

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
10 a.m., Friday, April 9, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 20 students, Grade 9 standing of the St. John's High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Bochinski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster, the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

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

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster) introduced Bill No. 52, an Act to amend The Real Property Act; and Bill No. 53, an Act to amend The Registry Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I address a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. In the light of the disastrous flooding that is occurring on Souris Basin at present, is it still the intention of the Minister to take no preventive action on the Souris River until the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Souris Basin Study report is completed in 1977, as of December 31st?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the community of Souris has been and will be continued to be considered in the same light as other communities in the Province of Manitoba, many of whom have experienced disastrous flooding.

MR. WATT: A supplementary question. In the light of the fact that the Souris River has now . . . a flood is occurring now which will be the sixth flood in seven years, is the Minister saying now that no special consideration will be given to the farmers and to the business community in the Souris Basin which includes the towns of Melita and Souris?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the same consideration will be given to Souris as is being given to Carman which has also experienced numerous floods repeatedly over the past few years.

MR. WATT: I direct another question then to the Minister in charge of EMO. Is it still his position today that no remuneration will be made to those that are suffering losses as a result of the flooding in the Souris Valley?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Urban Affairs.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister for Urban Affairs) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, these matters are being constantly monitored and if there's any changes in policy, they'll be announced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I believe next Tuesday the Federal Environment Minister will be meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to discuss the Garrison Diversion. An announcement has been made of that meeting and I wonder, because the matter will now be discussed on the diplomatic front at this time, whether he's in a position to indicate whether Manitoba has been briefed about what will take place at the meeting and further, whether there is some new negotiations now taking place.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the meeting. I would expect that if the Federal Minister of Environment is meeting with a United States counterpart, it can hardly be expected that they would not have some talk about the Garrison Diversion. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm advised - and if there is some breakdown in the Federal Liberal government it would not surprise me - but I'm advised that the present position as defined by the Minister of External Affairs and communicated to the Province of Manitoba, rests the same. The matter is before the International Joint Commission on that basis.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is in a position to indicate whether any preliminary information has been furnished by the International Joint Commission to the Federal Government that would warrant a discussion at this level now.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, not that I am aware of, but I tell the honourable member that from time to time the Federal Minister of External Affairs and the Federal Minister of Environment have not, in my opinion, seen eye to eye on what is occurring with regard to the Garrison Diversion. We believe that the proper method of dealing with these questions is through the Minister of External Affairs. If the Minister of Environment of the Federal Government doesn't believe that, that's the problem for the Federal Government, not for us.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister is in the position to indicate whether anyone from the Manitoba Government, from his department, have in fact been working with the monitoring agency from the International Joint Commission who are checking the actual models with respect to the Garrison Diversion and to the water flows and the implications for Manitoba.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there are representatives from Manitoba and Canada on the International Joint Commission Study Board and I would assume that all of the information is being made available to the Study Board of the International Joint Committee. That is the basis upon which the Board operates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I had a question that I intended to direct to the First Minister having been present. In his absence I would direct it to either the House Leader or the Deputy Premier, let them decide which one would like to take it. Mr. Speaker, the question is whether or not there have been any official delegations or officials from the Federal Government soliciting opinions from the Provincial Government as to the advisability of cutting short the Anti-Inflation Program some time in 1977, as opposed to the original deadline.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): I believe I could take that question, Mr. Speaker. When we entered into an agreement under 43 of the Anti-Inflation Act it was understood that we would be making a review insofar as the Province of Manitoba is concerned within 18 months, of which about six months have now passed. There hasn't been to my knowledge any direct representations made to Manitoba or indeed anyone else that I'm aware of in respect of curtailing the original length of the program of approximately three years, other than that what I mentioned insofar as our position is concerned.

MR. CRAIK: Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. Did the Minister indicate there had been no representation at this point to the province from the Federal Government?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is correct and I believe that's what I said. If I didn't say it, I intended to.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister - in view of the statement that such representation has been made in British Columbia, at least it has been made from one side - if this is a fact, would the Minister wish to indicate at this point whether these . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. That's hypothetical if it's a fact. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. WILSON cont'd) . . . . of Consumer Affairs. Will the government give consideration to exempting resident homeowners with four suites or less from the Rent Stabilization Bill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. LES OSLAND (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave of the House to make a couple of changes on the Committees. The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs for the Minister of Labour on Industrial Relations and the Honourable Member for St. Matthews for the Honourable Minister of Labour on Law Amendments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed? (Agreed) The Honourable Member for River Heights.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the First Minister I wonder if I can address a question to the Attorney-General. The information has now been released with respect to the Prime Minister's position and suggestion about the repatriation of the Constitution, and the suggestion that Ontario and Quebec would have a permanent veto and the other provinces . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member is placing a question in respect to newspaper items and I think that I've been very tolerant in this particular matter, but I do believe that that is out of order. If the honourable member has facts then he can present them.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, to the Attorney-General. It now appears that the repatriation of the constitution suggested by the Prime Minister will be based on Ontario and Quebec being allowed a permanent veto and the other provinces being asked to act in combination. I wonder if he can indicate what Manitoba's position will be in this respect of suggesting that one province will be more equal than another.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, this is a subject matter that will be dealt with at a forthcoming First Ministers' meeting which I anticipate will be in the not too distant future. In the meantime of course we will be carefully evaluating the proposals.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Attorney-General is in a position to indicate whether Manitoba has taken a position that one province should have a veto power over the constitutional changes?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that will be dealt with by Cabinet and after we have received the necessary reports and evaluations constitutionally, the proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Attorney-General. I wonder if he can indicate whether the Provincial Government has received a copy of the letter that is to be tabled in the House of Commons today by the Premier?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members again to the gallery where we have 50 students of Grade VI standing of the Montrose Junior High School under the direction of Mr. Peter and Mrs. Roch. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights. On behalf of all honourable members I welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. Can the Minister indicate whether he has had reports about the firing of the vice-principal in the Boissevain School Division due to the fact that he was writing articles on education in the local newspaper.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Can the Minister indicate whether in matters such as this there is any manner of redress for cases such as this where there is a firing due to these kinds of charges to the Department of Education?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'm not sure against whom it is that the honourable member suggests redress should be taken.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I have several people in mind who I would like to make redresses necessary, but in this case I would think that the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. No debate, just the question.

MR. AXWORTHY: The question is, does the individual in this case who has been fired from that School Division have any means of redress, or any means of protection or appeal against this kind of firing for reasons which seem to be an infringement on his human rights?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. Let me again remind the honourable members that they are entitled to ask questions, but when they add their opinions and start debating the issues then I'm not going to recognize it as a question any more. We are in the question period, this is the time for asking for information. If people want to make a debate they can have a resolution or a bill or any other procedure that we have under our rules in this House, but not during the question period. I am going to distribute on Monday Citation 171 of Beauschene's to remind all members of their rules and regulations in respect to the question and the answer period and I hope they will co-operate with the Chair at that time. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to re-phrase the question to the Minister then. Can he indicate whether there is any grounds or procedures for appeal for an individual who finds himself in this unfortunate situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure if the honourable member wishes the answer to that question, there are the statute books, there is provision for dealing with grievances or matter of regress against various matters contained within the Public Schools Act, within the Education Department Act. The individual about whom the honourable member appears to be so concerned, there is likely a collective agreement governing the terms of employment between him and his employer and no doubt there are provisions within it that would indicate to him what course of action he ought to take, and if the honourable member is representing that particular teacher, this Chamber is hardly the place to seek information of the kind that the honourable member attempts to seek.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a very direct question to the Minister of Education, and ask him if he would undertake to see that those articles in question receive wide distribution within and without this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: I certainly would like to get some of the literature the honourable member is referring to. Can I be placed on a mailing list?

MR. Speaker, I would like you to proceed with the adjourned debates on second readings in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT BILIS - ADJOURNED DEBATES - SECOND READINGS  
BILL NO. 23, THE PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS CONTROL ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 23 proposed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In dealing with Bill 23, I want to deal, confine my remarks, Mr. Speaker, to a fairly narrow . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. GRAHAM: . . . in the bill, and that is the part that to me may be considered an infringement on the rights of an individual in today's society. As we are well aware, there is a bill very similar to this in the statutes of the Government of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I realize there are a number of aspiring chairmen around in this Chamber that want to take over and moonlight on my time, but I do believe they should have the courtesy to take their meetings out of this Chamber so that I can carry on the business of this House. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do know that the statutes of the Government of Canada has legislation which covers the same subject matter as we have in this provincial bill and I'm not too sure whether this bill is absolutely necessary unless you get involved in some of the internal workings that transpire between the various levels of government. I have always been under the impression that the federal statutes adequately cover and protect the environment of this country and the use of various pesticides. This belief of mine was reaffirmed the other day when I received a letter from the Plants Products Division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, 730 Federal Building, Winnipeg. This letter indicates - for the information of the Minister I'll read it, Sir: "Our records indicate that you have imported for your own use a supply of agricultural chemicals (Control Products) in the past three years. You will recall that it was necessary for you to complete a declaration form indicating where you are going to use the product and for what purpose. There has been a change in the form being used and the method of completing this form has also been changed. We attach a copy of the declaration that now is required for this purpose.

"A few points concerning this declaration are: (1) One form must be completed for each product that is to be imported; (2) The form must be signed by the importer in the presence of an officer of the Plants Products Division, who will check the form to ensure that the product being imported is compatible with current approved uses in Canada before signing it. Any person wishing to import a control product may obtain these forms and have them signed at the following offices," etc., etc., and it lists the offices.

