the member would like this sheet that I have nipped out of my staffperson's book, he is willing to let me table it if—he says he has got other copies just downstairs, so maybe if I just table it it might assist the member.

I will just quickly indicate that it does indicate the four areas that we are targeting: the national and international markets; the new technology or equipment; the priority sectors of economic growth; and the small business entrepreneurial development; and I believe I gave you an example of Ste. Anne just a moment ago on that.

It lists the eligibility assessment and the additional qualifiers and the eligible training costs at the bottom. On the back of this is just a little piece of information indicating some background on Workforce 2000, so I will leave that for the member.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: I thank the honourable minister for that submission, which the Clerk will copy and distribute.

Mrs. McIntosh: As examples, the member had asked and I had indicated some of the companies before that were new jobs. In terms of certification, she will maybe see some of these new jobs pop up again under certification: entry level graphic arts, D.W. Friesen, and the certification there is from Red River Community College; steel products manufacturing, Manitoba Rolling Mills, certification is from the University of Manitoba; object-oriented analysis,

object-oriented programming and design, programming, the Electronics Industry Association, Health Care Products Association, certified by the University of Winnipeg; swine technology, Manitoba Pork, again certified by ACC.

Then we have several from the Manitoba Aerospace association: mechanical engineering technology, professional engineering option, CNC programming, geometric dimensioning in precision sheet metal. Those are certified either by Red River Community College or the University of Manitoba.

The organic inspector, Organic Producers Association, ACC; telecommunicator 1 and 3, GWE, again certified by ACC; Novell network, various businesses under this one, certified by the University of Manitoba.

* (1210)

Industry certification, under the carpentry trades you have: energy retrofitting doors and hardware, survey layout, blueprint reading, again Red River Community College for those. Petroleum systems installation and removal, Petroleum Installation Association, Red River Community College is the certifying body.

Quality standards, again various businesses, is certified by ISO9000; the good laboratory practice and good manufacturing practice, that is the Health Care Products Association, and it is an industry certification; the food-beverage server and the beverage service manager, front desk agents, bartenders, housekeeping and room attendants, certification by the Manitoba Tourism Education Council is the body there.

As the member knows, this is the result of a western consortium working towards a certification of the tourism industry, and that will be certified.

Auto collision repair, Automotive Trades Association again is an industry certification. Twenty-four percent of the training was delivered by Manitoba colleges or universities, so it is a pretty good record of certification. I think that list may give the member some indication of the types of things that are being certified in Manitoba.

Ms. Friesen: I am glad to have that certification. It is certainly one of the things that we look for in workplace-based training.

I just wanted to clarify something about the sheet that the minister had tabled on the criteria for Workforce 2000. I had asked earlier about whether there were new guidelines, and I wanted to know whether this was a new sheet or whether this is exactly the same kind of information that was provided three or four years ago?

Mrs. McIntosh: This is identical to the one three years ago? I am surprised, because I have this as the new revised eligibility criteria effective August 1, 1944. The member says this is identical to the one the year before that.

Ms. Friesen: I think 1994, not '44—[interjection] Some days it seems like it.

What I was clarifying was I said that there appeared to me to be, first of all, no financial institutions this year on the listing in this first reimbursement program that we are talking about. Secondly, it seemed to me that there was a far higher proportion of training being done by community colleges.

Those were questions I had raised before. The minister had been looking at some examination of that. The previous minister did say that he was introducing new guidelines, and I wondered if these were they or whether this was still the same guidelines and criteria that existed from the beginning of the program.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, 1994 is indeed the right year and this sheet that she has been handed is the revised eligibility criteria. I am not aware that it is identical to the eligibility criteria that was before. I thought you said you looked at this and you could not see it any different from before.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I do not think I said that, but anyway that is not certainly what I meant. I was simply trying to clarify for the record. I can see it here, but I was looking simply for an indication as to how eligibility criteria had been changed. Yes, this is a different one and I will have to go back to the original and look at where the changes are.

Mr. Chair, I did want to ask about evaluation, questions I have asked before about how training is evaluated. In the past it has been relatively informal, quite frequently with the trainer providing some evaluation himself or herself and self-evaluation by participants, some spot phone calls from the department and occasional site visits.

I am wondering if that has changed or whether the proportions are changing. It is something that we had brought up with the Auditor from time to time.

Mrs. McIntosh: I am sorry. I missed the last part of your statement.

* (1220)

Ms. Friesen: The issue of evaluation of Workforce 2000 programs, that is, evaluation of the training itself and what actually happened on the spot that we had brought up with the Auditor from time to time.

Mrs. McIntosh: What did the Auditor say?

Ms. Friesen: Well, we would probably have a disagreement about what the Auditor said so it is probably better if the minister reads it. My concern was for a new kind of auditing which I know the Auditor is interested in getting into, effectiveness auditing. The Auditor had no problem, obviously, with the financial aspects of the program, with the way in which the money was distributed or accounted for. That was not the issue. It is the issue of—and I have forgotten the term that they use for it. It is a particular kind of auditing for effectiveness.

Mrs. McIntosh: We had in 1994—I did say it correctly this time—the '94-95 activity participant evaluations, 80 percent; training monitors, 20 percent; and outcome evaluations, 22 percent. The 20 percent was, in terms of a number, 99. The 22 percent in terms of a number was 108. So that type of monitoring and evaluation went on.

Ms. Friesen: What kind of evaluation was carried out by the department, or which elements of that?

Mrs. McIntosh: All of them.

Ms. Friesen: Maybe we are at cross-purposes here. Participant evaluation I had understood to mean the filling of forms by participants on how effective they felt it to be.

Are they then submitted to the department? [interjection] I understand. Okay.

Is there any aspect of this which is an independent—and it is probably again not the right word—but is there an autonomous evaluation of any of the programs by a member of the department, a staff member?

Mrs. McIntosh: There was a formal evaluation program in 1993, and there would be another one then done probably in '96-97.

Ms. Friesen: This would be an evaluation of the program as a whole, its goals, objectives and the way in which it was meeting them, and that was conducted, I think, in part by the department and then in part by the Auditor. I may be wrong on that, but I think that is what we are talking about.

Now, when I asked the management section of the department—I remember right at the beginning of Estimates—whether they were evaluating or auditing the Workforce 2000, they said no longer; that was now conducted by the Auditor. So when we are looking at that '96-97 one, we should be looking for something from the Auditor.

Mrs. McIntosh: Those would be done by the Labour Market Support Services branch.

Ms. Friesen: What I was getting at earlier with the question about autonomous evaluation was not so much the program itself but the actual grants and an evaluation of the effectiveness of grants in particular areas.

Are there selective evaluations, or is there a standardized telephone call that is made? What kind of procedure does the department follow?

Mrs. McIntosh: There are two methods. If it is industry-wide, then they have their external evaluations.

Internally, we have a standard evaluation protocol that is followed for each of these.

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister describe the standard evaluation protocol that is followed, or is there a paper on that which could be submitted, tabled?

Mrs. McIntosh: In terms of the participant evaluations, what they will be looking for will be a measure of the learner's reaction to and acceptance of the training, and in training monitors' onsite assessment of the extent to which the training plan is being delivered as contracted; in terms of outcome evaluations, a measure of the results of training as indicated by gains in knowledge, improved performance and organizational impact.

Specific criteria for identification of project monitors or outcome evaluations include recommendation by the program review committee, projects which have a Workforce 2000 contribution, over 2,500 cluster training events, training projects involving a third-party relationship between the trainer and the employer and projects related to the introduction of new technology.

Ms. Friesen: Who conducts that outcome evaluation?

Mrs. McIntosh: It is primarily in-house.

Ms. Friesen: Does that mean in-house in the department or in-house by the trainer?

Mrs. McIntosh: That is in the department, and the individual who does this is a different individual working separately from the person who does the contracts, so they have that delineation set up.

Ms. Friesen: Just to go back to the earlier allocation, about 20 percent then of these reimbursements would be subject to an in-house evaluation in this way.

Mrs. McIntosh: Yes.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I wanted to move to the second part of Workforce 2000, and that is the training costs approved to those companies which pay the health and education levy known as the payroll tax. What the minister has provided us with is an indication

of the number of participants in each company who have received training, the training area, technical, human relations or basic education and the training costs approved, which are not synonymous with the amount of money that is rebated, but it does give an element of comparability.

I wanted to ask the minister if she could give me some indication—or is there something that she could table which outlines the difference between technical training, human relations and the basic education?

In some of the industries, one could make some guesses at what the technical training is, and basic education, I think, probably is easily or well understood throughout the government. But the human relations one, which is the one I raised in Question Period, is more indeterminate.

So I am looking for something in writing or something that the minister could explain to us what each of these means.

Mrs. McIntosh: The basic: literacy, numeracy, communications, problem solving, technological skills, analytical skills. You will have the technology under technical: quality assurance, factory, automation, technical upgrading, computer skills. Under human resources, you will have managerial and supervisory skills, TQM, leadership, presentation and negotiation skills.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I was taking some notes while the minister spoke. Was TQM separate from leadership or does it mean leadership in TQM activities?

Mrs. McIntosh: It is separate from leadership.

* (1230)

Ms. Friesen: Could the minister tell us what is meant by presentation skills?

Mrs. McIntosh: As the member may know, many companies these days, if they are approaching a new client and attempting to put a message across, will make a presentation. Making these presentations has become quite an art form, so this is one of the areas in

which training is welcomed. People learn how to make a proper presentation to a board of directors or to a client or to whomever is needed.

Ms. Friesen: One of the areas, I think, of interest in this particular section—I am looking at what I call sort of the second section of Workforce 2000—is the particular companies which have human relations and which are normally known as fast food companies, whether it is Chicken Delight or whether it is—what were some of the other ones? I think A & W was there, McDonald's food companies. There are a number of them. Not all of them were receiving rebates as human relations, but I think the majority were.

I wonder if the minister could tell us what elements of the human relations section have been taught in those, or is it different for each one?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, each company, of course, applies individually so each plan would be different, and I do not know how many are in. I am not able to give specific details on exactly what they are doing in terms of the plan that was presented here, but each plan would be different, one from the other. I mean they could be similar, but it would be coincidence.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, could the minister tell us something about the plan that was submitted and the education plan that was accomplished for ISM information systems? It was one of the larger ones for over 500 people and it was in the technical area.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, as indicated before, with these we do not have the individual plans with us, but we can obtain that information if it is desired. We do not have all of the files with us. We have the listing, but for specific details, we would have to go pull the paper file which we can do for this.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, similarly, as I indicated with the other one, I would be pleased to give the minister a list of ones where we are interested in the educational plan. Is that acceptable? Okay.

I want to ask one last question about the province-wide special courses, not the industry-wide

partnerships, but the province-wide special courses, if the minister could tell us what is anticipated in that area this year?

Mrs. McIntosh: We do not have them for '95-96, but I do have them for '94-95. I can indicate just in terms of the description here, sectorial quality initiative is the name of the course, and that is a sectorial-driven strategy for identifying advancing quality-related initiatives in Manitoba.

There were three participants in that. Six Thinking Hats workshop, which is a one-day workshop to prepare participants to apply the Six Thinking Hats framework of Edward De Bono to improve thinking, problem solving and decision-making abilities in a business environment, there were 20—

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, just to save the minister some time, you have actually provided me with that one, and I had misunderstood it as part of industry-wide partnerships. So I do have that list. The minister is anticipating 12 province-wide special courses next year, I gather, this coming year.

Mrs. McIntosh: That is what we have down for an estimate, yes.

Ms. Friesen: Is the minister anticipating more or less the same budget? The information you gave me for last year was \$93,000.

Mrs. McIntosh: We are estimating \$100,000, so it is in the same ballpark.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Item 4. Training and Advanced Education (h) Workforce 2000 and Youth Programs (1) Workforce 2000 (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,244,400—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$3,703,500—pass.

4.(h)(2) Stevenson Aviation Centre (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$313,700—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$447,400—pass.

4.(h)(3) Youth Programs (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,102,300—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$539,400.

Mr. Gary Kowalski (The Maples): I do not know if I missed the area on the budget. I wanted to ask questions about the Youth Works program. Have we dealt with that line in the budget yet?