The part that I want to be concerned about is the paragraph where it says "is compatible with current approved uses." Now the approval for the use of chemicals in our country I believe should and is the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. I don't believe the Minister of Agriculture is seriously contemplating challenging the Federal Government's jurisdiction in that matter. However, he is bringing in a bill here which in my estimation, Sir, is probably a duplication with maybe one or two of his own refinements which gives him an authority to set up another council, another seven friends or otherwise, in an advisory committee. It also gives him an opportunity to appoint a whole series of inspectors to go rambling around this country when we have already in the field inspectors of the Federal department. He has even gone so far as to say that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may authorize officers, inspectors of the Agriculture-Canada to be ex officio inspectors under this Act, so it shows you there how closely the duplication occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I think it has been well known in this House, and I think the Attorney-General can attest to it, that I do not believe that we should have duplication of legislation on our books. I don't think we should be piling up a whole mass of legislative acts which duplicate other statutes that are presently in force. I think that it would be advisable and indeed desirable to have a minimum amount of legislation on our books, but this is not the case at this time.

There's another aspect, Sir, that does concern me to some extent, a great deal actually, is the inspectors that are going to be appointed and the power that is going to be given to those inspectors. And here I refer again to one particular section where it gives

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . . an inspector the power to seize any of the books, records registers or documents for presentation and report to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't say that the inspector has to go to the court and get a court order to protect the right of individual, it doesn't say that the inspector can do this after giving due notice. It says that he can seize them and it doesn't say only during business hours, it can happen at any time. And, Sir, we have been through that kind of argument before in this House and we have I think found that it is indeed desirable, where the seizing of records is concerned, that it should be during business hours. Sir, while these things may indeed be covered by regulation, I don't think that's sufficient, I don't think the rights of the individual are adequately being protected by giving this wide power to an inspector.

There is also the question of licensing and the granting of licenses and the termination of licenses. And here again the Minister has written into this the power to terminate a person's license at any time, and nowhere in this legislation do I see any right of appeal against the action of a Minister in this respect. I would hope that if this bill does continue that he would write in there the right to appeal any decisions, arbitrary decisions, taken by government or government officers. I think that the rights of the individual should be protected to that extent.

Sir, these are - as I said when I started, I was going to confine my remarks to just one or two specific areas. I think that there may be others who want to make a contribution to this debate, so I will conclude my remarks on that note.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 30, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Mines. The Honourable Member for St. James. (Stand)

Bill No. 39, proposed by the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. (Stand)

BILL NO. 40 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE CORRECTIONS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 40, proposed by the Honourable Minister for Corrections The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, which bill?

MR. AXWORTHY: Bill 40.

MR. SPEAKER: 40. Very well.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, the bill as proposed by the Minister of Corrections indicated that it was a relatively simple matter dealing with technical problems; and I think that in that intention to correct an oversight of the past it makes some sense and it does provide for a procedure of medical examination in the institutions in the province themselves which I think are necessary, and it simply makes good sense.

But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, it raises some questions about the nature of the examinations that could be provided and the kind of resources and facilities that are available for treating prisoners, different kinds, and the degree to which this law will have any meaning in its application other than simply being on the statute books. I think, Mr. Speaker, we have brought to the attention of this House in previous matters some of the problems associated with the facilities and means of treatment, particularly in the area of psychiatric examination. The fact of the matter right now, Mr. Speaker, is that in the provincial jails, particularly Headingley and those up north in The Pas, there is virtually no provision for in-house treatment, particularly psychiatric examinations, and therefore we're not really getting the kind of adequacy of observations or treatment that is necessary for many people who have been sentenced, and many times sentenced for reasons of insanity because one of the problems is our mental hospitals, institutions will not take such prisoners. They simply will not allow them to go into places like Selkirk and so on, and therefore prisoners are forced really to remain in custody in the provincial jails and yet the jails themselves don't have the means of treatment. And I think we have - the Minister can correct me - the Minister can correct me - I believe one psychiatrist for

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . . the whole province who himself is located in the City of Winnipeg where the jails are not, and if there's to be any treatment they've got to be taken out of Headingley or wherever, brought into the City of Winnipeg and done so again on a very, that really results in being done on a relatively cursory basis.

So as a result, while we're talking about amending the statutes to improve or give the government the right to undertake such examinations, the issue that we'd like to raise with the Minister really is while it's on the statute books, will it mean anything? That if you take Headingley Jail as one example of a Provincial Jail, while there is a facility there, there is no psychiatrist there. And this means, Mr. Speaker, that in effect I don't think we're fulfilling the intentions of the law. For example, when someone is remanded for 30 days for psychiatric examination, what usually happens is that they're not examined for 30 days, but sometime during that 30 days, but sometime during that 30 days someone may visit them for a one or two-hour examination and leave it at that. And you know I think it's quite clear that there have been many cases, and we suffer the consequences of it, where people who have been charged with a criminal act are really psychiatrically very disturbed. I think the Dwight Lucas case is probably a prime example of that kind of circumstance and there have been many others. The person who was injured and killed a guard at Stony Mountain, it was the same kind of case; that we have a number of people sitting in our jails who need very serious treatment and yet there seems to be no way that that treatment can be had. They're not allowed to go into a mental institution, there is no provision for such treatment in the jails themselves and I would certainly have been happier if the Minister in bringing forth this amendment to allow them to undertake certain kinds of medical examination, had also indicated that the government was prepared to redress what is a very obvious absence of adequate treatment facilities or resources for such prisoners. In fact, Mr. Speaker, one could even go further than that and suggest that not only is there almost very limited care for those who are seriously psychiatrically disturbed, but even for those who have some disturbances or some problems, there is also very limited rehabilitation facilities. There is virtually nothing for example in The Pas jail at all and the prisoners are kept in a fairly large cage-like structure with no form of rehabilitation or no form of treatment whatsoever at all. At Headingley what is being allowed is very minor and almost insignificant.

So as a result, Mr. Speaker, we're really facing a situation where the intent of the bill is the right one; what we would certainly question is its ability to be implemented or to what degree it will be implemented in a meaningful way to treat prisoners who are either, not just physically sick but also mentally disturbed and have problems in that way. And that, Mr. Speaker, after all is for our own protection. There's no point in locking someone away, particularly if they've been charged under the basis of insanity or seemed to have had psychiatric disturbances and then virtually do very little about it while they remain in jail; and their sentence comes to an end and they're back out on the street, no better and in many cases probably worse off than when they went in.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem in our jails. The particular amendment brought forth by the Minister corrects a problem that was of the past, but I think that far more important than the correcting of the statute is the correcting of the actual services that are provided themselves so that there will be better treatment afforded to prisoners; that there would be perhaps psychiatric care attached to the jails themselves, or certainly there be changes in the attitude or policies of the mental hospitals so that people who have been charged with criminal acts and who have psychiatric problems would be allowed to be retained in mental institutions or hospitals. And that certainly when people are remanded or held for 30 days for examination, that in fact they are observed and examined for 30 days not for some one hour in between those times. So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a number of problems associated with this question of the treatment of prisoners who have problems and it's an issue I think that this amendment raises, because if in fact we're just changing a statute then we're not doing very much at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The bill will remain in the name of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

Bill No. 42 proposed by the Honourable Minister of Health. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Stand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Corrections.

HON. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Minister responsible for Corrections and Rehabilitation) (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair for Health and the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for Renewable Resources.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer honourable members to Page 26 of their Estimate Books, Resolution 58. Before we proceed I'd like to draw to the attention of the honourable members that I have instructed the recorder that unless the Chair recognizes you, your mike will remain off, you're not going to be recorded, so I ask you to govern yourselves accordingly. Resolution 58, Community Operations Division, (a) Divisional Administration, Salaries (1), \$118,900.00. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, before we get into that I wonder if I could give the answers I think there were a couple of questions that were left from last night. One was the remuneration of the members of the Welfare Appeal Board. The Chairman gets \$67.20 per day; the other members \$33.60 per day; and each day has two appeal sessions, it's a full day.

The Member for Rhineland wanted to know how many cars in the department. There are now 436 compared to 467 last year and that includes the Corrective and Rehabilitation Services also of my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(a)(1) Salaries \$118,900.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many people are employed in this particular salary of \$118,900 and whether he could give us a little more detail as to what their function is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the staff is the same as last year, it's seven and a half. It is the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister who is responsible for the delivery of all services, or most of the services that we're having through our single unit delivery, that is at the regions that we were talking about yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(a)(1)--pass. Resolution 58(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$68,400.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Could he give us a breakdown of this expenditure?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: This relates to the travel and office expenses of the Assistant Deputy Minister and his staff, and the major item is \$40,000 to provide funds for payment of consultants working on public health and social services issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): I wonder if the Minister could advise me as to whether or not we could discuss the matter of health officers under this particular item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm told that this would be preferable under Medical Public Health Services on Page 29, 4(c).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 58(a)(2)--pass. 58(a)(3) Professional Training \$712,100.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could tell us who is receiving this professional training and what type of professional training; how many people are receiving professional training and what type.



## SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: I can give him some information but there is no way that I can tell him how many people are trained because that changes so much and so fast. The training courses are made up of the following: there's a post-graduate in nursing, this is a bursary; institute nursing supervisor of psychiatric nurses training at the Selkirk Mental Hospital; at the Brandon Mental Hospital, the Manitoba School for Retardates; the nurse practitioner training, mental health, mental retardation and vocational rehabilitation staff training, mental health and mental retardation, foster homes, vocational rehabilitation staff, mental health workers, mental retardation workers, dental hygienists and dental nurses, health educators, social work, post graduate, home economics and there is some miscellaneous short courses for the \$3,000. We cut down on this. It has gone down last year from 815 last year to 712 this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Well I would presume, Mr. Chairman, that there would be some kind of special course that would be available to people who were going to go into the mental retardation program or the mental health program. Could the Minister give us some indication as to what type of program this is and how long this training period takes for a person?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(a)(3)--pass - the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: The basic psychiatric nurse training is two years and they are trained in Selkirk and Brandon and Portage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 58(a)(3) - the Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if this would be the appropriate place to discuss the whole question of the training of paramedicals. Is this really within it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I didn't quite get the question, the training of what?