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Is it agreed to go back? [agreed]

Mr. Kowalski: I am just wondering about the pilot called Youth Works that was announced during the last provincial election, what is happening with that, any time lines, any money in the budget that has been dedicated to that. I wonder if I could get some information on that.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, we have been busy working away on that one. I expect to have an announcement ready for you shortly.

Mr. Kowalski: Is there money allocated in these Estimates for that program?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, you will not see any specific funds identified in this particular booklet of Estimates, but the department will be looking for areas of surplus to accommodate that once the time comes to announce it.

Mr. Kowalski: Will it be within this subappropriation under Youth Programs where the surplus will be looked for or where in the Department of Education, or will it be in another department of government? Where will the surplus be examined for funds for this program?

Mrs. McIntosh: I can just indicate to the member that we will not be taking any money out of any existing Youth Programs.

The budget, as the member knows, was set prior to the election. No, we will not be touching existing Youth Programs for any surplus funding.

Mr. Kowalski: It will not come under this subappropriation for Youth Programs. Will it come out of the Department of Education budget, or could it come out of another department budget for these Youth Programs?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to the member, the funding source has not yet been identified for that program. I am indicating to the member that the program is underway in planning, and you can expect to hear an announcement on that shortly.

Mr. Kowalski: The announcement made during the election was for 300 summer jobs for youth, \$2 per hour to hire youth to input data, provide services, to learn the trade. That should give an idea of the type of allocation that is going to be looked for.

Is there any idea of what type of budget this Youth Works project will be looking for?

* (1240)

Mrs. McIntosh: About \$250,000.

Mr. Kowalski: I know the minister has mentioned a number of times that they are working on it now, and it will be as soon as possible. Will it be for this summer?

Mrs. McIntosh: That is my intention.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Item 4. Training and Advanced Education (3) Youth Programs (b) Other Expenditures \$539,400-pass; (c) CareerStart \$2,230,800-pass; (d) Partners with Youth \$925,000-pass; (e) Green Team \$2,900,000-pass; (f) Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives and Urban Economic Development Initiatives—just for the record, a deficit of \$3,400,000.

4.(j) Apprenticeship (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,327,500-pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$374,200-pass.

Resolution 16.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$46,030,300 for Education and Training, Training and Advanced Education, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1996.

Item 5.(a) Schools Finance (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$821,500-pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$137,100-pass.

5.(b) Schools Administration (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,068,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$426,000—pass.

5.(c) Schools Information System (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$289,100.

Mr. Tim Sale (Crescentwood): Mr. Chairperson, in the earlier part of the Estimates at the beginning we talked briefly about this information system issue. I gave some overview comments about the evolution of this system and the difficulties. I wonder initially if the minister has any comments to make on the current status of this system before I ask a couple of questions.

Mrs. McIntosh: I would be happy to do that. I am wondering though if I could beg the indulgence of the committee and ask for about a five-minute recess and come back. I have staff en route from that particular branch. They should be here shortly.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Is it the will of the committee to take a five-minute recess? Agreed and so ordered. We will resume at 12:51. Thank you.

The committee recessed at 12:45 p.m.

After Recess

The committee resumed at 12:53.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: The committee, please come to order.

The honourable member for Crescentwood (Mr. Sale), do you want to re-ask the question, please, for the benefit of the staff?

Mr. Sale: Mr. Chairperson, in my initial remarks under the Executive Support section, I raised questions about the student information system, and the committee agreed to consider those questions under the appropriate line item.

I did give some background comments at that time about my concerns with the evolution of this system,

and I was wondering if before we started the minister wanted to make any comments in response or to clarify current status of the information system.

(Mr. Peter Dyck, Acting Chairperson, in the Chair)

Mrs. McIntosh: Just for clarification, are you then skipping over the two sections that came before that, the two lines that came before that? Will you be having any questions on them, do you know?

Are we current with where you would like to be? [interjection] Okay.

The member had indicated last time his thoughts on this, had indicated over a span of seven years that this is an idea that has been going along for quite a while. We have been working on developing an information system that would track students' scholastic records or scholastic circumstances from entry of school through.

One of the things that we are looking for in this that we think would be of great benefit would be the ability to more properly trace a student, particularly a student who is highly mobile, and not have the potential loss of records and so on.

Electronically, of course, we have an ability to do these things now in ways that we never could before. I think that was the member's point, and his question before, I believe, centred on why it is taking so long to get this up and running.

One of the things that we are concerned about, I think I mentioned at the time, were the privacy provisions. That, of course, is something that we want some comfort level on. There has been progress made in terms of identifying the capabilities that we wish to see incorporated into a student tracking system.

In terms of the question I think that was asked last time, will each student be assigned a number—I believe that was one of the questions you had asked—or will we be opting into an existing number? Those are questions that the staff has been exploring. That is one of our points of concern that is preventing us from being able to go ahead right now because as we move into this we are planning to have the local school authorities, with

their own information system, providing information to us, and the decision that now has to be made is what number we will use.

In terms of straight convenience, of course, you could tap into something like the health number, and, as indicated, that is a number that already exists, but what we are trying to seek comfort on before we make that decision is what kind of security will be surrounding that number. If we use an existing number, such as the health number, which would be convenient, do we have adequate protections around in terms of security? If we do not go that route, then we have to assign our own number, and then there are questions that arise out of that.

In terms of setting up a system, though, we have now come to an understanding that existing systems within divisions could be utilized to provide information for our central base here, so progress has been made. I indicate the one area that is—the thing that still has to be decided is one that has to be very carefully thought through before a final determination is made.

* (1300)

Mr. Sale: I want to be as constructive as I can in this, Mr. Chairperson. These discussions are, if this indeed is the discussion that is going on, they are absolutely the same discussions that were going on in 1987.

In 1987, we had concluded on the mechanism for a unique student identifier, and it had been tested through the whole Manitoba population. One of the problems that the minister may know is the problem of distinguishing between identical twins who are born on the same day, so birth date does not always work. There are a variety of problems whenever you go to a unique identifier system that have to be sorted out. Now those were tested and a decision was reached, but that is really water under a bridge of seven or eight years ago.

(Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)

My concern is that there is no evidence that there has been the slightest bit of progress since that time, and I hear the minister saying that you have made the

decision that you can use school-based information. Well, there is no other decision to be made because that is the only information that will be available is school-based information.

I say to the minister that I hope she will make the investigation of this issue a very important priority of her new mandate as minister because my information is that some \$3 million has been spent on this issue with no visible progress. I would say to the minister that urban school systems far bigger than Manitoba's population are using such systems virtually off the shelf of the kind that I mentioned last time, Columbia, Trevlac, and there are a variety of others. All you are looking at is a site licence or a provincial licence. My understanding is that we own a site licence and provincial licence for one such system, which has lapsed but could likely be renewed for very small amounts of money.

Over the period of time that the minister's government has been in place and, as I acknowledged last time, three years prior to that when the NDP government was in place, no data entry has taken place in terms of student records. The minister talks about electronic transfer. Presumably, the most desirable form would be between schools. Presumably, the minister would not want a system in which a student record would be sent to the department and then sent by the department out to a new place of a student's residence or where the student is attending school because in many cases the transfer is between adjacent schools. That capacity is already part and parcel of the existing electronic student record systems.

My concern in this issue is not the detail of the record system. I believe that issue has been resolved for many jurisdictions for a long time. Manitoba is in the sad situation of being the least developed in Canada at the present time. My concern is that this government wants to talk about policy, about education and Manitoba students, Manitoba student needs. I want to talk about why girls do not stay in math. We do not have any data about what girls do in terms of math, other than survey data. We do not know across the province. I want to talk about who the drop-outs are. We do not know in detail other than anecdotally and from StatsCan numbers who the drop-outs really are.

These information systems that are already in more than a quarter of our schools and could have by now easily been in all of them have the capacity to provide the minister and her staff with decision-making information around policy issues which are now being decided in the absence of that information.

I think it is an ongoing scandal for all of us that after 10 years we still do not have a student information system, and yet you are making very major curriculum and other policy decisions. You do not have the data on which to make those decisions. That is my concern. It is not the nitty-gritty of the information system. That I thought we had solved in '87-88, and had it not been interrupted at that time, I think it would have been solved. It is not a hard problem to solve in spite of whatever your officials are saying to you. The problem has been solved by many jurisdictions many years ago, so it cannot be that hard to solve.

I would invite the minister's response.

Mrs. McIntosh: I thank the member for his comments. I do appreciate what I hear inherent in there, which is some constructive criticism. That is the type of criticism that I welcome. I thank him for that.

I was not here in '87, so I cannot comment on that. I can say that his points about the need for such a system are well taken. His request—I think it was a request—that I give this priority is received and accepted as something that I will give priority to.

In saying that we would not be looking to set up our own system replicating or duplicating school division systems, it may indeed have been a self-evident statement, but to me it was one that I felt I needed to make just in case there was some indication or some thought that the member might have received from somewhere that we were thinking of actually going and setting up our own system all throughout. I say that more as a reaffirmation.

* (1310)

I appreciate what the member is saying about the length of time that this seems to have taken over the course of years. I guess all I can say is, we will try to

ensure that, if we are sitting around here another year, you will be able to ask questions about how it is functioning as opposed to when it is going to be functioning, because the points you have made, the points the member has made, about the uses to which this could be put are good points, and they are received as good points that cannot be denied.

Mr. Sale: Mr. Chairperson, I thank the minister for those constructive comments.

To clarify, I did not ever think that the ministry was going to go to the schools and ask for different information than the schools would need to conduct their own student monitoring and program evaluation. I did not mean that.

My concern is—I will be very specific. Computer software houses such as Systemhouse and other providers can make very fine-sounding promises to provide very sophisticated systems. Virtually, without exception, they go over budget and under promise. For all that, it is a very important system, it is not a terribly technically complex issue to have a database that has some hundreds of thousands of records in it. Each record has in it a number of different fields, and you want to be able to look at those fields in a variety of ways. That is a pretty standard database question. I would be very wary of any software supplier that is promising that for \$3 million or \$8 million or \$10 million they will give you a lovely system.

I hope that is not what is being pursued. That was my concern, that I believe some \$3 million has been spent on this to date. I do not think it is necessary to go to a hugely sophisticated purpose-built system when off-the-shelf systems exist that do this job pretty well.

I do have some other comments, but I just wanted to clarify that. I was not suggesting that the ministry was going off on its own to write a separate system for schools.

Mrs. McIntosh: I thank the member for those comments, and just to indicate—and I understand what he is saying, but most of the \$3 million that he is talking about has not been spent on computer companies or systems that say—well, I think the

member used "over budget" and "under promised" or something like that.

A lot of that, in fact the majority of that, has been internal in terms of purchasing hardware, because we have been preparing for the preparation of this, and so we have spent—I will just give you a quick sense of the hardware and software that has been acquired for development and production.

We have spent about \$437,000 on development—some of these terminologies mean very little to me; they may mean something to you—development server 817 HP, NetAssure services. Then they go down, and there is a whole series of products, Speedware products and services for conversion and training, some \$80,000 there.

There is a long list of them here. The total of all of that is about approximately a million and a half for those types of items. That is over the four years, over a four-year span. So they are busy putting things together.

I guess I come back to the one thing that is a concern, and it is that whole security thing. We want to be so careful and not say that it is going to impede us because I know there are solutions to those things, but that was the one thing we were talking about in terms of the number. I think I mentioned earlier, I will not go through that again. I will spare you being repetitive on the issue.

I guess my point is, they have been working, and the money that is being spent is being spent internally not, by and large, internally, not externally.

Mr. Sale: Mr. Chairperson, is there a specific external consultant being used on this project?

Mrs. McIntosh: As I indicated, the bulk of the work is being done internally with our own department experts.

They have used, on a short-term basis, about 180 days, less than 200 days, a consultant to assist with the setting up of the hardware, and that was simply as the equipment was being brought in to help set it up and

make sure it was utilized correctly and to train our own people in any particular skill that they might need to acquire.

Basically, we do have people on staff who are well versed and very skilled in these types of systems, and they will be doing the bulk of the work. It is the hardware cost, a little bit of money for a consultant—say, less than 200 days—to fill in some of the little gaps as new equipment comes in.

Mr. Sale: Usually, Mr. Chairperson, hardware is acquired after you have the system designed so that you know what it is you have designed it for. Is the minister saying that the software for the program is all written and it is ready to go and so now you know what you need to run it?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, I am not a computer expert, so I hope I am using the correct terminology, but I understand that the hardware is basic hardware. It is hardware that is being used internally, needed by the department, and it is not some incredibly complicated, supersophisticated, strange thing.

It is a basic utilitarian usage that will prepare them for this particular system. The software they expect can be utilized here.

Mr. Sale: I do not want to pursue this a lot further. I think it is an area in which the minister has not yet had a chance to get the briefings that she needs, and I do not think there is any reason to pursue it further.

* (1320)

I think you have just said, essentially, that the hardware that has been acquired here is simply an expansion of the existing HP system that is in the department, and it has nothing much to do with the student record system except the question of capacity. It is probably expanding the storage capacity and the processor speed or that sort of basic stuff, but it has nothing to do with this system particularly at all.

I think that is fine. I do not expect the minister to have that detail at this point, although maybe by next year we will expect her to have the detail.

May I close by asking the minister if she would do this: Would she undertake to table, within a reasonable period of time—and that might be, we might say, by the time the House resumes in the fall—a reasonably detailed work plan for implementing this new system, getting the schools that are not already now on some kind of useful software on such a system and catching up the incredible backlog of data that are sitting out in Russell, Manitoba, in the student records branch, or maybe have never been moved out there and are still sitting down here in storage?

I just would say to the minister that, when we looked at doing that in 1987-88 and examined what it would cost then, it was close to \$200,000. We have now let another six years go by, and I expect this is not going to be a small price tag to do this catchup, but would she undertake to table such a work plan?

Mrs. McIntosh: I will undertake to do that. I do not want to be held to a specific day and time, but I think the member has made some valid points in this section, and I will undertake to be able to give a stronger indication in the fall as to the points that he has raised.

I appreciate him bringing them forward. I thank him for the support on this particular project.

Mr. Sale: Mr. Chairperson, I thank the minister for that co-operation.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Item 16.5 Support to Schools (c) Schools Information System (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$289,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$705,600—pass.

16.5(d) Schools Grants (1) Operating Grants \$551,682,700—pass; (2) Phase-In Support Grants, zero balance; (3) General Support Grants \$18,764,700—pass.

16.5(e) Other Grants \$1,737,900—pass; (f) Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund \$50,150,600—pass.

Resolution 16.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty the sum not exceeding \$625,783,800 for Education and Training, Support to Schools for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1996.

Item 16.6 Support to Post-Secondary Institutions (a) Universities (1) Universities Grants Commission (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$268,000.

Ms. Friesen: I would like to begin this by asking the minister about the new organization which is being planned to convey government policy to universities. I think during the election and both in the Roblin commission as well that the government has been looking at new forms of organization. I would like to discuss those. Could she give us a general idea to begin with of the direction the government is going to take on this and what the time frame is?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering if the member could be a little more specific because there are a huge number of items in Roblin, everything from the articulation between colleges and universities and overlapping into high schools, to a council, to all of those things. Is there one specifically she would like me to start off with?

Ms. Friesen: The area I am thinking about at the moment is the changes to the Universities Grants Commission, if there are to be changes, and the creation of a council on post-secondary education, if that is the right term that the government is using at the moment. So it is the overall change from an intermediary position perhaps to a more direct connection with government or elements of the department.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the clarification there. The government will be looking to set up a council on post-secondary education in Manitoba, and that council will see the Universities Grants Commission and the Colleges Secretariat coming together. It will oversee not just the University of Manitoba, for example, or Red River Community College, but it will be the linkage, the common umbrella, I guess—that is not really the word I mean—but it will attempt to ensure that there is a good linkage with the colleges and universities.

As we see increased articulation, and as we see more opportunities for student choice and cost containment and those types of things, the council will be a central body that will provide unity and commonality of

approach in terms of satisfying student needs, so that students then, we hope, will be able to move more easily between the institutions, course offerings will be more appropriate in terms of where a student can take a particular course and that type of thing.

So that will be established. I do not have a specific date, but it is something that we have indicated as a priority, and so the establishment of that council will not be in the far future; it will be in the near future.

Ms. Friesen: When the minister says the near future, are we looking at this coming fiscal year, the '95-96 fiscal year?

Mrs. McIntosh: At least you did not say 1944, so you are in the right era.

I cannot give a specific date. I guess I am always so reluctant to be pinpointed to a date, because you either come in too soon or too late when you give a specific date. I guess maybe the best way I can answer this for the member is that I had some sort of time lines for myself when I came in.

One was to take some time to get to know the member organizations, which I have been doing, and the other was to, of course, go through the first session, the first Estimates. Then, of course, I have some immediate goals that I want to accomplish as soon as those are done, and we are nearly done those three things.

One of my first immediate goals will be to have the council established and operating. I do not know what time lines are going to be necessary to make it fully functional, but it will be one of my first immediate goals, so I will begin working on it almost immediately that the session is complete, and depending upon the length of time it takes to appoint people, develop a specific mandate or a specific mission statement, goals and objectives—if it moves quickly, then it will be in this fiscal year, but I cannot say for sure at this time.

* (1330)

Ms. Friesen: The minister suggested that it would be a coming together of the UGC and the Colleges

Secretariat. Does the minister anticipate that there will be outside people on that, people who are outside the current UGC staff?

Mrs. McIntosh: Yes, I do. The council will have people on it who are not necessarily on the Grants Commission or the Colleges Secretariat.

Ms. Friesen: Has the minister given any thought to proportions of that? For example, maybe I should start with how many people would there be from the Colleges Secretariat. That we would know.

Mrs. McIntosh: We have not taken any decision yet as to the composition of the council. That is still being considered and does not yet have a decision for announcing.

Ms. Friesen: One of the alternatives that Roblin looked at was a cabinet committee on post-secondary education, as well, and I wondered, are there to be any changes in those kinds of organizations, as well, those kinds of connections within the government in addition to this, or is this going to be the one major change we should look at?

Mrs. McIntosh: All of the recommendations put forward by Roblin are ones that we will take a look at seriously, but we have not yet decided exactly how we are going to do the composition or how committee structures will work, et cetera.

We have indicated we like the concept in principle. We intend to proceed with developing a mandate and structure and the composition and lines of authority. We have not decided the how yet.

We have decided that we are going to, but how we are going to is still something that has not yet been decided. It will be something that I will be placing as a high priority as soon as we are through the session.

Ms. Friesen: I understand part of the intention of this is to bring the colleges and universities closer together. How will the colleges be connected to this? Will there be additional college representation other than through the Colleges Secretariat?

Mrs. McIntosh: The Colleges Secretariat, as the member is probably aware, is administrative staff. It is not outside people. Although certainly we will be getting ideas and so on from people such as those who currently serve in those roles, we have not yet come to a decision as to how the structure is going to be set up.

All of those questions the member may have involving composition or who will be doing what are all questions that have yet to be answered internally by us. They are good questions.

Just in terms of their timeliness, I do not have answers for them at this date and probably will not for a few months yet, but those are the kinds of questions that we are asking ourselves as well. How should we structure it? Who should be here? Who should be there? Who should we include? Who should we draw in?

As soon as we have those answers we will in all likelihood be indicating them probably through the usual methods of indicating that a decision has been made in that regard.

Ms. Friesen: So if we are looking at time lines it does not sound as though the new system will be operating in the fall of '96. Does that sound a bit early?—more likely to be '97.

Mrs. McIntosh: It is very difficult to say because if we have everything fall together very quickly then we could see a quite early start. If it takes a longer time to work our way through the process it could take longer, so it is really difficult to say. I do not want to preempt any decision making by indicating that I think it can be done in time for this year on the chance that maybe it cannot be.

I hate to not give a clear answer, but I really do not have one at this point that I can provide.

Ms. Friesen: The function of this council then, does the minister anticipate that it will maintain the function of the distribution of grants between universities and, now, presumably, between colleges as well?

Mrs. McIntosh: I do anticipate that.

Ms. Friesen: So essentially the basic principle of arm's length for both colleges and universities will be maintained?

Mrs. McIntosh: I would say that principle will still exist. I am looking at the structure that Roblin suggests as some of his suggestion there, I think, would still incorporate arm's length even though he has included certain people in certain positions. I still think that principle is worth adhering to.

Ms. Friesen: Both Roblin and the minister have indicated that increased articulation between universities and programs, and I think also you are emphasizing articulation between colleges and universities.

I am wondering what kind of process the government is going to anticipate in those areas. How will this council be used to increase articulation, which I think is a reasonable goal. I do not have any problem with Roblin's comments on most of that, and it is difficult to move on.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, just taking you to a different body for a moment. The council of ministers has asked for undergraduate credit transfers between provinces to be a topic of exploration and that is, of course, yet another level of articulation.

So, when we start to look at being able to move from one area to another easily, we see not just between colleges and universities and universities and universities and colleges and colleges and maybe even into the high school for certain areas, but we also look further ahead to interprovincial articulation.

At the moment, the presidents and vice-presidents of colleges and universities have been working on an articulation guide and that is to talk about the kinds of things that—you, know, if you took engineering technology at Red River and now you decide you want to take civil engineering, can you use some of the credits you got in Red River, if that is where you took your engineering tech, for civil engineering—those types of things? The council, it is anticipated, would then pick up that kind of work once it is up and running, but I keep returning to my original statement that we are

still working on not just structure and composition but a clear mandate.

So, while we say in a generic sense the council will be the common bond or the common authority for all the current bodies that have their University of Manitoba board of governors, for example, how does it relate to Red River Community College. Well, the council will be the—relationship builder is maybe a good term.

Ms. Friesen: Just as a detour, I am interested in the articulation guide that the minister mentioned. I know that universities and colleges have had a great deal of difficulty in coming together on these issues and if there has been any progress I would be interested in seeing what have been produced.

Can the minister tell us what exists on paper or what is publicly available in this area?

Mrs. McIntosh: There is a draft which we expect will be published sometime this fall.

The member mentioned something that I think really does clarify the need for a council when we start into this type of thing, because you indicated your understanding that the colleges and universities had difficulty coming together on this type of thing, and, indeed, it is difficult.

* (1340)

That is why I think Roblin envisioned a council, and it is one of the reasons we support a council, but difficult or not, they have managed to produce a draft, and that should be raised sometime in the fall and be available for people to peruse.

Ms. Friesen: Will the new council on post-secondary education require legislation?

Mrs. McIntosh: I imagine that it would.

Ms. Friesen: Will it require amendments to the universities act and regulations?

Mrs. McIntosh: I think it probably would.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to follow up on the previous minister's correspondence with the universities. The minister had last year, I think in the fall, indicated to the universities that he was looking for some response from them on a number of issues that he outlined that came out of Roblin.

I wondered what the new minister had received, or, collectively, the department had received from each of the universities, including St. Boniface, and what the next step was in that.

Mrs. McIntosh: All but one of the institutions has now forwarded an individual response. We had also asked for a collective response which has not yet come. We have received from one institution an interim response, and so the responses are in.

Staff has perused them. I am in the course of reading through them. We will get the final report from the one remaining university, I imagine, shortly because they have sent us an interim draft. We are, as I say, waiting for the collective response from the heads of the boards.

Ms. Friesen: So the people who have replied, essentially, so far, have been the presidents, and the minister is looking for a collective response of all the boards meeting together. Is that where we are?

Mrs. McIntosh: We are currently waiting for the chairs of the boards to send us something that they together would compile.

Ms. Friesen: And the next step—when the minister has received that and digested it, what would be the next step in that, and what is the timing on that?

If I can elaborate, I am looking for the public process. When does the public have an opportunity to comment on or to look or to reflect upon the presidents' and the boards' responses?

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, the first thing, of course, I am going to make sure that I have had a chance to go through them all and get a good grasp of what they are saying and how I feel about what they are saying. These responses will be invaluable to us in

terms of setting up the council. We had actually hoped they might have been in a little sooner, but they are coming. That is the important thing.