MR. SPIVAK: Paramedicals, paramedicals.

MR. DESJARDINS: I guess this is as good as any. It won't cover everything but I don't know where else we can . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. DESJARDINS: I was talking about the training of nurses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are going to get into difficulties if everybody jumps up without being recognized. The Honourable Member for River Heights wasn't here when the meeting opened and I said that you're not going to be recognized, the mikes are not going to be on until the Chair recognizes you. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well again, is this the appropriate place to discuss the whole question of the training of paramedicals, that is I guess the evaluation of the program itself would be here.

I wonder then if the Minister is in a position to indicate whether there is any fundamental change in terms of government policy for increased training of paramedicals and whether any evaluation has been undertaken of the needs, the targets to be reached in the next period of time and the probable savings that could arise as a result of the further introduction of that program.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid that at this time I can't give all the details to my honourable friend. I might say that there has been a constant study of the situation, for instance, the R.N.'s and so on by the department. The priorities have changed a bit. Not too long ago we had quite a shortage of nurses. This has changed and we don't know to do with them. So certainly the priorities have changed.

As my honourable friend knows the R.N.'s have been working on a brief that was presented to me just this week, earlier this week, and this will certainly be studied and we'll be discussing that with them and with the other paramedical groups. It is very difficult to tell my honourable friend what the policy of the government will be at this time. It probably would be pretty touchy at this time in case that I give my personal views and if they are not accepted. Maybe I could say this: that as far as the education may be

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . transferred to the Department of Education and so on, this is something that we're certainly leaning in that direction. This is something that has been discussed, it's not just a policy that we arrived at without discussion. This is something that has been discussed with the R.N.'s and with the educators, with the Department of Education and so on. So I think that I am fairly safe in saying that we're going that direction.

I think the report from the R.N.'s is a very good report. There are some areas that we're not quite sure, that we will have a little more difficulty in accepting. For instance, that all the nurses be grouped in different areas. They'd all be R.N.'s, there would be no longer any psychiatric nurses or LPN's. This is certainly something a little more difficult. I would say offhand that I have doubt that we will go along with that but this is an area that we want to explore with the R.N.'s also and the psychiatric nurses and so on.

I personally would like to see us going in the other direction. I think that the R.N.'s certainly have a role, there might be quite a few services that are rendered now by the medical professional that the R.N.'s could do but I think that there is a place for the LPN's and so on. I don't think there is any point in having people in certain areas overtrained or overeducated for a certain job. I think that in society we need all kinds of positions, all kinds of work for all kinds of people at different levels, different levels of education. Those are my own views now. It could be very delicate if you have to have all bachelor degrees and so on before you can do anything. So this is something that we'll certainly look at. That is the one that I doubt we will agree - I will agree anyway with the R.N.'s. But practically all of the rest of the report we find very very interesting and we're going to keep on discussing this with them and we hope that certainly by next year we should have - well before that, before the next Estimates - we should announce certain policies.

But as far as the education is concerned I think that we're pretty well agreed with the R.N.'s of the direction we want to go. We've discussed that with hospitals; we've discussed that with hospital boards and I think that everybody agrees with that. It seems to be fairly unanimous so I would suspect that that would be the first policy decision that we will make.

Mind you I think that actually this policy exists now. I think it has existed since under the former government when Buck Witney had a report on nurses. If I remember right this has been one of the recommendations made that was accepted by government but it takes a while to implement such a policy. You've got to touch base with the hospitals and their boards, the School of Nursing and so on and I think we're just about ready to move in that direction.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, there is just one other and really by way of a comment in terms of policy. Can the Minister then confirm that the government's position with respect to this general area will be one of both consultation with all the groups involved, which is really what has happened, but also the fact that the decision would really reflect the consensus of the people in the health care field as opposed to unilateral decisions after study. My point being that I think in this one area, in terms of hope for the future, can you at least indicate that this will be one area in which there will be a consensus as opposed to just a government decision just with maybe some preliminary consultation and that's all.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I should be very careful not to fall in any trap here. We've stated repeatedly, and I think we have the facts to prove it in this department, that we do consult with a number of people. Now if my honourable friend wants me to tell him ahead of time that we will go with the majority he's barking up the wrong tree. We have a responsibility and I think he would be the first one to defend that, that it is the right of government to govern. It is certainly our responsibility, our duty and if we've got any brains it's to our advantage to discuss this with the people involved and we're going to do that. But to tell my honourable friend now ahead of time what we're going to do and if we're going to be on the side of the majority, just for the sake of being with the majority, no I'm not going to fall into that trap.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, speaking of that particular issue that the Minister raised, I wonder if he could tell us if for example he has been in consultation with the officials from the City of Winnipeg concerning the training or lack thereof of ambulance drivers which has become a fairly serious issue at city council about the inadequacy of the training and practice of the drivers themselves and their ability to provide proper services, and whether in fact the government would look upon the possibility of having people who are now ambulance drivers receive full paramedical training similar to what happens in Alberta where I gather the ambulance driver system there, that they put them through a fairly extensive training program in paramedical techniques, rescue, emergency services, so that they come out with a very definite well-defined program of training and education that would enable them not only to simply drive an ambulance but be able to provide a number of emergency services or ambulance services so that the service itself provided by the ambulance could be more than just simply transporting ill patients from home to hospitals or vice versa. I wonder if there has been consultation, whether the department has looked at the possibility to support the development of training for ambulance drivers in this kind of wider paramedical terms either here in Manitoba or by allowing them or helping to support their training in the Alberta program.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I will use the remarks of my honourable friend to remind me that I should be ready to discuss this when we deal with the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the ambulance program. There is a line there, Ambulance Program. This is financed beyond the responsibility of the Manitoba Health Services Commission so I would be pleased to discuss it that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health for Canada recently made the point that the cost of health care in this country is rising at a pace much faster than the growth of the economy. In its recent convention dealing with recommendations and changes of direction in the area of training and emphasis for nurses, the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses made the point, and I quote from their brief: "The Manitoba Government has been scrutinizing the effectiveness of programs to determine whether the dollar is purchasing what it should for the people of Manitoba." I would address that sentiment and that challenge to the Minister and ask him under this particular appropriation, Divisional Administration in the Community Operations Division, precisely what is being done insofar as follow-through on the scrutiny of the effectiveness of programs to determine the use to which the dollar is being put in the community operations field of medical service. Is there a specifically assigned team or function within the department that is currently scrutinizing those programs for effectiveness of the dollar spent?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that we covered that yesterday when we talked about Planning. Now this item might as well be the Minister's salary because we're dealing with the whole department now.

Yes, there is no doubt that at many different levels we are evaluating. I hope that we will evaluate forever, continually evaluate these programs and so on. First of all, our senior people are discussing with Ottawa now, they've had many meetings. My Deputy Minister was in Ottawa yesterday; we're having a meeting at the end of the month; there's a meeting of the Ministers of Health with the Federal Government. As you know we have been told that the present Act will be discontinued in four years now or four and a half years now and so on so we're looking at the situation.

I guess I'll be a little different than some other politicians. I think that in general I agree with the statement of the Federal Government. You know this is something that could bankrupt this country and this province, this question of health and so on. It is a very emotional thing. You can't win. We've had an example of that with the agencies yesterday - one agency was being refused, will get in touch with their MIA and say that the government doesn't want to listen to us and so on. If we hold back, well we're told that this government is trying to control everything. So it is a very difficult situation.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . . That is one of the reasons that we have a small group attached to the Minister's Office and the Policy Committee to co-ordinate and get all this kind of information.

As I stated yesterday we're moving towards an office of Residential Care, External Residential Care and so on. It would be so nice if all of a sudden we could take a holiday, close shop for a couple of years and straighten everything out and do that periodically. We can't do that. We want to have this office where we are going to look at the facilities, the standards that we're going to have and not be in a position that because there is an urgency somebody is placed in a residence where the per diem rate is way too high and the services rendered are also exaggerated for the condition of these people.

I don't know what else I can say. I can say if my honourable friend wants to know if I, as the Minister of the department of the government, is aware, concerned about the situation I say that we are. We are not going to panic. We have some work to do. We're going to spend some money. When we consider the Manitoba Health Services Commission Estimates I'll try to give you a detailed program of our next five years and so on, the kind of construction we're going to have in personal care beds and acute beds and so on. In the meantime we're very pleased, I personally am very very pleased with our Home Care Program. I think we're going quite well. The Day Care program is also very helpful. You might think that day care is you're just taking care of kids but that is a chain reaction and it is very good.

One thing that I believe is gratifying to me, anyway, and it's the first time, just last week, I saw a statement from the Minister of Health, the National Minister of Health that they might be ready to spend more money in the preventive field, in fitness and so on. This was a thing, it's very popular, it's like motherhood, but nobody wants to spend any money on it. I suppose it is a natural thing that if you see somebody that's crippled and so on that that's your first priority and so on. There is so much money spent and so on so you forget about the preventive, keeping people in shape. I had discussed this with the Minister of Health personally. He made many speeches to tell us how important these things were and it was very popular and it was good for the Government in Ottawa. But there was no money at all, nothing at all. Now I'm told - I don't know what kind of program but I saw the statement and I think that this is also very important.