Their use in terms of planning for the operations of the council and all of the things that we will be mandating the council to do, will be their prime use to us. We do not have at this time any process laid out for public hearings or those types of things. We see these at this stage as internal to the universities and government. I would not be prepared to release them at least until we had gone through them here. Although the universities I am sure, if they wish to, could make them available. I do not know what their sense is in sending them to us if they were sending us confidential documents in their opinion or not.

Ms. Friesen: That is really what I was looking for in the sense that—I was not looking for public hearings at this stage, but since the government's questions for the universities were quite public and publicly made I am interested and I think the general public would be interested in what the universities responses have been. Perhaps staff might have some concept of whether the universities did send it as a confidential response essentially to publicly laid questions.

Mrs. McIntosh: I have no difficulty with a public answer to a public question—just ask staff here if they had any sense of whether the universities felt they were replying in confidence or in public and they say they do not believe the universities feel their responses are confidential. A quick phone call to double check would be the easiest way.

It is back to my old thing. I hate to take third-party stuff and give it away. I do not think there would be any problem, because the whole process is quite public and certainly the issues are very public and a very great concern to the people and the students of Manitoba and to those who employ the students once they graduate, so the process is not a secretive process in that sense.

I do not know if their board meetings—if they had in-camera meetings to determine these issues or not. I also do not think they would have any difficulty stating their responses to the public, but I can confirm that just to be on the safe side.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, if indeed the universities believe these to be public documents, would there be a way of tabling them or transmitting them to me at a later date?

Mrs. McIntosh: I think we could probably get you some.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I wanted to ask some specific questions about each of the universities, beginning with the University of Winnipeg and the use of the gymnasium, which I think has probably been brought to the minister's attention.

The University of Winnipeg fieldhouse was constructed, it is generally believed, with the provision that community access be part of the university programming. I think in this past year there has been either less or no community programming. Some of the community groups who have in the past been accustomed to using that gymnasium or fieldhouse have not been able to, not necessarily because the doors have been closed but because the programmer and the programming has not been there.

* (1350)

I wondered if the minister had formally replied to any letters on this issue or whether this had been brought to her attention by community groups or by the university. I guess, secondly, is it indeed the case that the University of Winnipeg fieldhouse was built under, in part, the proviso that community groups be encouraged and programs are developed for them?

Mrs. McIntosh: The member has us stumped, because I do not recall the issue and the staff does not recall the issue. We will check it out, but it is not something that we seem to be aware of right now.

Ms. Friesen: I think it would also be helpful—I do not know whether the minister has received any correspondence on it. I have not had any that has been copied to her. What I have received has been relatively informal, although it has been in writing.

Could the minister undertake to look at the conditions of the construction of the University of

Winnipeg fieldhouse to see whether in fact there were community provisos incorporated into that?

Mrs. McIntosh: We will check out all of those things that of course pertain to our jurisdiction there. Yes, we will do that.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I wanted to ask about the direct grant that the government provides to the Faculty of Management at the University of Manitoba. What I am interested in is specifically the criteria for that grant and how it is evaluated on an annual basis.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairman, the direct government grant to the Faculty of Management was \$1,139,000 and that was based on their development plan.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, could the minister tell us what particular part of the management plan or the general direction of the management plan which this \$1 million plus assists?

Mrs. McIntosh: In particular, the addition of 20 staff at the Faculty of Management.

Ms. Friesen: This grant has been going under different auspices, approximately a million dollars I think for the last several years. It came from another department and then was transferred into Education. How many grants of this type towards the development plan has the Faculty of Management had?

Mrs. McIntosh: That \$1,139,000 was spread over five years and then it was to become part of the base. In the last two years, it has been extended.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we could go back over that a minute. I understood it was a million dollars a year or in that ballpark.

Mrs. McIntosh: The member is correct.

Ms. Friesen: So how many years have there been grants of approximately a million dollars directly to the faculty?

Mrs. McIntosh: It has only been for the last couple of years that it has been the million dollars. Over the

course of time—and I think we go back about six or seven years—but, at that point, it was only around \$300,000.

So it was not a million dollars every year for seven years. It was \$300,000 when it started. The last two years, maybe the last three, it has been at the million dollar mark. Prior to that, it was much less.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Chair, I know that we do not have the records for Industry, Trade and Tourism here which is where it was, but I think I do recollect it has been in Education now for two years, last year and this coming year.

I believe in the years before when it was transferred from I, T and T that at least two years there it was over \$700,000. I know you do not have that material here. That is certainly something I will check. This goes as a special grant for the purpose of the addition of 20 staff. Is there anything else to which it is applied?

Mrs. McIntosh: It is not just to staff but primarily to the staff. Some of that money has gone into the library and into the development of a Ph.D. program at the faculty. So you will see plans to increase the number of masters and the implementation of a Ph.D. program to bring in about 20 staff to add to the library and those types of initiatives.

Ms. Friesen: Is there a general evaluation of this each year, or is it done on a two- or three-year basis?

Mrs. McIntosh: I will give you the answer to that in just a minute, but I have to say I think the biggest evaluation for that particular one is the fact that the students themselves have voted for a whopping big increase in fees in order to make their contribution. You do not see that happen very often.

To me, in terms of an evaluation, when you see a whole body of students say, we will pay \$500 more a year, which is what they did in that faculty, it is kind of an indication of how they evaluate the program, but for the rest of your answer—

Mr. Assistant Deputy Chairperson: Order, please. The hour being two o'clock, committee rise.

HEALTH

Mr. Chairperson (Marcel Laurendeau): Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This section of the Committee of Supply has been dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Health.

Would the minister's staff please enter the Chamber at this time. We are on item 21.3.(c) Home Care (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Chairperson, I have a number of follow-up questions that I would like to talk about with respect to personal care homes.

I appreciate the list that the Minister of Health provided regarding Manitoba personal care homes and the number of beds that are available by region, and I would like to try to get, or at least attempt to get, a better understanding of the future demands of personal care home beds. We all know that we have an aging society.

I am wondering if the minister can give us some sort of an indication in terms of what sorts of demands can we anticipate receiving in terms of pressures to add additional care home beds.

In what the minister had provided, he had indicated, for example, that it is anticipated that by 1998, we will have an additional approximately 900 beds. I think that is a fairly significant commitment. We are relatively pleased with that, but, of course, what we need to know is what sort of demand is there going to be at that point in time. I am wondering if the minister can comment a bit in terms of demographics, future demand and what the minister is anticipating.

* (1120)

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Mr. Chairman, the question is an extremely important one, as we move forward in time, because the honourable member did, indeed, mention in his question that the average age of our population is getting older, and personal care has in the past been seen as one of the only options for senior citizens and the families of those who are cognitively impaired, as well, for their

care at those stages of their lives. More and more we are, I hope, becoming more and more enlightened on these points.

If the honourable member would visit personal care homes, which I know that he does, he would find that the profile of the resident at the personal care home today is somewhat different from what it was 10 or 20 years ago. When there came a time for people and it was felt for various reasons that personal care was the appropriate living arrangement, many, many of those people would have been Level 1 or Level 2 level of care people, while today we know there are options. More and more, we are making those options available.

We have people who live at home much longer than in previous years. I know a woman in Brandon who is 102 years old and she is still living in her own home and looking after herself there with minimal assistance from our Home Care program, which brings in another dimension.

The Home Care program is playing a very, very important role in keeping people living comfortably at home. There was a time when people would be panelled for home care placement when the only problem they had was an inability to take appropriate care of their foot care needs. In fact, people would be panelled and placed in personal care arrangements and very shortly thereafter their foot conditions would have cleared up because of appropriate care and they were then at that point not even appropriately placed any more.

Well, those are issues that our Long Term Care Branch and other health care people, planners, are taking much more notice of. Things like the kinds of supports that exist with Support Services to Seniors programs throughout the province are having a tendency to make the quality of life for people such that they want to stay in the community longer than they did in the past. So all of that, on the one hand, somewhat reduces the demand for personal care placement. On the other hand, that clock continues to tick and the population continues to age.

We have tried to work on all of those fronts at once by significantly more support for the Support Services

to Seniors programs throughout the province, by the addition of some 900 personal care home beds either completed already or in the works now and by a doubling of the Home Care program expenditure over the last seven years. All of those things are coming together to create a different environment.

We are engaging in block programming for Home Care which is a better co-ordinated approach to the delivery of home care services in apartment buildings or in elderly persons' housing which is subsidized housing for seniors.

The programming that goes on in those places is on the rise, and that programming is what makes it possible for people to stay in their own independent circumstances longer. But as the honourable member knows, those stages of one's life inexorably do approach, and we have to be ready for that when it happens. Therefore, we have put much more emphasis on the personal care program.

All the programs I have mentioned also have a favourable effect on the hospital system because we are able to create capacity in the hospital system. Because of the existence of all those programs, we are able to discharge people, so that they are not staying in a hospital bed simply because there is no other supports available. There are a lot of people in that situation still in Manitoba, although I think it might be somewhat better than it was in the past.

We, in the past, accepted that situation that a hospital bed was okay, even though it was not the most appropriate placement. We could afford it in those days, or thought we could, and so we allowed people to languish in hospital beds for much longer than was required.

In addition, shorter stays are possible now because of technological change. Even with technological change, if someone is going to be discharged from hospital, it should be done in circumstances of a supportive community arrangement for people, so that they are not just thrown to the wolves, as it were. They can be discharged from hospital and their health provider, their doctor, can do so with confidence that the supports are there.

There are still gaps. That was the subject of a discussion in Question Period today. Later, as I discussed the matter with representatives of the media, I let them know that we are intending to fill those gaps with private sector support through contractual or whatever arrangements are necessary to arrange for backup support to assist us to get people in hospital who ought to be living under other arrangements, to make that happen more expeditiously than it already is.

We have made progress in that direction, but there is room for more progress, as well. We have made it clear that this is the direction we want to go, and we will have to move fairly quickly on some of those things, but they are another option for government to give us the flexibility we need.

It is no longer fashionable to argue on ideological grounds for a public-sector-only approach. If we have the one-payer system which we have been able to maintain in Canada, we can provide good care for people, and we can do more towards the objectives we are trying to achieve.

* (1130)

It may also be that as hospitals are facing shrinking budgets in Manitoba, they will feel better about responding to the challenges of the fiscal situation presented by funding shortfalls. They will feel better if they know the supports are there in the community.

We continue to work in various ways, notably through the secondary and primary care study that will be undertaken starting fairly soon—if it has not started already—to build a better partnership between the community and the hospital sectors. That has been a major challenge, I suggest, when hospitals, their boards and communities, basically since the beginning, have viewed the hospital as an isolated part of the health system, and in fact viewed almost as the only part of the health system in the past, to now asking everyone to view the hospital as a player in a continuum of services as opposed to the player. Now they are a player.

I give a lot of credit to hospital administrators and staff for their efforts thus far, but we cannot afford to

say, well, we have gone far enough with this. We have not gone far enough with this. We need to go further.

Ultimately, the arrangements will probably call for further efficiencies in the hospitals but also probably fewer beds in some places, because we are not going to require them. We are going to have a capacity in our hospitals that we can no longer justify, and we will have to deal with that. I think with labour adjustment and trying to arrange for an appropriate transition for workers in the hospital system to community systems that are being developed, that is a challenge that we have. We have begun to respond to that challenge through the institution of labour adjustment strategies in the health care sector.

Up to about a year ago the only labour adjustment strategy in the public sector was that within the provincial civil service itself. Health care workers were facing change, and they were not facing change with the assistance of a labour adjustment strategy. That was worked out between the hospitals, the government and the union movement. We have made considerable progress there.

That is how I was able to say a few days ago that last summer the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface spoke of the need to reduce the number of staff positions in their hospitals by 403. Well, because of labour adjustment what that worked out to was 36 layoffs. After further adjustments, there were two out of 403 layoffs. Those two layoffs are voluntary. That is the difference between the approach announced in Quebec, for example, or what we saw in Ontario and other places where there was just sort of lopping off arms and legs of the health system basically, and the people have to go with them and really no arrangements or no plans in effect.

I think that labour adjustment is not the be-all and the end-all and does not take away the need for change and does not take away the tension that might exist in a changing hospital environment. It is still better than it was by a long shot.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Chairperson, what I was hoping to be able to get from the minister is, no doubt the ministry would have some form of projections on what

the future demands are going to be for personal care homes, that being of course the number of beds in particular, strictly speaking. I am wondering if the minister can maybe just focus a response on those projections, or does the ministry have projections of this nature?

Mr. McCrae: The kinds of projections the honourable member is talking about really would come from an examination of census information and other information provided by Statistics Canada.

The reason for the length of my last answer was so that I could underscore the point that, even though we have significantly built the infrastructure for personal care in Manitoba and continue to do so, I want to underline that personal care is only one of the responses that needs to be made to an aging population.

In fact, the formula we use to decide on the number of personal care home beds which are needed in a particular neighbourhood is something that is under review too, because we now are asking ourselves, if we keep building like this, are we going to overbuild in the personal care sector? That is a very legitimate question.

A very legitimate question that we believe thus far we will need the capacity we are building and that is the reason we made those decisions. Certainly with the advent of all of the other services that I referred to, I just want to caution that we do not want to create any artificial or unnecessary pressure for the expansion of personal care capacity in Manitoba. That is for a very good reason, because we would have the same problem they had in Saskatchewan, for example, when it was suggested they overbuilt to the extent of 52 hospitals. The way they had to deal with that was to go around and close them all or change very drastically the nature of their operations in those buildings, so we have to be careful about bricks and mortar.

I do not want to unduly stress this, but I do want to say to the honourable member that I do not want to be the one today responsible for overbuilding, so some future government or Health minister will have to go around closing them and blaming me for it and my colleagues in this Legislature at this particular time.

* (1140)

I just wanted to say something specific about labour adjustment. The honourable members will recall considerable attention drawn to the situation at the Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts and the closure of personal care home beds there.

With the closure of the Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts personal care home the work of the employment adjustment committee plays a role. Officially, that committee has submitted a final report with respect to the Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts situation.

I can say the committee did an excellent job of meeting the needs of the employees there. All of the health care workers from the Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts who are on redeployment have made it clear that they have a high level of appreciation for the work that was done for the employees at the facility.

I understand the report is that all the employees there have been dealt with in a manner that is satisfactory to them, which is again—I think we spent a lot of time in that case discussing the whole issue of whether we ought to close personal care home beds there or whether we ought to have luxury condominiums or whether we ought to have some sort of housing program there.

One of the things that did not get mentioned quite so often was what happens to the employees in that situation, and I understand that through effective and dedicated people involved in labour adjustment we have been able to deal in a very appropriate way with everyone at the Kiwanis Courts.

The honourable member also asked about the role of the various community health centres in Manitoba. I have a list of service programs funded by Manitoba Health at all the community health centres in Winnipeg and all the community health centres in rural Manitoba. If they run any other programs, they must be funded in some other way, but these are the programs.

I will make this available to both honourable members for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) and Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux). If we could perhaps get the Clerk's

Office to make—oh, we have an extra copy, so I will make those available to my honourable colleagues.

Mr. Lamoureux: In wanting to find out what the ministry's projections are for personal care bed demands, there has been a refocusing of sorts that has been occurring. The minister made reference to that in his first response when I posed a question in terms of, at one time the Level 1 played a fairly significantly higher percentage inside in terms of bed occupancy.

That percentage has no doubt gone down considerably, and that can be a very positive thing in the sense that it could mean government is providing different services through home care services or we have found other means in which to allow individuals to remain in their homes or in different settings, which I would ultimately argue are in all likelihood a better atmosphere for that particular senior. I think that would be applaudable if that were the case, but I do believe that the department still needs to have some sort of a projection in terms of what the demands are going to be.

For example, you have the different levels of care that are provided, from four through to one, and we should have an idea in terms of what by the year 2000 of Level 4 we are going to be anticipating. Now, I am cognizant of what the minister is saying, you do not want to overbuild. Census Canada says we are going to have this many seniors and out of that, a certain percentage no doubt are going to require Level 1 care so that means we have to build an additional whatever number of personal care home beds.

Government could come up with some sort of a unique, different sort of a program that could facilitate a significant percentage of that particular projection, thereby not necessarily having the same level of demand for personal care home beds that we might be saying today. So I think there are a couple of things that have to be taken into consideration, first and foremost, the future role of personal care homes with respect to the different levels, as we see more and more Levels 1 and 2 becoming a lower percentage.

What is going to be the role of the personal care homes? What is going to be the demand of those levels

of care or projections of demand? Will the number of beds that are being built today be able to meet that demand?

I think, to that end, it would definitely be beneficial for us to have some sort of an indication, and I just say I appreciate the list that the minister provided. It goes through the different personal care home beds that are out there and the different levels of services.

One of the important things that it misses is that it does not really give us a percentage of Level 4, Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1. I think it is important from our perspective to be able to have an idea in terms of just how successful we are being at getting the percentage of Level 1 care brought down and Level 2 care, and the growing reliance, of course, on the Level 3 and Level 4.

For all intents and purposes, when we talk about the future of personal care homes, even though we have to take into consideration Level 1 and Level 2, I think a lot of the focus of discussions should be on Level 3 and Level 4 in ensuring that the resources that we are putting into personal care homes in the future are going to be meeting the demands of that Level 3 and Level 4.

When we are talking about meeting the demands, what we are talking about, of course, at least in part, is the level of staffing, the composition of that staffing and so forth. Again, maybe not this Health Estimates but hopefully during the next Estimates we will be able to enter into more of that discussion in terms of what is the future of personal care home spaces in the province. It would be beneficial to get the percentage as I have indicated of the different levels of care.

If the minister has those now, maybe we can even enter into a bit of a discussion on that. Failing that, the minister can provide us that—the sooner the better, obviously, and he has been somewhat prompt with providing us information, so I cannot criticize him on that, but the minister might want to add comments to what I have just said.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, very simply, the projections our government uses are basically reflected in our five-year capital program. The House knows

where we are going pursuant to that program, and it is something that you will see the adjustments, whatever adjustments happen on an annual basis, but we have put out a five-year plan.

The information I gave to the honourable member does set out the ones that are simply Levels 1 and 2. The others offer Levels 1 to 4 service. We do have the information he is looking for and it is a matter of getting it compiled because it is fairly detailed information for the honourable member.

If it is okay with him, we will make that information available to him subsequently. I think we are really on the same page on this issue in that there is a very real uptake of the new programs that have been put in place in the last few years, so that where the aging population factor used to be very, very significant, it is becoming less and less significant because people are going to be finding ways to live in their homes and live independently for much longer. I guess it depends how long-term you want to look at things, because when I think of the potential for our Child Health Strategy, 50, 60, 70 years down the road, the potential is very significant indeed.

Now, I do not think the honourable member is asking us to govern for 70 years down the road, but we are making decisions that are much smarter today than decisions that have been made in the past and setting directions that make a lot more sense than they used to. That is good planning. That is the right thing to do, and I do not know which came first, the realization that we needed to do it or the financial imperative that forces us to do it.

I always say that health professionals have been telling us for some time, including Health department officials, that this was the way we ought to be going. I guess it is collectively the shortcoming of society in general, as reflected by their elected officials, that we did not start on this approach right from the beginning of government involvement in the medicare system or the health care system some 30, 40 years ago. However, that is water under the bridge. It is certainly not too late for us to change our focus.

* (1150)

I made quick reference to the fact that the ratio of PCH beds per 1,000 population over the age of 70 is something that ought to be reviewed, because it does not work the same any more. That population is healthier today than it used to be, and so we are looking at that formula.

In addition, earlier this year, or I guess last year, late last year, later last year, the Seniors Directorate headed up a review of personal care and also residential care programs in Manitoba. That report is done. It will be public in very short order. We are very near the point where we will be releasing that report. It also helps us to deal with issues related to the personal care system in the province, so that will also give us some guidance.

In terms of a vision for personal care, there is continuous move on the part of government and especially on the part of communities to make personal care homes more and more, as opposed to institutions. We do not call them hospitals. We do not call the people patients, and we do not want to treat them like patients. We want to treat them like this is their home, and so when you visit them, you see homelike touches throughout the province.

I think that is good. Even some fairly minor changes make one very large difference to a resident. If a resident can have personal effects, for example, in their room, it is not then like a hospital room. It is like a home. If visiting arrangements are made flexible for family and friends, that helps.

I have been in personal care homes where they have pets, and that is not even such a new thing. I do not know how staff always like that sort of thing, depending on the ability of the residents to look after the pets. There may even be some of the staff encourage that sort of thing or maybe some of the pets actually belong to the staff. I do not know.

I have been in personal care homes where they put new programming in to deal with cognitively impaired residents. They set up a special wing which allows for cognitively impaired people to take part in certain activities like the meal preparation activities and other recreational pursuits. It is better. It is getting better all the time too in terms of making these centres homelike.

It is very nice to get to know the boards of the personal care system, because they really are only there to try to provide a happy and comfortable atmosphere for the people, most of them still senior citizens in personal care. After all, the board people reflect the wishes of those peoples' families and the general community.

So, we are on the right track. We have all kinds of volunteer activities going on, associated with many, many personal care centres in the province. I have also been to the proprietary personal care centres. I used to visit one on a weekly basis, and the proprietary sector is also attempting to respond to the demands or the wishes of the community in order to make personal care residency a positive experience for everybody. So there, again, we have a partnership going with the government and with the private sector in that area as well which is working and has worked well for a long time. As long as there is a clear understanding everywhere that standards and appropriate standards for care are observed and requirements are met then people can be very well served by this system.

Inspections have to be part of all of this to ensure that all personal care operations, be they proprietary or nonproprietary, are meeting the requirements as set province-wide by the Department of Health. Those things are done for very good reasons, and for the most part, I think we have good co-operation with both sectors in the personal care system.

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Chairperson, I want to, at the onset, thank the minister for providing us with information and details that we had asked for regarding personal care home beds, hospital beds and the like, and I just want to say that I appreciate this Estimates process has been a very useful exercise, I think.

I think that we have had a very good dialogue and discussion of a lot of issues and a very, very refreshing exchange of information for the Estimates process, and I want to commend the minister in that regard and the staff for that. That is not to say that I will not disagree, sometimes quite strongly, with a lot of the initiatives and directions, but I do want to put on the record the fact that this has been a very useful exercise, not just

for us here in the Chamber but, I think, for probably the hundreds of thousands that will be reading Hansard, and Manitobans in general.

The only unfortunate aspect of the Estimates process is that we do have to allow time for other departments, and we will unfortunately be proceeding quite rapidly to—I know the minister would rather remain here for the next couple weeks, but despite his protestations, there are other departments that require scrutiny, and we will be moving quite rapidly through. Also, of note on record for the hundreds of thousands who will be reading this Hansard debate, there are a lot of questions that we will not have an opportunity to ask and the minister will not have an opportunity to answer. It is not that they are not important. It is just that we have stressed certain areas, and now we are proceeding rather quickly through other areas to allow other members of the Legislature to have an opportunity to debate issues in this regard.

The member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) raised some interesting points about the personal care home. The minister alluded to the fact—I was under the impression that a good deal of the information that the member was seeking with respect to the future of personal care homes, the level of care, the maintenance of and some of the staffing considerations as well as funding guidelines will be addressed by the committee of the Seniors Secretariat that is going to be reporting, and I am under the impression that that is still the case, is it not? Some of these fundamental issues will be addressed in this committee; is that not the case?

Mr. McCrae: Oh, yes, that is the case. The committee has reported. There is interest in having that report released, and it is my expectation that within not very many days that report will be made known. It does deal with issues like standards and safety and levels, and it speaks significantly about staff education, education for health care providers. I think the report will be deemed ultimately to have been very useful for us to have engaged in that exercise.

* (1200)

I have mixed feelings about the Estimates process. I am not going to object strenuously that unfortunately

these Estimates do, at some point, have to come to an end. I realize that. I accept that with as much serenity as I can muster. The honourable member has conducted himself with grace, I suggest, throughout these Estimates. Throughout the course, he has attempted to help us with the scheduling of the various lines so that staff did not need unnecessarily to be hanging around waiting in hallways or in the gallery. It is very warm in the gallery, I know, these days, and I have seen Estimates times when the galleries have been much more populated than they have throughout these.