I believe, and without throwing a rock at anybody, I believe that probably this government tried to do a little too much too fast at one time. Maybe that's not fair. I imagine that we can say the same thing about every province and so on in this field. Things have been coming so fast and so on with the advent of medicare and all these facilities. The people have gone ahead and have requested and wanted the best and we've tried to give them the best and it is very difficult. For instance, I mentioned that before and I'll mention it again, when this government decided to insure the personal care beds. Well all of a sudden from one day to the next 7,000 beds were dumped on the Manitoba Health Services Commission and so on and it has been a difficult situation. Sure there was a freeze to find out where we were going. Personally I think it was a mistake to insure the hospital type of bed. Then you're going to somewhere that you can afford and especially when you've got people that really need the care we should be looking after them first. So these are things that we will have to do. I would like to take advantage of this discussion to appeal to the members of the opposition to help me on that. I think it should be partisan politics. I don't mean that you should chastise the government, but in general we are trying to plateau this. For instance, I have a lot of respect for the Minister of Health in Ontario. I'm not saying that everything he did we would do, but I had a lot of respect for him because he did some pretty tough things. It's not that easy, and I think that if we're going to respect governments and so on and the role of the politician and of government, we can disagree, but disagree in a fair way. I certainly need help from the opposition if we're going to try to give the service and if we're going to try to keep the cost down, to plateau the cost. And it is a difficult situation because - speaking the way I am now I'm sure that all of you are ready to say, yes, we're going

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . . to help you, but are you really thinking of what you're saying. When it touches you fairly close, when your own constituents and so on want something that you feel is - what are you going to do? You know, that's where you're going to show if you're really going to be helpful. I'll always remember that when I was named Minister of Health I was starting to believe some of the things the newspapers were saying, that Schreyer was a personal friend of mine and so on, until I woke up and realized what the hell he had done to me, especially two days after when he said, "Well, you've got to realize that you've got to be a son of a bitch to have that post" and so on. And there's no doubt about it that many people will think that.

I guess what I'm saying is - appealing to the members of the opposition, to the members of this House, that if we really are sincere for the good of our country, and if we're going to plateau this - we have trouble in two departments, in education and so on, the cost is rising all the time. But at least we've had some experience in this system of education. Now I think we're still pioneering in this field of health and so on, and I would hope that I'll be criticized very seriously on programs and so on but the general principle of which we're trying to do will be accepted, certainly not as an ideology or something, that should be treated in a partisan manner. If the criticism is done like this it will be certainly helpful, it will be constructive criticism, but it won't be this business of turning politician against politician to make the people think that any government no matter who is in government at the time have only one thing in mind, to destroy people and to hurt people, because I don't think any member in this House feels like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, to paraphrase an old joke, what the Minister of Health is saying is that Premier Schreyer made me what I am today and if it takes the rest of my life I'll get even with him. And I can understand that attitude.

I don't think I'm on the wrong item, the wrong appropriation, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about community operations and we're talking about divisional administration and we're talking about a commitment by this government recognized by the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses to scrutinize the effectiveness of programs to determine whether the dollar is purchasing what it should for the people of Manitoba.

Now I am not being critical in a destructive way when I ask the Minister the questions that I ask related to this vote, because I recognize from the figures in front of me that costs and expenditures in this area are down. The appropriation being asked this year is less by more than \$100,000 than the appropriation voted last year, and that's a good thing in terms of protecting the taxpayer's dollar. But what I'm asking the Minister is whether there have been any programs in the Community Operations Division that have been eliminated, that have been tried and found wanting in this exercise of scrutiny of the effectiveness of the spending of the dollar. And can he identify what those programs were, if there were such, or does that saving result simply from a cutback in administrative and bureaucratic costs? Which would be a good thing no doubt, provided the functions of the Community Operations Division are not suffering at the consumer end. So when I ask these questions I want to assure the Minister that I ask them from the shared conviction that the dollar has to be protected, the taxpayers' interests have to be protected, and it would appear from these figures that that interest is being protected. But what were the programs that were eliminated in order to effect that saving?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I certainly don't want to give the impression that my remarks were intended for my honourable friend. I just took advantage of the situation to make the few comments that I felt should be made.

Yes, we have cut down mostly on the mental health workers and mental health retardation workers because last year it was the first time that we started that and we needed more money to get the thing started.

Now in areas where we have enough staff and so on, of course we'll slow down a bit. The RN is not included in there, but this is something that will certainly have to be looked at. Just a year or two ago an RN could call any hospital and say, "I want to work but I only want to work . . ." - I'm going to exaggerate a bit to make a point - "I want

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . to work half an hour, and I want to work between 12 and 12:30." They were practically assured, "Yes, come on in", because they were needed so much. Now it is more difficult. There is none of this. And these people, if you remember during the summer, we had to close beds and so on because they could always get their jobs back. In other words they could work whenever they wanted and they could take their holidays whenever they wanted, and the salary wasn't too good. I think that's another thing, there is no doubt that we had to catch up. Now there are more nurses coming in, there are nurses coming in from the east and so on and I think that we'll have a surplus of nurses. So what we are doing now is to look to see the work that the nurse can do, and we feel one of the areas where we're weak - we feel one of the priorities is in Public Health nursing and I think that in this area, by strengthening that, that will save money also. There's a lot of the work that can be done by the Public Health nurses, the nurse practitioners, in certain remote areas or in other areas to assist the medical profession and so on, and this is something that could be done. So definitely, I also agree with that statement but this is not something, that we needed that statement to be told from - you know, somebody said you should see if you're spending wisely. I think this is something that the department, any department, and probably more so this department during this period of time anyway, that we should be doing to analyze constantly our programs and so on. For instance, you can have a program that you feel is very successful, a program of home care, but then you wake up one morning and realize that your per diem for home care is more than the per diem of keeping somebody in an institution. Well I don't consider that that is a successful program. So these are areas that we have to be careful, that we have to constantly . . .

Yes, we have started a public health nursing course with the nurse practitioners' course just this past year also. Those courses will vary as we learn what is needed and as we see the courses that are useful, but the main reason - well there's two reasons: There is no doubt that when we looked at our budget this year we tried to pare down as much as possible, and even then we came in with an increase of \$25 million. And that's not all of it - when we find out through the Manitoba Health Services Commission and so on what their salaries are and so on, we'll be quite a bit - that's one third of the total budget. So we did have that in mind. We didn't cut that much, but there are some areas, as I say, where we had started last year and we needed more start-up funds.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to talk about this professional area, and of course I've wanted to, but I will leave it, pertaining to the improved ambulance service in Winnipeg. I'll leave that until we get to that section.

But in responding I wonder if the Minister could elaborate, because this does affect training and the future reduction in staff. He mentioned that he might be giving some direction to the Manitoba Hospital Services to actually close or transfer hospitals into nursing homes or into geriatric centres. Is he suggesting that there will be a program for a reduction or possibly closure of some hospitals throughout the province in the next year? If I may, Mr. Chairman, the Minister was talking in support of what the Ontario Health Minister had been doing, and I wonder if he could elaborate?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, we're not going to start discussing closing of beds or opening beds in this area, this is under the Manitoba Health Services Commission. To make sure that there is no misunderstanding, there's certainly many of the things that are being done in Ontario that I don't buy; the increase in premiums and so on for people, I don't think this is a fair tax, I don't agree with that. What I did say, that I certainly thought that the Minister had an awful lot of courage to do the things that he's had to . . . There also it's the same thing; it's a different government, different opposition, everybody has been against him and so on, but I think that he is well-intentioned and he is trying to plateau, to reduce the cost. This is what I said. Now that's a different thing saying that I agree with what he did. He has a different philosophy in certain areas. Then that should be discussed. This is what I said, that I would expect and believe that I would be chastised, that I would be criticized, and that we would debate these things.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . It's a different policy, but the general idea of trying to plateau, that we should stick together on that. This is all I said. I certainly do not want to indicate that I agree with everything that is being done in Ontario.

MR. WILSON: I hope I understood that. But does that mean that there is no direction to the Manitoba Health Services to review closing hospitals? You haven't directed the Manitoba Health Services to change over or close any hospitals?

MR. DESJARDINS: I hesitate to answer my honourable friend, because he made it quite clear last night I think that most of the old-timers in this House didn't know what the hell they were doing and the rookies were going to teach them a thing or two. But I would again repeat that I will not discuss this at this time, it is under the Manitoba Health Services Commission. I know that he is being confused and I hope that some of the members of his party will direct him and tell him that, fine, we can play ball, but that these things are to be discussed in another area and he will have a full chance to discuss and give his views at the time.

MR. WILSON: In closing my questions on the area I just want to say that maybe under Manitoba Health Services, when we do discuss it, we'll find out who is confused.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just have some questions for the Minister in this area. He was talking about the re-examination that seems to be beginning in the field of training of nurses and the education for public health community purposes. I guess the one specific question I would have is that as a result of the difficulties last year with the contract signing and with the cutback in some services, what is his expectation in terms of the employment possibilities of the student nurses that will be graduating this year, I believe, in numbers of close to 800? Will they all be fully absorbed into the different health institutions and programs in the province? And further than that, do we have some assessment or basis for making an assessment about what the training or the manpower, woman-power needs will be in these fields so that we can gear or tailor the training programs towards some estimation of what the requirements are of the hospitals and public health services and so on so that the numbers of students coming into these programs can be geared accordingly?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this is quite difficult, to be able to assure my honourable friend that all the young nurses graduating will find a position. I give this assurance, but I doubt very much if they will. Now that might take care of itself because we certainly will lose some to other provinces and the States. We've had people coming in from the United States who've been here to recruit nurses, we've been told, and they've said that they've been very successful in Winnipeg. Because you see, what we do, we get people graduating in the east, if they find no position they start coming west. We expect that there'll be quite a few from the east coming to Manitoba, they will be competing for these positions also. And some of our people will go further west also. I don't think they stand much of a chance of getting positions, certainly not in great numbers, in the east. And some of them will go to the States, and there's always some of them leaving to get married, and some that decide not to work if they have a family.