We do have a significant number of people who advise me as we get through the Estimates, and the honourable member's understanding of that situation and co-operation with us has been appreciated, not only by myself but by the staff of the department.

We are speaking as if these Estimates are about to end, and I almost wondered if I had needed to cancel my arrangements that I had already cancelled for today, but I suspect we have got a little while to go yet.

The honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) on June 8 asked basically for an inventory of child health activities involving the Department of Health, and I have a six-page document setting out the various areas of activity.

I want the honourable member to know that this was prepared as a result of his question. They are provided or funded indirectly by Manitoba Health Services, but we do not want to put this forward as being an all-inclusive list. We may have missed something, because it was put together fairly quickly, but I am pleased that this much of an inventory has been prepared and I will make this available for the honourable member.

I also, Mr. Chairperson, have some additional information respecting child and adolescent psychiatric services in Manitoba, which I will also make available for the honourable member.

The honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) was asking questions about the various clinics and doctors in Manitoba. The department gave some

thought to his request and felt that probably anything we could put together would not be better than the 1994-95 directory put out by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. This is a list of the medical practitioners currently licensed to practise in the province.

An Honourable Member: Are they arranged by clinic, by any chance?

Mr. McCrae: Alphabetically. They are listed geographically. They are listed by specialty. So I think this might be helpful for the honourable member for Inkster.

As I was saying, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to commend you, Sir, as well. I do not do this for any motives that are not perfectly respectable. Just in case the heat of the debate that may follow this brief exchange makes me forget, I would not want yourself or the staff of the Legislature who have been working throughout these Estimates to think that we do not appreciate very much the efforts that you make to make this process as productive as we can make it.

Of course, while I do not get you to rule in my favour every time, which is a matter of a lot of regret for me, I do say that the evenhanded approach that you take in this process is appreciated by all honourable members.

There have been one or two of my colleagues who have really shown an interest in these Estimates in a way that is quite commendable. One is tempted, on a bad day, to say, for example, to the member for Rossmere (Mr. Toews), who is our Minister of Labour, that he may want this position.

I have moments like that, and sometimes I would not mind if he would just sit in my chair and take over for me, knowing that his capability is certainly there. I have noticed, paying particular attention in these discussions has been the member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Tweed). I have noticed him.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Enns), the member for Morris (Mr. Pitura) have taken a great deal of interest in these Estimates, and the honourable Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Derkach) has spent many,

many hours here, listening very intently to the discussions about health care issues.

I have noticed also the honourable member for Crescentwood (Mr. Sale) has taken some passing interest in the health issues, and I have enjoyed the discussions that we had relating to, basically, the funding of health care and also some discussions related to remunerations for positions. The input of these honourable members has been consistently helpful and edifying for myself.

The honourable member for River Heights (Mr. Radcliffe) has played a very important role in this Chamber as we have worked together to complete our review of the Estimates. I do not know how many hours we have spent. I expect that we will, before we are done, have completed more than 50 hours of work on the Estimates of the Department of Health.

(Mr. Mike Radcliffe, Acting Chairperson, in the Chair)

It may be that some people will benefit more than others from that particular fact, but I think the people of Manitoba are the ultimate beneficiaries of a careful examination of the way that we deliver health services. Of course, people are interested in the money we spend. We are pleased that in Manitoba successive governments have placed a very, very high priority on the health of the population and the health of individuals through our health care system.

More and more we differentiate between the health system and the health care system. There is good reason for that, and it goes back to some of the things I was saying a little earlier about the new way that we have of thinking about health. It is important that we do that, not only so that we get good results but also so that we can help have a sustainable health system for many years to come.

Mr. Chomiak: I tend to agree with almost everything the minister said. I am sure, if I examine in Hansard, I could find something—in any event, I will proceed. We left off yesterday talking about the VON contract. The minister indicated it was approximately \$8,000,000. I am assuming it is in the line under Supplies & Services.

Could I just get an exact figure and an update as to the status in terms of how long the contract is for?

* (1210)

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, under the line Supplies and Services, VON nursing and Home Health was \$8 million, and also VON provides co-ordination and referral and clerical services and helps dispense medical supplies for an additional \$1.8.

We also have arrangements with Ten Ten Sinclair and cluster housing in FOKUS for a total of \$1.4 million this year.

The honourable member and I had the pleasure—was it last week, two weeks ago already?—to be at Ten Ten Sinclair for their annual meeting which happened to be their 25th anniversary, and I got to say a few words there. So did the Minister responsible for Seniors get to take a little part, and we got to have a hamburger afterwards at the barbecue and a nice time was had by everybody there.

We got a chance to see first-hand the sense of independence that the people there are looking forward to and are getting now through the programming of Ten Ten Sinclair. Here is an opportunity for me to say that 25 years ago there were people who had some foresight in regard to people living with disabilities and the Ten Ten Sinclair board and staff and, of course, residents should be commended and congratulated.

Some of us knew Jim Donald fairly well. Jim Donald was a legal practitioner, a disabled lawyer here in Winnipeg for a number of years, worked for civil legal services with the province. He has passed away now, recently, but he also went on to become the chairman of the Manitoba Municipal Board and served with distinction for five or six, seven years maybe in that capacity. Well, he was the first resident at Ten Ten Sinclair and certainly an excellent example of how someone living with a disability can make a very, very significant contribution to their fellow citizens but also do so while living fairly independently, and with a quality to their lives that they would not have were it not for programs like Ten Ten Sinclair.

Ten Ten Sinclair attempts to prepare people for even more independent living in other settings, and there are a number of apartment buildings around the city that are specially set up to receive Ten Ten Sinclair people when it is felt that it is appropriate for them to live even more independently. I have known a number of those people as well, having lived in one of those buildings at one time. It is really nice to see the quality that can be brought to people's lives. There was a time when I think a disability meant that you were really isolated from a lot of things that go on in our society, and we are certainly trying to make a difference in that area.

This Supplies & Services line also includes money for district health centres, community therapy services, self-managed care, as we discussed, Luther Home and miscellaneous expenditures, all together totalling \$15.8 million.

On June 8, the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) asked about some background information on a question that arose in the report on the health of Manitoba's children. I have some further information with respect to one of the recommendations. The recommendation is that specific research be undertaken with lottery funds to assess the impact of VLTs on children in rural and northern areas and appropriate remediation initiated. That is the recommendation. The response that the department has made is the following.

The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba recently hired three youth prevention education consultants for its problem-gambling program. These staff will be located in Winnipeg, Brandon, Parkland and Thompson-Norman. The prevention education consultants will work in the junior and senior high schools. The Manitoba Lottery and Gambling Policy Working Group has as one of its mandates to review the social and economic impact of gambling on Manitobans. The group's report is due later on this year and will contain recommendations.

Members of the subcommittee are as follows. On the Social Impact Committee, Monsignor Boychuk is the chair. Ms. Joan Lloyd, Mr. Herb Thompson and Inspector Brad Holman are on that committee.

On the Economic Impact Committee are Ms. Serena Krayveld, who is the chair; Audry Coulson; Lorraine Palet; and Dr. Eric Sigurdson.

Mr. Chomiak: I know I asked a series of questions. I asked about the VON contract. Would it be possible to get a copy of the VON contract?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, the VON contract expired at the end of March, but we have extended it for six months. I am not certain on whether I ought to be making the contract itself available. I will take that under advisement. What I will do is make sure the honourable member has a summary of what the contract does.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Chairperson, I thank the minister for that. I just wanted the highlights of the contract, and I thank the minister for advising me about the terms.

The Home Oxygen Concentrator Program, last year, Estimates indicated 660 people were enrolled in that program. I have two questions. How many people enrolled in that program this year, and, secondly, how was the program changed in the last two or three years if in fact it has?

Mr. McCrae: In the Oxygen Concentrator Program, in 1994-95, there were 668 cases served. The honourable member should know that we are embarked on a review of respiratory issues so that we can perhaps improve the operation of this program in the future. We want to co-ordinate all the respiratory services so that we might, again, be more efficient in our program delivery.

* (1220)

Mr. Chomiak: So the Home Care Branch or the Community Health Branch is internally reviewing all of the respiratory programs and will be making some recommendations for co-ordination or change of same.

Mr. McCrae: Yes.

Mr. Chomiak: Does the minister have time lines on the seven-step projects?

Mr. McCrae: We have been so open with the honourable member and provided so much information that it may be that he has not had the opportunity to review all information. We provided that information to him last week.

Mr. Chomiak: I agree, the minister did provide me with information on all of those programs and breakdown, but, unless I am mistaken, I do not think it had time lines in terms of when the project is reporting.

Mr. McCrae: I too am prepared to be corrected if I am mistaken, and if our review of the documents we provided does not deal with time lines then that is further information we can obtain for the honourable member.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Chairperson, can the minister outline what changes have taken place in home care in the last year with respect to offering 24-hour service on weekends, et cetera, regarding the Home Care program in general and admission to the program?

Mr. McCrae: Rather than keep this, we have this information with respect to the short-term emergency programs. All of the programs are 18-month programs except for the program at Victoria General Hospital which is a three-year program.

The Brandon General Hospital Short Term Emergency Program began January, 1995.

The Concordia Length of Stay Reduction project at the Concordia Hospital began in June of '94.

At the Grace General Hospital the care of psychiatric emergencies project began January, '95.

At Health Sciences Centre the prevention to admission to hospital project began January 1995. At Misericordia General Hospital, maximizing good health for lungs began January '95. At Seven Oaks General Hospital, their Short Term Emergency Project began January 1995. At St. Boniface General Hospital, heart failure management group project began January 1995, and at Victoria, the three-year program, South Winnipeg Integrated Geriatric Program began January 1995.

In response to the need for immediate access to home care services, Winnipeg Region has expanded their capacity to respond to referrals from the hospital emergency rooms seven days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. effective September 6, 1994.

The objectives of this expansion are as follows: to facilitate timely discharge to the community and to prevent unnecessary admission by responding quickly to essential client needs. That sounds much like the Short Term Emergency Program at Brandon, I know, from what I have read in the papers about it. Winnipeg Region hired and trained staff dedicated to respond to referrals for essential services like nursing care, personal care and support for the caregiver type services.

The existing systems for on-call assessment and after-hours emergencies were used to ensure adequate assessment and service delivery. Implementation of the expanded service is occurring in two phases.

The first phase commenced September 6, 1994, and provides expanded home care access to the emergency departments of Winnipeg hospitals. As of November 30, 53 people received home care services to prevent admission to hospital. Project staff were used to provide service in 33 situations for 610 hours and the saving of 210 hospital days. That is very significant right there.

Clients in hospitals have expressed satisfaction with the service. Further expansion is planned to expand access and provide quick interim service response for hospital discharges, for essential home care services in the community and replacement service when direct service workers are ill or on vacation.

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

Mr. Chairperson: The honourable minister, to complete his answer.

Mr. McCrae: As I was saying, the concept of a more appropriate level and range of services in home care is indicated in this day and age. There was a time when people did not have high expectations for the Home Care program because, in those days, you could always

be in a hospital or there was a different view about who was responsible for what.

Today, however, we are trying to run hospitals more efficiently. So we are placing more responsibility in front of the consumer or the patient, and we need also to provide some support. So, while I said a day or two ago that in home care nothing major has happened in terms of policy direction changes since the fall of 1993, a number of items are happening in order to improve what we already do. That does not mean that we are deinsuring or adding significant services, but we are trying to co-ordinate better and make it work the way that legitimate expectations would justify.

Also, the fact that change is going on in the hospital sector, people are entitled to expect, I suggest, some better co-ordination than we have seen in the past. I think that, little by little, we will see a vastly improved home care system in Manitoba delivered in different ways, but the basic range of services has not changed.

Mr. Chomiak: To that end, as I understand it, there is some shifting going on at Continuing Care with respect to resource co-ordinators moving out of central and moving into regions, et cetera.

Could the minister just briefly outline for me, or vice versa—there is some shifting of people, I am told. Is there a change in a shift of people around Continuing Care at this point?

Mr. McCrae: In keeping with the ongoing quality, trying to keep quality up, trying to get the best we can from the staff that we have, like in any organization, there would be changes from time to time in personnel. For example, one person is moving to program development to facilitate policy development in relation to association development. Another person is moving to long-term care to develop community living options. It is felt that the people referred to are able to do that sort of work, and it can have the effect of making improvements in various parts of the organization. Another one is moving to acute care to participate in planning to relieve pressure on acute care beds. These are more and more program area requirements that we have that we need to put more attention to or different attention to.

We are trying to place people in areas where we can see that they can demonstrate their strengths. Another one has moved to another region to provide analytical support and nursing expertise on issues related to the assessment process, and so on. That is the types of changes.

I think the honourable member may have heard some reports—I think it involves about five people altogether.

* (1300)

Mr. Chomiak: I wonder if it is possible to get a structural flow chart that is presently in operation at Continuing Care.

Every time I get briefed on it, I get lost, frankly, and I would appreciate it if I could have some flow chart or a breakdown that would outline it for me.

Mr. McCrae: I admit that something like that would be helpful for me too, and we are going to prepare something for the honourable member.

We are dealing with a program that has a staff complement of one kind or another around 4,000. So it is a pretty big undertaking, and I do not blame the honourable member for seeking further understanding of how the processes all work.

Mr. Chairperson: Item 3. Community and Mental Health Services (c) Home Care (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,411,100—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$4,561,800—pass; (3) Home Care Assistance \$69,207,700—pass; (4) External Agencies - Home Care \$1,462,900—pass; (5) External Agencies - Services for Seniors \$3,048,500—pass; (6) Less: Recoverable from other appropriations (\$609,600).

3.(d) Winnipeg Operations (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$13,645,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$2,054,500—pass.

3.(e) Rural and Norther Operations (1) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$23,256,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$4,541,900—pass.

We will now move down to (m).

3.(m) Public Health (1) Public Health and Epidemiology (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,142,500.

Mr. Chomiak: Would it at all be possible to get a breakdown of the number of public health nurses, both urban and rural, that exist, that we have presently.

Mr. McCrae: Yes, we will make that available for the honourable member. There is certainly a greater recognition, I suggest, than ever of the role of the public health nurse in our communities and the important work they do. The question raises all kinds of possibilities for discussion about the value of health promotion activities, disease prevention activities of public health nurses in Manitoba. We appreciate their skills. Those skills, in terms of those issues, but also primary health issues, will be put more and more to the test, or put to work, I should say, in the years ahead. So we will be making that information available to the honourable member.

Mr. Chomiak: Can the minister outline any new programs respecting public health nurses that have been implemented, particularly in suburban Winnipeg in the last year?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, I cannot report to the honourable member a list of new programs, but it is very significant what is happening in terms of focus and delivery and the way they run the programs. The Child Health Strategy is really going to, again, challenge the way we do things today, and public health nurses are going to be very key in our implementation of many, many of the recommendations of the Child Health Strategy.

Mr. Chomiak: To what extent will we look to schools in terms of delivering the services of the public health nurse in the short term?

* (1310)

Mr. McCrae: We expect, Mr. Chairman, that, again, the focus of the work of public health nurses that we have now will change to the extent that we want to see a greater effectiveness in the school system as a result of the efforts of public health nurses. We are going to

be targeting for results. We are going to be targeting populations. We are going to be targeting problems, disease issues, public health lifestyle issues, home and community development issues through the work of public health nurses who work in the schools.

Mr. Chomiak: One of the areas that has been brought to my attention on numerous occasions is enforcement of the provisions of Bill 16 respecting smoking and the application to young people. Are there any new initiatives that have been considered, particularly in the role of enforcement? I am not talking about the enforcement of smuggling, I am talking about the actual enforcement of the laws under Bill 16 concerning shopping malls, public areas, et cetera.

Mr. McCrae: The efforts that have been made recently by federal and provincial governments have been, unfortunately, stepped up and then stepped down because of the recent budget. It all seems so foolish to some of us who were involved around the time that the smugglers began setting health policy in Canada. The smugglers from down East forced governments, or governments down East succumbed to the smugglers, drastically reduced taxes on tobacco products which, and as a sop to those who were against that particular approach, said they would spend millions of dollars on public education programs and one thing and another. Then the next budget came along this February and some of those things were cut again.

However, on the health issue, regardless of the folly of the federal policy, and of the policies of provincial governments down East, there is still a job to be done and everybody is trying to work at various ways of dealing with the problems. Bill 16, about which the honourable member asks, is law like other law we have on the books. It is complaint-based law. It is a question of people being mindful of the rights of other people. The bill is designed to do that. In these hard cases, of course, someone can make a complaint and actions can be taken.

In October of '94 this act was proclaimed. It allows for prosecution of people who sell tobacco products to minors. It also protects the public from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke by restricting smoking in public places. A general information campaign about

these changes was conducted in January and February of this year. This included notification of all restaurant owners in Manitoba about the legislative changes, public health professionals are also working with the communities to create awareness of the health hazards of environmental tobacco smoke.

Health Canada has four inspectors in Manitoba who specifically respond to complaints about the sale of tobacco to minors. All tobacco retailers in Manitoba have been informed about the penalties for selling to minors.

Manitoba Health has also been working with Manitoba Finance on the smuggling issue. We take a different position from the government of Canada. We say smuggling is wrong and it is illegal and we will do something about it. They say, well, we will just let you guys set the policy for health in Canada, which is really a ridiculous thing to do. Pardon me for being repetitive, but maybe it helps make the point. To date smuggling of tobacco products into Manitoba is being controlled through a vigilant surveillance system.

Finally, Manitoba Health has been co-ordinating provincial initiatives funded by Health Canada under the tobacco demand reduction strategy. This amounts to about \$1 million in grants to communities over the next three years.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Chairperson, last budgetary Estimates we had a fairly lengthy discussion on the Epidemiology section of the budget. I just wonder if the minister might update me in terms of the developments, just a quick update in terms of the developments on this particular branch, because there are some significant matters, obviously, that concern all the initiatives undertaken by Health through this.

Mr. McCrae: Our Epidemiology Unit is headed by Dr. Jamie Blanchard who reports to Dr. Greg Hammond. There are three staff people in the unit, and two more are in the process of being added. The work of the unit is happening, and we will see more work as the new staff are in place.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Chairperson, let me ask a general question in this regard. Would the unit be—we know

that asthma, for example, is for some reason very high in proportion in terms of that. Would the unit be tracking the asthma results in order to ascertain some rationale or some reason behind this to allow for some kind of more effective program? Would it be looking at that kind of a specific issue?

Mr. McCrae: The unit will focus on a number of chronic problem disease issues in Manitoba. Of course, asthma is an extremely, unfortunately, important one in our province. It will certainly will be the subject of attention by this unit.

Mr. Chomiak: Would something like MS also be charted and looked at by this particular branch?

Mr. McCrae: Multiple sclerosis is a problem in northern latitude countries, but, for some reason, it is especially a problem in western Canada. This is a matter of interest, of course, that concerns the epidemiology unit and would perform part of its work as well.

Mr. Chomiak: Finally, in this area, is there any kind of a statistical bulletin or data that is published on a regular basis by this branch that I, as a layperson, could have access to?

* (1320)

Mr. McCrae: The Chief Medical Officer does plan to put out a periodic or regular so-called report or report card, and the work of the epidemiology unit will be included in that report. That would be public.

Mr. Chomiak: Under this appropriation, 3.(m)(2) Laboratory and Imaging Services is calculated at \$23,419,000 in terms of total expenditure. Will the provisions in the MMA agreement, whereby the MMA has determined that there will be a cost reduction in short-list laboratories and the like, will that be reflected in this particular budgetary appropriation, or will we see it exclusively out of some other column in terms of the appropriations?

Mr. McCrae: The appropriation the honourable member would be referring to would be the one for

medical services, the one that deals with the fee-for-service system.

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Chairperson, with respect to Emergency Health and Ambulance Services, the minister has received a report, and I am wondering what the plan is in terms of initiatives or the recommendations concerning that particular report—[interjection] Not the Lerner one, but the subsequent one on stretcher service.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chair, this question also may have some relation to the question asked by the honourable member in a recent Question Period about ambulance services provided under the 911 system and how we designate and license and the minister's office issues certificates for ambulance service.

Then the other service that is becoming I think a little more available to Manitobans is a less-specialized service in the sense that it is called a stretcher service, which does not have the full range of ambulance capabilities and services attached to it.

I think maybe part of the concern the honourable member and others might have is that there might be some public sense that somehow the stretcher service is a full-line ambulance service complete with totally trained and regulated personnel.

There has been recent work and report on the matter, which we have found. Here we are; I did not think we had this. Here it is. The Emergency Services Branch was asked to conduct some meetings on the matter, and hearings took place March 1 and 2, and March 8 and 9 of last year. A report making recommendations on whether these services should be regulated or not, by whom and to what standards is something that I have now received.

Dr. Lerner is reviewing this issue for me, especially as the issue pertains to interfacility patient transfers. We expect senior levels of the department to look at Dr. Lerner's observations very soon. A strategy for implementation is being prepared. As part of that, there will no doubt be addressed the issue of licensing and what level of licensing, if any, is required, but

certainly the issue of interfacility patient transfers would be of direct interest to our department.

Of interest to others is the issue of the type raised by the honourable member: Is the public going to be clear as to what services entail what levels of expertise and so on, and whether there ought to be licensing, whether it ought to be done by the Motor Transport Board or by the Health department? So those are all the questions. I expect that over the ensuing month or two, by fall we should be able to have answers to those questions.

Meantime, we have an immediate or more immediate concern with respect to interfacility transfers that we as a department feel is probably the most urgent part of those concerns. We do not want to discourage people from wanting to get into a business enterprise which can provide services to people that falls short of a full ambulance service. I do not think anybody really wants to do that. What is being looked at, though, is to make sure that there is a level of safety we can ensure that is there and, of course, that services that are advertised deliver what they advertise. That is certainly a concern.

The honourable member raised it, and that is another aspect of it that I think was highlighted in the question, perhaps legitimately so. I looked at the yellow pages. I personally did not feel any confusion when I looked at that, especially when there is a price tag on one and none on the other. That did not confuse me. If it says \$65, then I know I am going to have to pay for it or, if not, Blue Cross, if I have coverage or some other insurer, but not Manitoba Health.

911 service is there on an emergency basis and, again, ambulance service is not something that is insured under the Canada health plan except under certain very narrow conditions. We always try—I get the odd letter from people who just think that, you know, you can pick up the phone and phone an ambulance as if it was a taxicab and get a free ride. It has never been that way and it is not that way today.

I want people to know what the health plan does insure so that there are not expectations for coverage for things that are not covered. It is important that that happens, especially in a time when we are hard-pressed

to keep the health system going at the levels that we should as a universal, accessible, portable, comprehensive system. We have a responsibility to do all those things.

I remember years ago, as a young fellow, I did not know very much about anything then, but a family member was involved in a very serious car crash and we were not terribly pleased a few weeks later to get this huge, for us, ambulance bill. My parents were not very surprised but I was. I just thought everything came to you when you are a Canadian. It is not quite like that.

* (1330)

Similarly, my brother's stay at the hospital, this was in 1966, there was insurance for some things and not for other things. My brother was very badly hurt and required 24-hour nursing care in the hospital. That was not something that was covered by the medicare program and, as it turned out, a good portion of it was under our car insurance policy, so we were looked after that way. But, all of a sudden, in a family like ours, to be faced with not knowing for sure, in the light of a catastrophic situation, and I am talking very, very serious injuries, coma for 10 days and hospital stay for eight weeks and all of that, causes you to look very seriously at just what is covered and what is not covered.

All Manitobans should be mindful of what their national health system provides, as paid for through the tax system and, also, understand what is not covered so they can make their own arrangements for supplementary coverage for those services that are not covered. In any event, I would think by fall we should be in a pretty good position to deal with the issues related to the stretcher service matter.