So my guess wouldn't be much more educated than his to see if we are going to keep on giving the nurses a job, that we can guarantee a position to everybody. But we certainly are looking, and the RNs themselves, the Association are looking to see a new direction for nurses. We've had many meetings with them, we have staff that are working on that constantly. This is what I was trying to say earlier, that I would like to see for instance, more nurse practitioners. We need more people, we definitely need more in the public health field. The Victorian Order of Nurses are doing the same thing, they themselves are looking to see a new direction for their graduates. They want to keep their graduates. But there is no way that my first priority will be to try to guarantee a position for all the nurses that graduate. I think that it is like the medical profession and so on, the question of supply and demand, where they're needed.

I agree with my honourable friend that as soon as possible we should make an assessment to see how many nurses, how many positions we will have. This is being

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . done now in the different hospitals. This is done by the department in the public health field in certain areas, this is constantly being done. I think more so than before, because just a short year or a year and a half ago we were crying for nurses. You know, just about a year ago people on this side were getting up and saying, "What are you going to do to get more nurses?" Are you going to go and recruit somewhere else?" And it doesn't matter who's on this side. When I was sitting on that side, I was criticizing the Minister for the same thing, and in fact I was probably instrumental in the report on nurses that I think it was Buck Witney or George Johnson brought in. But now it's a different situation. There's many factors, probably the most important factor is that they finally caught up - there's no doubt that these people were underpaid. Now it is more lucrative, it is a good profession, it is a good paying proposition now. This is one of the factors. But I might as well tell you right now that my first priority is not to try to find positions or make up positions to make sure that all the people in the health field will be employed. I think we're looking at the patients, at the Manitobans, and we want enough staff to take care of them, that's the way we'll set our priorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, can he indicate that while there is no intention to guarantee jobs for Manitoba trainees, considering the investment that our educational system and his department in fact have put into it, that graduates of the Manitoba nurse training programs in their different varieties would get preference for jobs in Manitoba, that they would be . . . Is there any system that's been established to ensure that when applicants are considered and if their qualifications and skills are equal, that in fact Manitobans would get some preference. And I'm not saying that to be parochial but just in a sense that they are residents here and in fact we've invested a good deal of time and money in training them. So would there be some preferential treatment I guess given to Manitobans? This would be one question.

A second question would be whether there . . . and I'm not sure the answer is a specific one - do I understand the Minister to say that there is an intention by his department to invigorate a community health program that would provide, at least in the next couple of years, wider opportunities for nurses in the community health area. And if that was the case, I would like to know really to what degree has the training of nurses both in the university nursing training program as well as in Red River and in the hospital training programs been designed to, or is being designed to meet that particular kind of cast that the department foresees for nurses. Or are nurses now being trained more adequately or more directly in community health practices and becoming in effect community health workers as part of their training program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, co-operation will be needed from the educators of course, from the association, mine, and from the government also. There is no doubt that there is a trend going in that direction. I stated earlier that they are re-examining the role of the nurse. We have started a short course on that just last year. We are constantly discussing with them and we will meet with them again. I hope that this will happen.

As far as favouring the local people for the position, I know exactly what my friend is talking about and I would like to see the same thing, not only the nurses, when we talk about the doctors and dentists and so on, I would like to first of all keep our people here. And when the Federal Government decided that it would not bring any immigrants from other countries we were a little concerned about that because we wanted to make sure that we had enough doctors. I would have liked to see it further that - and I know that it's not possible when we're all living in the same country - but I would like to see Ontario for instance, treat Manitobans as immigrants also, because if our people are going in that direction, they will go . . . If the wages are higher in B.C. and in Ontario and Alberta and so on, they will be eventually going there. I think that the department will do everything and anything that we can to favour these people but that does not mean . . . we certainly will fall short of dictating to the hospitals to say that they have to hire certain people. I don't think that this would be accepted. This might change,



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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . mind you, but I don't think that this would be accepted here in Canada. I think that we treat everybody as Canadians and so on. So that depends on the employing agency of each hospital and so on, and the work will be done with the union. But I might say that as far as the nurses that we will employ, we will certainly, everything else being equal, we certainly will always pick the - I was going to say the girl - the person from Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I want to pose some questions, Mr. Chairman, along the same line. Can the Minister indicate whether the employment opportunities for nurses, again in the variety of fields, is distributed on the basis of making sure that the opportunities in northern Manitoba and the rural areas are adequately met. Again it's my understanding that in many cases there is an over-surplus of people in the city areas and an under-supply in many rural areas and northern areas, and I would be interested in knowing as part of the professional training that goes into nurses and other health workers, whether there is a particular opportunity to get training for the special conditions that nurses might run into in, say, dealing with northern communities. And if in fact there is any intention as part of the different northern programs that the government has where they're putting a lot of effort into the agreements with the Federal Government to increase employment and services in the north, whether that also includes health care itself. And are we sort of making special efforts to ensure that the northern communities have adequate health personnel and that in fact that there is special training being given to ensure that the people who do go up there are particularly suited for that kind of locale and environment that they have to work in. And again with the surplus of nurses that we now seem to be experiencing, whether there would be any special efforts in those fields to redirect many health workers and nurses into northern areas or remote areas.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that there is a chronic shortage of people in this field in the north, nurses, doctors and so on. This question of an abundance of graduating nurses and so on might help. You know, it's a question of supply and demand, if you can choose many of them are not going to go up north, and this is one of the areas it might help. I think one of the important things would be to train people in the north, to train in these areas, and to try and train more people from the north. I think that if people have lived in the north all their lives it is easier for them to stay there, and to remain there, if they can get the training. We have a course for licensed practical nurses in the north and we are discussing with them in the north. We're certainly looking at the possibility, and when we finalize the question of education, it is a possibility that at least some of the practical training of nurses will be done up north.

I think another point that is being helpful is that they didn't have parity for awhile because some of them, the contracts were ahead and there was leap-frogging and so on. I think this has been pretty well straightened out. So this will be helpful. But there is no doubt that the remote area in the north will be the last one to get the proper service. That's in any field. I think this is human nature, we can't force people. We must in the meantime do everything possible to encourage people to go up north. I think what I mentioned are some possibilities, for instance training them in the north, training people from the north and trying to retain them there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(a)(3)--pass. 58(b) Social Services Administration, Salaries \$83,600.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I wonder how many people are involved in this particular salary. It says that the Social Services Administration provides policy and program support for field service delivery teams and child and family services. Now on the next item under (c) we have the Child and Family Services, "provides program support and funding for Child Welfare Services provided by regional offices." Now I wonder if there's any duplication or are these the same people that are involved in this particular program? I wonder if the Minister could elaborate on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that here we're talking about the policy and program support, where we're talking about the funding, mostly the funding in

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . the next item. Under this item there are five staff man years, exactly the same as we had last year. And that covers, well (a) covers the salary of the Executive Director of Social Service and his support staff, those five people that I'm talking about; and No. 2, the expense related to travel and office upkeep, the Executive-Director of Social Services and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(b). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, in this particular area in the study that was done on Child Welfare Services in Manitoba - and I thank the Minister for having forwarded us copies of those - there is an indication that there seems to be a conflict in the administration of these services, between the Regional Health Directors which are attempting to integrate a variety of services in these fields and the line of accountability to, say, the Director of Child Welfare in a sense, so that the same person may be responsible to two different lines of authority. I'm wondering if in fact the problem as outlined in that report, indicating it in a sense that there is two different lines of authority, that they may run into conflict and that it does affect the actual performance of people working in this field; is affected by it, has been resolved by this time or whether in fact that still is an existing problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the Ryan Report points out many areas that need urgent change and we are working in that direction. I can say that there is no difficulty - I don't know exactly where, why my honourable friend is talking about when he's saying that . . . in fact I think he said that the Director of Child Welfare doesn't know who he is reporting to and that there seems to be a conflict and so on. I think that this has been rectified in the re-organization that we've made. This program comes under the responsibility of the Deputy Minister, and any delivery of the services is done through his ADM who is in charge of the regional, the delivery in the region and so on. The expertise in these programs, we have a director as stated - Mr. Ryan himself for the time being is responsible to the Minister, but the Director reports to him. So it's a clear line of command, I might say, and I don't think there's any difficulty. I think that they have been working very very well together. I think they agree in all the recommendations that they are making to me, the three of them, the Deputy Minister, the Director - the Area Director if I might say so - and the Director of Child Welfare.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, that may be an answer, but I just perhaps - and I should have read it before - on Page 65 of the report it says, "There is now present in the department two competing versions of administrative accountability which cannot be allowed to co-exist without strong risks to the viability of the structure." Well I assume that they mean that there really is two lines of authority, and I gather that now that those two lines have been cleared up and that's no longer a problem. If that's the case then, Mr. Chairman, and perhaps the Minister wants to defer it to the next session, but I raise some of the other points made in this report which deals with the policy and program in this overall area. Again one of the assessments of the report is . . . they say is almost a virtual lack of funding or attention to the whole field of prevention in Child Care Services. Now this is not an area that seems to have received a great deal of priority, and as a result . . . In fact I could quote from Page 112. It says, "The deficiency in funding services to children in their own homes is matched by a dearth of budgetary resources with which to conduct preventative programs, that there is little if any money provided for community based information, referral programs, for parent effectiveness programs, for outreach programs," etc. etc. And it goes on: "This perpetuates tendencies of child care agencies to be agencies of last resort, to be regarded negatively in their communities as baby snatchers." Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a fairly strong critique, and again while I realize the report is of fairly recent vintage, I'd be interested in knowing to what degree this division which is supposed to be providing policy and program support is developing ways of rectifying what seems to be a very serious gap in the Child Care Services in the province, particularly in the preventative field, and if the Minister can either indicate what

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . progress has been made or when we might expect some correction of this particular problem.