Mr. Chairperson: Item 3.(m) Public Health (1) Public Health and Epidemiology (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$2,142,500—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$7,668,200—pass; (c) External Agencies \$89,900—pass.

(2) Laboratory and Imaging Services (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$13,672,300—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$9,746,900—pass.

(3) Emergency Health and Ambulance Services (a) Salaries and Employee Benefits \$1,013,400-pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$3,101,500-pass.

Resolution 21.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$214,604,700 for Health, Community and Mental Health Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1996.

Item 4. Health Services Insurance Fund (a) Manitoba Health Board \$108,600-pass; (b) Healthy Communities Development \$10,000,000.

Mr. Chomiak: We actually waited around for Mr. DeCock to do this some time ago, and, of course, the one time Mr. DeCock is not here we actually achieve this appropriation. It crossed my mind as I saw him walk out just a little while ago. I just wonder if we might have a list of projects under Healthy Communities Development, if that could be provided for us.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, just while we are looking at that question, I may have started answering this one and stopped because ten o'clock arrived or some such thing.

I will just quickly put on the record a response to another question put by the honourable member for Kildonan with respect to an update on the Shared Services Corporation.

In June of 1994, the government approved in principle the development of the Urban Shared Services Corporation. Preliminary studies have shown there are significant annual savings possible due to improving efficiency, reducing duplication and increasing buying power.

The board of the USSC, that is the Urban Shared Services Corporation, which is made up of the nine chief executive officers of nine urban hospitals is finalizing a consolidated business plan for the USSC itself. The board will be making recommendations to government on this plan this summer.

The USSC has already initiated some shared contracting and purchasing. Savings of \$672,000 were

realized in 1994-95, primarily through product standardization across all urban hospitals. A final report on contracting and purchasing will be forwarded to government this summer with recommendations after review by the board.

The honourable member asked also about the projects the Healthy Communities Development office is working on. There have been some that have been approved and some on which work is going ahead.

Approved projects, the honourable member is aware of, are the home care appeal panel and the advisory committee, the Provincial Support Services to Seniors program, the mobile work force respecting the Winnipeg region, breast cancer screening, Eastman and Interlake mental health reform, pilot project respecting senior health care, the regulated midwifery project, the psychogeriatric project in mental health, and of course the secondary and primary care review that we have discussed, and the issue of children with technical needs.

In being considered right now are the employee counselling program, an extension for labour adjustment and some new projects that are being worked on are issues relating to aboriginal health and wellness, the Manitoba prostate issue that we have discussed. We have also discussed aboriginal health and wellness and the ongoing job, big job, of regional association development.

Those are the projects. The last one that I mentioned, I know occupies a lot of the time of the office, because we are dealing with so many issues and so many partners in this rural regionalization process.

Of course, the question is asked about the Winnipeg region, as well. That is where the primary and secondary review, which is getting going now, will provide us with significant input.

Mr. Chomiak: Does the minister have numbers to attach to those projects in terms of appropriated numbers for those projects?

Mr. McCrae: Not per se. As the work continues, it is difficult to attach numbers to them, but as numbers are

available, we will probably be able to report more succinctly on that subsequent occasion.

Mr. Chairperson: Item 3. Health Services Insurance Fund (b) Health Communities Development \$10,000,000—pass; (c) Hospital and Community Services \$854,442,200.

* (1340)

Mr. Gord Mackintosh (St. Johns): I just wanted to follow up with the minister on questions I asked, I believe, last Monday on the lack of insurance for telecommunication devices for people who are without speech. I understand that the minister may have provided some information to this committee in response to the questions I posed. I am wondering if the minister can advise me if that is the case and, if so, when the information was provided.

Mr. McCrae: I put a response on the record on the 6th of June. If the honourable member will look in Hansard you will find that. If he wants we can keep looking to see if we can retrieve it and I can do it again—it was not a long, long answer or anything. It was on the 6th of June.

Mr. Mackintosh: I thank the minister for that. There are tomes of transcripts from the Health Estimates so I appreciate that direction.

A second area, a question that regards the in vitro fertilization program that existed in Manitoba, I wanted to ask the minister a series of questions as to what the position of the minister and the department is regarding the provision of insurance for those kinds of services.

It was our view when the in vitro fertilization program was deinsured, I believe in the late '80s, that this was a sad loss for Manitobans, that this was a move in the wrong direction and that important options had been taken away from Manitobans regarding conception.

I am wondering if the minister is aware of any studies that have been done by his department or by other agencies in Manitoba regarding the reinsurance of in vitro fertilization procedures.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member raises a question of something that was deinsured several years ago. We have not done any work with a view to reinsuring.

We do provide through the fertility clinic various diagnostic services, but when it comes to actual procedures we do not cover those.

Mr. Mackintosh: Does the government have any plans to reinsure fertilization programs?

Mr. McCrae: Not at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Mackintosh: With regard to the fertilization clinic, has the minister had any studies conducted, or is the minister aware of any studies conducted of the effectiveness and the potential of that clinic? Second of all, is the government involved in any way in supporting the expertise at that clinic and the services that are available to Manitobans?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Chairman, our department maintains frequent contact with the fertility clinic people. If there are any recent works that we could find out for the honourable member from the fertility clinic and report to the honourable member—we ourselves have not been involved in them, but we will find out if the fertility clinic has any recent reports that they would like to share with us, and if they do, we will share them with the honourable member.

* (1350)

Mr. Mackintosh: I just want to correct the record. I think I called it the fertilization clinic. I meant the fertility clinic.

Perhaps the minister would put on the record the government's rationale for refusing to insure these services and to ensure that there is a centre of excellence in this province for fertility. I want to impress on the minister how critical this matter is for many Manitobans. Our family did suffer a miscarriage, but we went on to have two more children. I can say the experience of having a miscarriage was an extremely difficult one for us and particularly for Margie.

Then during the last campaign, I came across a constituent who came to me with her own experiences, and it was at that time I realized, first of all, how fortunate we were but as well how challenging, and I think that is too mild of a word, infertility is for those who have to suffer that.

I think for people in those positions to be faced with a government that rejects this challenge as a health issue, rejects infertility as a legitimate health concern, is doubly difficult for those individuals. It is very difficult for them, not just because they are unable to enjoy what I think many think is a right, and that is having a family, but it is very damaging to the esteem of individuals and to their sense of belonging both in the family sense and the community sense. And I would urge this government and this minister to look at reinsuring fertility programs and to provide options for conception in this province.

Mr. McCrae: I understand, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this matter was debated at length at the time that the matter was deinsured. It was the subject of urging, I think, by honourable members opposite, and a full debate was had.

I do know, however, of the kind of feeling that the honourable member is attempting to project in his comments here today. I do not know personally how the honourable member's family might have been affected, but I suggest that what he says is said from the benefit or otherwise of experience in this matter.

My family has not been immune from these sorts of difficulties too, and I know what the honourable member is saying. I feel for anybody in that sort of situation, and I also see it as unfortunate that in those circumstances they might also be faced with the costs as well. I accept all that, but I also refer back to the discussion that would have been had at the time of the deinsurance, and without having recently reviewed all those discussions, we might both have another look back at that.

It is a case, I think, that health systems—and I do not have at my fingertips what coverage is offered in other jurisdictions and so on. It might be useful for me to know that, but at a time when we are trying desperately

to cope with the kinds of funding cutbacks that we are seeing from the senior level of government—and we have discussed that at length, too. I have guarded criticism for them; it is not unqualified criticism because I know the problems that any federal government is going to have at this time.

Canadians are fed up with governments who just want to spend money for every thing that is ever asked for, and the federal governments over the years really did that. The one that I supported did not address the matter to the extent it should have, and maybe it has paid quite a price for that, too. In any event, perhaps the honourable member and I will have an opportunity in future to discuss this again.

Mr. Chairperson: Item 4. Health Services Insurance Fund (c) Hospital and Community Services, Hospitals \$854,442,200—pass; Community Health Centres \$31,457,500—pass; Out-of-Province \$17,275,000—pass; Blood Transfusion Services \$15,812,200—pass; Other \$2,838,500—pass; Less: Recoveries (\$3,712,200) —(pass).

4.(d) Personal Care Home, Personal Care Homes \$240,665,600—pass; Drug Program \$7,081,800—pass; Adult Day Care \$3,284,400—pass; Other \$2,772,800 —pass.

4.(e) Medical \$264,483,100—pass; Less: Recoveries (\$1,831,300)—(pass).

4.(f) Pharmacare \$54,352,500—pass.

4.(g) Ambulance \$6,001,300—pass.

4.(h) Northern Patient Transportation \$2,605,400 —pass; Less: Recoveries (\$400,200)—pass.

RESOLUTION 21.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,507,237,200 for Health, Health Services Insurance Fund, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1996.

Item 5. Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Board of Governors and Executive \$167,700—pass; Finance and Personnel \$340,900—pass; Drug and Alcohol

Awareness and Information \$510,700—pass; Program Delivery \$8,760,400—pass; Gambling Addictions Program \$966,500—pass; Funded Agencies \$1,885,000—pass; Less: Recoveries from the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation (\$966,500)—(pass); Other Recoveries \$1,140,400—(pass).

Resolution 21.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,524,300 for Health, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1996.

Resolution 21.6 Expenditures Related to Capital (a) Health Services Insurance Fund - Principal Repayments (1) Hospital Program \$44,052,800—pass; (2) Personal Care Home Program \$9,692,900—pass.

6.(b) Health Services Insurance Fund - Equipment Purchases and Replacements (1) Hospital Program \$10,798,000—pass; (2) Personal Care Home Program \$1,693,100—pass; (3) Laboratory and Imaging Services, and Air Ambulance \$1,325,000—pass.

Resolution 21.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$67,561,800 for

Health, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1996.

Resolution 21.7 Lotteries Funded Programs (a) Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation \$1,850,000—pass; (c) Manitoba Health Research Council \$1,752,600—pass; (d) Manitoba Health Services Innovations Fund \$10,000,000—pass; (e) Evaluation and Research Initiatives \$174,900—pass; (g) Foundations for Health - Research Centre (1) Capital \$5,000,000—pass; (2) One-Time Operating Support \$2,100,000—pass.

Resolution 21.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$20,877,500 for Health, Lotteries Funded Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1996.

The hour being two o'clock, committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Marcel Laurendeau): The hour being after 2 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, June 16, 1995

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS		Oral Questions	
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees		VL T Revenues Doer; Filmon	1809
Committee of Supply Laurendeau	1807	Home Care Chomiak; McCrae	1810
Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports		Manitoba Housing Authority Cerilli; Reimer	1811
Annual Report, Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Cummings	1807	Public Housing Reimer	1812
Report, Meeting the Challenges of Local Government Derkach	1808	Conservation Fund Maloway; Driedger	1812
C. Evans	1809	Manitoba Community Places Maloway; Gilleshammer	1813
Introduction of Bills		Port of Churchill Robinson; Findlay	1813
Bill 23, Health Services Insurance Amendment Act McCrae	1807	Gateway North Project Robinson; Findlay	1814
Bill 19, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) and Consequential Amendments Act Mitchelson	1807	Garment Industry Lamoureux; Downey; Filmon; Stefanson	1814
Bill 20, Child and Family Services Amendment Act Mitchelson	1807	Association of Community Living Martindale; Mitchelson	1815
Bill 22, Municipal Amendment and Brandon Charter Amendment Act Derkach	1807	Northern Affairs Communities Robinson; Stefanson	1816
Bill 21, Rural Development Bonds Amendment Act Derkach	1808	Forest Fires Struthers; Driedger	1817
Bill 24, Tobacco Tax Amendment Act Stefanson	1808	Winnipeg Arena Sale; Stefanson	1818
		Winnipeg Jets/Arena Sale; Stefanson	1818
		Nonpolitical Statements	
		Harry Bergman–Louis Riel Medallion Gaudry	1819
		Enns	1820
		Dewar	1820

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Second Readings

Bill 13, Split Lake Cree Northern Flood Implementation Agreement, Water Power Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act Praznik	1821
--	------

Committee of Supply

Family Services	1822
Culture, Heritage and Citizenship	1834
Education and Training	1852
Health	1873