MR. DESJARDINS: There might still be a lack of funding, but I think the situation is that we should and we certainly have to get better return for the money that we are putting in. I'm told that there's no other program in the department where the funding has increased as much as in this field during the last four years. I think that since we received the report, the Ryan Report, and as I stated last year, we've discussed this. I've invited all the agencies and so on, I sent a copy of their report, including the members of the House, also the members of the opposition, and I invited them to give us any comments if they had any. This was co-ordinated by the Deputy Minister. There is a committee now that's starting to discuss with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg where . . . of course this is the most difficult area. That's where we have more problems and so on because it is a difficult area to work with. This has been done, there's a committee that's been formed to discuss these things and in certain areas we certainly are moving already, and there will be some government department policy announced very soon in this area because we feel that this is very urgent. We feel that this is an area that certainly we're not happy with and we're trying to rectify it.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, in that respect there would seem to be two particular areas that called for urgent attention in the Ryan Report. One was the problem of providing Child Welfare Services to native people, and in particular they pointed out that there is a major difficulty in the jurisdictional dispute between the Provincial Government and the Federal Government where the Federal Government has jurisdiction over Reserves but the province has jurisdiction in the Child Welfare area. And as a result, native children are really falling between those two stools and that in most of the Reserves there's virtually no services or, I think you said, at best what they call life and death services. And the report does recommend that regardless of whether the Federal Government is being stingy at this point, that the province should not use that as an excuse, but should make efforts now to provide an upgrade of service in child treatment and child care for native children, both non-status and status Indians. I wonder - this report has been out now for a period of months - whether the Minister has taken that particular recommendation to heart and whether the department is now prepared to offer more specific and upgraded services to Reserves and to native children in general. And I think they go on and say that, in particular, they get personnel in the department who are more sensitive to problems of native communities which are of a very different origin and need some special understanding. And that secondly whether there would be the provision of services, if not on the Reserve itself but in close proximity, so that children, even though they may cross back and forth between the boundaries between the Reserves and the surrounding communities would be assured that they would at least get minimum services.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I certainly would expect Mr. Ryan to make these recommendations in this report. And it's not that staff are not interested, because they're very concerned. My honourable friend is right, we have a situation that the Federal Government has abdicated their responsibilities. The policy - we're going to be criticized for that - the policy of the Provincial Government is that we are ready, anxious, willing to deliver the services, but the Federal Government will have to accept the responsibility. And the Federal Government is not doing this at this time. There has been a special sub-committee of Cabinet formed to study the situation. Furthermore, the Indian people themselves are not happy with the participation of the Federal Government. They would like to see discussions with both levels of government and the Indian Brotherhood involved. Every day we seem to be - not every day, that might be a slight exaggeration, but constantly we are being two-bitted to death. There's another program closing - sometimes even on Reserves you've had Federal civil servants who are pulled out and they're told go ahead, go and see the province, without discussion we're told - we're cancelling this program. I've had a letter from Mr. Buchanan. This has been so important now and so urgent that the First Minister himself has written to the Prime Minister requesting a meeting. We've sent the same

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . letter to Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Lalonde. During our discussions in Ottawa this is something that we were discussing constantly. We're not very happy and it might be that this will end up in court, I don't know. But we have a situation where a few years ago the Federal Government came here with a White Paper, where they were saying, "All right these people now will be treated as Manitobans but we will pay for it." The Indian people say, "We don't want that." So they said, "All right, we withdraw this". But it is worse than ever because they are now withdrawing the services without funding these programs at all and I would hope that my honourable friend certainly has some friends in Ottawa and would try to impress on them what he is impressing on us here this afternoon, how this is important. But the decision has been made with the provincial Cabinet that this will be a showdown with Ottawa if need be, but there is no way that they can decide just unilaterally to cancel this program and to send us the bill. They have a responsibility; it has been their responsibility. We're ready to shoulder our part but apparently, so far anyway, they haven't been ready to do the same.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, if I may pursue the matter a little further with the Minister. Let me ask first - the case is we find from time to time in this House that there are always two sides to any argument and sometimes even three sides and even more. The question that I would raise is what is the nature of the dispute? I gather that obviously there is a jurisdictional question or almost constitutional in terms that child welfare is very clearly a provincial responsibility, the Federal government has mandate over the reserves. Now I can see that the government is prepared to have a showdown and kind of dueling at high noon with the Federal Government as provinces and the Federal Government have been doing for a hundred years in this country.

In the meantime, however, according to the assessment in this report there's a lot of Native children who are going without proper treatment and I am simply saying that while the heroic aspect of the constitutional or jurisdictional debate I think is important and would not discourage the Minister at all from pursuing it, in the meantime is there not something the province can be doing to improve what is described as a very deplorable situation with native children. I say that not just simply because of the fact that the reserves themselves are in a horrible situation but that in many cases we pay the price as a total community for the lack of proper treatment and care of native children because as we well know many of those children sooner or later end up in the towns and communities and cities of this province having come there without that kind of initial prevention or care or treatment and therefore we end up sort of having to deal with the problem in an event because of the very large scale movement from reserves and Indian communities into the cities and towns.

While we're in the courts and on the bargaining tables and sort of doing this kind of inter-jurisdictional game I guess the emphasis in this report, and one which I agree with, is saying while that should not be stopped, the province should at the same time at least be taking steps on its own to rectify some of the serious absences of treatment and the almost minimal standards of services or less than minimal standards of services. It would seem to me, both from the point of view of some degree of our own responsibility as a province, and secondly, just to avoid the kind of problems that are going to erupt in any event or that we'll be dealing with because there's no point in saying the problem is a Federal Government problem because a kid happens to be in a reserve and three months later it's a problem of the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg or of Eastern Manitoba because that's where the child eventually ends up in any event. We're simply putting off the problem by not treating it perhaps at its source or at its original point. I would simply, if you like, request or say that while I have no objection to the fight that's going on and if there's anything I could do to help that I'd be prepared to do, but in the meantime the province itself should be taking remedial steps.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'm very pleased with the offer of my honourable friend and there's an awful lot he can do. First of all he can start making the same speech to the Federal Government and making them aware that people are suffering here. It is true that health and welfare is a provincial responsibility. It is also true that education is a provincial responsibility. But it is also true that the

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . responsibility for the Indian is a Federal responsibility and we are maintaining the vital services. This is all we will maintain at this time.

For many years we've gone along and it's been worse and worse every year until it's been an arrogant Government in Ottawa who without even discussing it just will write a letter and say, "As of this date, that's it." We certainly will go more than half way; we're ready to meet with the First Minister. Our Premier is very interested in that situation, we're going to do everything we can. We're discussing this with the Indian Brotherhood also and they support us in our stand because they don't want to see gradually that the Federal Government will just on their own decide that they have no responsibility.

So if my honourable friend can bring this message to Ottawa I think you will find the province more than eager to participate and even to make some kind of an arrangement, a temporary arrangement until this thing is settled. But the only way, it seems, unfortunately, where we're going to drive it home, drive it to Ottawa - they're feeling that they have responsibility and they can't just decide in Ottawa that all of a sudden they're going to forget these responsibilities. It seems to be an attitude that we don't like to take but that we are taking. Now we are maintaining the vital services but any new services we have and so on we will not include the Indian population, on the reserve and so on until this is straightened out with Ottawa.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is a hoped for policy and a hoped for program that I would like to ask the Minister about and that is in an area that's received a widening focus of attention and publicity in recent months and years in our society and that is the case and the problem of the battered child. We're looking here at policy and program support for field service delivery teams in child and family services and related operations and I would ask the Minister whether there has been any policy and program support that has been enunciated for field service delivery teams in this field, the field of the battered child, whether there is a continuing or whether there has been established a line of communication with some of the experts in that field who are particularly prominent and who are associated with the Health Sciences Centre here in Winnipeg. I know that this is not a new problem, it's an old problem. But it's relatively prominent unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately as the case may be, in our consciousness now. It certainly is one of the major scars in our society. The people affected are for the most part helpless and voiceless unless persons like ourselves are prepared to initiate some programs and some action in their defence, whether it's in the area of detection, early detection; whether it's in the area of prevention or whether it comes after the fact and is in the area of cure. But I think it is a very important and a very uncomfortable problem for us and one that has received some publicity, long overdue perhaps, and certainly valuable. So that is now fairly prominent in our consciousness. I would hope that in this area of administration there is some initiatives being taken to move with as much scientific expertise as it possible in that field at this time. I know there are, as I say, experts associated with the Health Sciences Centre who can be called upon to provide the necessary scientific knowledge and background talent to help the government and help the Legislature of Manitoba move with some constructive programs in this field. Is there a program support operation under way at the administrative level at the present time?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is an area of great concern, and we are moving in that direction. We're establishing a child abuse team to take care of the Winnipeg area. This was left to different agencies and so on and it has been difficult to staff them properly and to get the experts. So this is something we are discussing with them and we will discuss with the people in charge of the agencies responsible in Winnipeg and also with the experts that my honourable friend is talking about. We feel that the best way would be to take that over with a central group taking care of this problem right here in Winnipeg where we could take advantage of our regional teams, our social workers, the doctors, the public health nurses. I think that it will be much easier to try to remedy the situation. There is no doubt that these cases are increasing. Of course it is very difficult to say that they are actually increasing, maybe they're reporting them a little more. But nevertheless we know about it and we've got to do something to stop that and we're moving in that direction.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, as the Minister says, it's a question as to whether they're increasing or whether the detection of them has increased. As I say, fortunately for all concerned there has been some considerable publicity of late and although it's painful, it's been constructive and I think we can all be thankful that the spotlight has been focused on the problem and it has been brought to public attention.

Are there specific personnel being trained to deal in that scientific field that is identifiably different from some other social service fields? Are there specific programs being prepared for training personnel who would work in the field of the battered child and a related field, the battered wife, who has also received some attention through the media lately.

I know that there are programs in other provinces, particularly British Columbia, where refuges have been established for battered wives and I think the United Kingdom is probably in the forefront of developments in that sphere. But once again this is a problem that was swept under the rug and hidden away in dark corners for many years, many centuries, and only now has been spotlighted and if we move in this area we're certainly not moving a year too soon. We're catching up to something that has been with us but unexposed and unpublicized for far too long. When the Minister says that action is being

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . . taken in this area I would ask him whether there are specifically tailored programs being developed to train experts who can work in that field and particularly in the field of detection and prevention before the abuses take place.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is what we're in the process of doing now, developing a team of experts who will be trained to do this kind of work in detection as soon as possible. We're working with a Dr. McRae from the Health Sciences Centre who is an expert in this field and besides this group we will have all the team involved, whatever needed, starting from the social worker who is visiting different areas, the doctors, the public health nurses and so on. This is why we're going in that direction instead of just leaving that with each agency. That would be very difficult and costly to staff properly and there could be duplication. We feel that this is the best way. As you say it is an urgent thing.

The report that I have here was in 1971. There were 49 cases and it's been increasing to 81 in 1972; 1970, 82 and last year at a 103 so that's more than doubled so we are very concerned. But I know we're moving in that direction and I think this will answer the question of my honourable friend, to train the people that will be qualified and then to have all the team, all these people working in the community. Of course let's not forget the medical practitioner who is supposed to report such cases. I think that they are co-operating more and more. It was something pretty touchy for a doctor to do but I think they're conscious of their responsibility and I think this is one of the reasons why we hear of more cases now.

MR. SHERMAN: Are there any plans to establish havens or refuges for victims of domestic batterings?

MR. DESJARDINS: I think that now, of course, the Director of Child Welfare or one of the agencies would take this child over, take him away, which they are doing now, for certain area. He would become the ward of this agency or the Director and they would, as the need may be, they will be admitted to hospitals or foster homes or any of the areas. But they would be taken away from these parents if there is any proof that they have been battered or pushed around by their family.

MR. SHERMAN: I believe there is a semi-official or quasi official home of some kind that exists at the present time for battered wives. Is that program being reviewed and updated along with the problems of the battered child?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is going to respond to my . . .

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the question is along the same lines, the same line of questioning. I think the Member for Fort Garry refers to Osborne House which is a crisis centre that was established by the YWCA and other agencies as a way of providing a home where women and children who are beaten or abused or who must leave their home under those kind of circumstances or in fact where the police are able to take them, was established and the real question is that they have gone to the Provincial Government several times for support and have been turned down every time. Presently I gather they are living in a house supplied by the City of Winnipeg; they receive a partial grant from the City of Winnipeg which will terminate in June. I visited the home and found several families in there who had experienced exactly the kinds of problems where women had been beaten up or abused by their husbands. The children had been treated the same way. The police in some cases had referred the families to them; they were subject to a lot of harassment and it seemed to be providing an absolutely essential service.

They showed me a number of letters received from the City of Winnipeg Police, a number of social agencies, from the hospitals, which said this is the only place of its kind where this kind of service can be supplied in terms of providing a refuge in these circumstances. It seems strange that with the kind of concern that the Minister has expressed about drawing attention to the problem that we'd kind of go about setting up a team of officials to deal with the problem, but in the meantime ignore what is probably the most basic criteria and that is some haven where they can find some safety in those crisis circumstances. Because right now, Mr. Chairman, there is virtually nothing else.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . If Osborne House is allowed to fold in June for lack of funding then there will be no place at all for women and children in those circumstances. I guess the specific question I put to the Minister, taking account of the concern that he has expressed: is the province prepared to support Osborne House in the continuation of its program of providing a place of haven and refuge for women and children who find themselves abused or battered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Just before the Minister answers perhaps I can add a supplementary point to the remarks of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Osborne House, to which the member just referred, was the facility to which I was referring. But what I would like to know from the Minister is whether there are plans in the program that he has described in the last few moments for, if not providing the support being sought by the Member for Fort Rouge - and I would second the member's appeal for support of that facility - but notwithstanding that, whether there are plans to develop properly funded facilities or at least a properly funded facility that would either incorporate the attempts that have been made at the home referred to by the Member for Fort Rouge or that would work in conjunction with that established facility so that there is a place where these victims can go and they know that they have a place to go and they don't have to suffer the entrapment that most women and children in that position currently feel.

MR. DESJARDINS: First of all, we have a child abuse registry. We have mandatory reporting here in Manitoba. We have an Advisory Committee on Child Abuse. We have produced publications and public education and our booklet, three-years-old, has received international acceptance so we are moving in that direction. I think that we have been on top of this thing for the last four years and we're increasing that now, as I stated, by having the committee now.

As far as Osborne House is concerned, this is a thing that concerns me quite a bit and it's true that the province at one time refused a grant to Osborne House. I've met with them on a few occasions and we have - we don't give them a grant but there was a per diem that was increased. There was a per diem for the people living there, the people that qualify for social welfare. I think that we have to remember that on one hand we say that we have to be careful - it's not everybody that is in a domestic quarrel that hasn't any money at all and I don't know, it is a responsibility, sure, to get them away from danger and that is being done. But is it the responsibility of the government to pay for all that even if the people have funds? This is something - we haven't gone that far yet with the money that we have.

The emergency. The main thing is to get these people a place where they can go. That's fine. If we're contacted ourselves, if there is no room at Osborne House we will provide a place. If need be, we'll get the people in the hotel or anywhere, anything. The main thing is to get them away from that. Now anybody that qualifies, and I guess many of them do qualify, we will pay the per diem rate for the children and for the wife. We will immediately send our social worker - this might happen during the night, let's say, and then we are contacted we will send our social worker and people immediately to will work with these people, will look at the situation to see and try to have it a more permanent situation. Osborne House is not something that they want people there for months. It's a question of days, maybe a day. I think that we certainly improved the per diem rate that we're giving the people that qualify.

Now the larger point, and this has been suggested in the House a couple of times of maybe opening an institution or facility that would take care of that. This is something that we have considered and we would consider again. But it seems for now there are facilities and it probably would be cheaper to take somebody and put them in a hotel or something like this, if need be, if there is not room at Osborne House. I'm ready to keep on this discussion with Osborne House. Mr. Cels, our director, is talking to them and as I say we met six months or so ago and we did increase the situation there, and we are still exploring that. But to say that we turned them down completely is not the case.



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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we could pin this down a little bit closer. There are some remarks the Minister made which are a little bit disturbing. First the reference to the per diem rate. I think it amounts to about five dollars a day which isn't really enough to keep any establishment alive or whatever the per diem is it's not anywhere near sufficient to maintain a facility. The alternative that the Minister is talking about is in fact in the McLaren Hotel. I don't know if he has been to the McLaren lately, but it's not the kind of place I'd really want to place children, to be quite honest with you, children of any kind. I'm not so sure the Minister would want to spend much time staying there either. It's that strip area that's subject to an awful lot of the same conditions which maybe the family left.

I have with me, Mr. Chairman, correspondence from the Deputy Chief of Police, R.A. Wilson, when he wrote to the YWCA. If I may just quote briefly from it, it says, "One of the many tasks confronting a police officer in his day-to-day duty is that of attending calls where wives have been physically and mentally abused by their husbands. These are always difficult problems to resolve and although the abuse can be temporarily arrested there is always a concern of the attending officer that the abuse might continue once they have left the premises. Often fear is expressed by the wife that abuse will not only continue but in fact worsen. This is also aggravated when young children are present or affected." He goes on to conclude that in fact the police find that Osborne House at the present moment is the only place that they feel where women and children experiencing these serious abuses can be taken. To suggest the McLaren Hotel or something similar as an alternative strikes me as really the wrong approach to take. I would certainly see that a facility like Osborne House which allows a family to have a certain sleeping space of its own, to continue cooking its own food, to remain as a family unit, is certainly preferable than putting them into a hotel room, running up and down the hall but there is no play facility, no place to go and no cooking facilities. I don't think a hotel room really is an environment for children really no matter how good the hotel is. I don't think that that hotel which has been used is the best kind of environment that people could be placed in.

When the Minister says that he's been negotiating continually, I'm pleased to hear that. But the problem is this: that the city has provided only a partial grant that will run out the 1st of June. Now that is now less than two months away and it would seem to me that if there is to be some additional support coming from the province to maintain this facility, and perhaps to improve it because it in itself is an older home and it could probably be expanded or a different facility found. But that basic service of crisis centres where in the middle of the night a guy comes home and he's had too much to drink and he decided he's going to take out his frustrations on his wife and his kids and they have to pull up and leave and find some place to go, if there isn't Osborne House, there is virtually no place to go. That, Mr. Chairman, is a problem of serious concern to members of this House as has been expressed by the Member for Fort Garry and myself and I gather the Minister shares that concern.

But it means that unless there's some action taken in a very expeditious fashion then the funding will run out and Osborne House will fall again and we will be back at square one and I would hope that he would see to it when these Estimates are concluded that not only discussions continue but that we sit down and talk real terms and that the province is at least prepared to maintain the house for another period of time while a more permanent and satisfactory arrangement can be arrived at.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I am concerned with this and I think and I hope that I will always be concerned but I don't think that it helps by exaggerating things. This is fine. Today I'm going to hear that; tomorrow we're going to be chastised for helping people that are drinking, spending their money drinking, and so on. This is an area that the main thing is to get the people out of danger. Now my honourable friend mentioned one of these hotels, it's not necessarily the only place. Now I think we would be criticized if we set them up at the Fort Garry Hotel. I think that many of the

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . members would criticize that. The thing is to get them out of the danger and they might not have playgrounds and all this. But this is not a situation that you are taking over whenever there's a domestic quarrel and then you're going to board them for a month or something. It's a question of a day or two and then more permanent arrangements have to be made. The per diem rate might not be that well but there are very many other areas that we have rates for people that qualify on welfare. So the thing is that we have to look at the rate constantly and maybe we'll have to increase the rates and this is something that is being done.

I have nothing but good to say about Osborne House. I don't think that this is the only facility of this kind, but we can - maybe we can improve the situation but we certainly can deal with emergencies and so on. I've heard the same comments from the police force. They're very happy. If something happens, normally they wouldn't know where to take these children. They know that they can go to Osborne House and they take them there. They've had nothing but co-operation and so on. But this is something - again we have to be careful. The member of the Conservative Party, the member of the Liberal Party, are they telling me today now that this is an area that they're going to come in and no matter how people are fixed financially, this is a responsibility that we should take, that we should set a house - a motel type of a thing it seems that we're describing - where there will be facilities for the family and so on? Fine, I'll be glad to look at it but this is something that again we've got to look at priorities. If we do this in that area, I could probably within half an hour give you a list of about another 15 areas that we could do the same thing. Now the main thing is to get the people out of danger and that is being done. Now as I say I'm concerned, I'm ready to keep on discussing this and in fact, our staff has been advised to do just that. But I'm not going to sit down and give you the impression that we're going to build a house on that tomorrow. That is another thing that we'll have to be careful, we'll look at it. That doesn't mean that we're not aware of the problem and so on. The main thing is get the family, the children and wife, out of danger and I think that's the main thing. I certainly would not want to see a facility that, as soon as there's a quarrel people will go there and stay there a couple of weeks and you won't be able to get them out. This is certainly not the idea.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'm still not exactly certain if the Minister is at this time prepared to do something specific and direct in this area. Let me just go over the points.

I don't think the problem is being exaggerated. An assessment of the need for such a facility was undertaken by a number of the social agencies in the city, including the YWCA and I don't think that they are always necessarily prone to exaggeration. The facility has now been supported over the past year or two by a series of ad hoc grants in little bits and pieces. We're not talking about large sums of money, I think the total budget of Osborne House per year is about \$40,000. The city has provided the house itself. The house is by no means a luxurious facility. It's pretty basic standard, you know, a small bedroom with two or three beds in it and a kitchen and a basement and a little yard. So it's not exactly as if we're transporting people to an estate.

The critical point, the Minister says, is to get people out of danger. The issue I'd raise with him is that I think it is a facility like this which exactly does that, that there is not always a social worker at hand, particularly when a lot of them work on a 9 to 5 basis. Most of the recipients that come into Osborne House come in in the late hours of the night or the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately people don't decide to start battering their families around at two o'clock in the afternoon. For whatever the social reasons, they do it in odd hours when oftentimes the official organizations have all gone home and have retired from their employment for the day.

In a crisis centre that operates on a 24-hour basis, I think the experience of Osborne House over the past two years has indicated that that is the kind of facility that someone can phone up at two o'clock in the morning when they don't know what in God's name to do and say, you know, can I find refuge for a couple of days? Also it provides some protection for them and there have been cases where, you know, the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . husband has tracked the family down and kind of tries to get in the door. I think we're dealing not with just a matter of protection from danger but you're dealing with kids who can be very disturbed by getting themselves caught in an unpleasant family situation, where you've got that kind of horrendous conflict taking place between their parents.

I think that one of the requirements is to ensure that if you're pulling a child out of a home like that or forcing them in a crisis situation to pull up their belongings and get out of the house, that it's important that they move into an environment which is relatively peaceful and relatively able to give them some sense of security and not just simply to transport them to a hotel where it's pretty strange surroundings and there's no counselling given, no worker there to make sure that there is a constant 24-hour kind of support. I think the emotional upheaval that would accompany that kind of a situation is again pretty direct. So we're not just talking about a safe, warm, dry shelter in a hotel room. I think we're also talking about having a woman and her children come into a setting where there can be some continual support when they overcome that period of trauma and crisis.

So we're not talking big dollars. I think that we are talking of a relatively small commitment. I know that we're in an age where we're all trying to restrain but there are some certain needs that it seems to me are just so essential they should be supported. I would suggest that the Minister can work out a basis by which eventually the father who's responsible or is a party to this case should provide for some of the upkeep. There are certain rules under The Child Welfare Act to allow that to take place and for recoveries to be made. If it needs to be strengthened then I would certainly be glad to support any kind of formula that the Minister would be prepared to bring into this House and I certainly could speak for members of our own group. The question now is that there is a certain sense of urgency because of the time problem.

The house is there now and it won't be there come June unless some steps are taken. I would simply suggest that if some longer term solutions have to be worked out that as a minimum at least the continuation of the Osborne House facility be maintained over the next year to give it time to work out perhaps a more satisfactory solution or to improve its facilities or to work out what the government would like to do to respond to this particular problem. In the meantime I would really hate to see us lose a facility which is now providing an important service for the kind of dire straits that many people find themselves in. If we lose that service it's just that much harder to come back and do it. While I agree it's good that the government is putting out pamphlets and all this kind of stuff, frankly, Mr. Chairman, I'd prefer if the government would stop printing the pamphlets and all the rest of it, to provide that basic service. I mean if it's a choice between putting out a pamphlet which is internationally recognized and costs a couple of thousand dollars or whatever it is, I'd prefer to see the money go to actually providing a good service for a wife and her children who are battered or abused in a family setting. That would be to my mind the allocation of money rather than to the rest of the kind of programs the Minister described.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I certainly did not state that there was exaggeration in the problem that we have. I agree with what was stated and I also stated that I think very highly of Osborne House. This is not the area that I disagree with my honourable friend. I said first of all that it's being reviewed and that it will be reviewed but not necessarily with a commitment that we will build a building for instance or that we will give just an outright grant. I think that there is a responsibility of some people that - the last suggestion of my honourable friend appeals to me much more. The people that can afford it should pay for it, that the man should be made to pay for it. I would sooner that we helped those that, like everybody else, people who are in trouble, those that qualify for help, that maybe if this is not enough that we could maybe increase that and that's exactly what we're looking at now. But when I'm talking about exaggeration I don't think that it is quite fair to try to give the impression that they're not taken care of at all or to mention even a certain hotel. I think that in an emergency the first thing - I still say the same thing - that in an emergency

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . you get the people out of danger. We are ready and we are paying the per diem rate for the people that qualify at Osborne House. Maybe it isn't enough. I think that all our rates are being reviewed now in all our institutions but not only in Osborne House. This would be far reaching. There are other - foster home rates should be reviewed and the per diem rate of the agencies and so on. All these things have to be reviewed constantly. Now as I say this is going to be reviewed but today anyway at least, I lean towards the direction of trying to bring in the legislation where the husband if it's a case of the husband beating his wife and so on - you know it's not only the poor people that are doing that, there's people that can afford it and there's no damn reason why the public at large should pay because of that. I think that this is what we need, kind of legislation if need be, and if this is going to help, to have the people responsible for these costs and also those that can't afford it, to make sure that our per diem rates are enough to keep institutions such as Osborne House solvent so they can keep their doors open. Then again too to review the possibility of another institution or through Osborne House or another agency to see if we can have something decent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm encouraged by the Minister's reaction. Like my friend the Member for Fort Rouge, I think there's a great deal that needs to be done and certainly not enough has been done, not a fraction of enough has been done. But the fact that the problem has been spotlighted to a certain extent, identified perhaps in the minds of more people today than has been the case in the past is a step in the right direction. Now if the Minister continues to think about the problem, think about the points that have been raised and acts on the problem in the course of the next little while then I think we would at least be partially satisfied. We would certainly want to monitor the efforts and the initiatives that the Minister and the government may undertake in this area and we'll be looking for some positive results.

I would like to say that I would hope in the exchange that the equation hasn't become unbalanced or imbalanced because, in my view, just as important as the problem of the battered wife and child family unit, is the individual problem of the battered child. In many cases that battered child cannot turn to his or her mother for help any more than to his or her father because unfortunately many of the persons who for reasons of frustration, poverty and other problems, vent their frustrations on their children, are women. So in many cases you have a victim, a small victim, who has no help. He or she cannot turn simply to their mother and then flee to the kind of institution that the Member for Fort Rouge and I are talking about.

So while saying to the Minister that we hope he's going to move on this and we're going to watch and prod him to do so, I hope he doesn't forget the other half of the equation and that is the small child who is battered by either or both of the parents and for whom there is really no help at the present time unless these trained workers that the Minister is talking about preparing are trained and sent into the field and are able to make a dent, make a dent in that problem. I don't expect, I mean Rome wasn't built in a day - it's going to take a long time and we'll never get at all of them. There will always be every hour of the day, somewhere in this city some child being tortured and there's nothing that any of us in this Legislature can do about it because you can't get at all of them. But if there's hope for some of them then that's a step forward.

MR. DESJARDINS: I certainly accept these remarks as one of the challenges of the department. There's two areas here. First of all the Osborne House. When we're talking about just the child himself, there's no problem. The problem is to make sure that you detect that as early as possible. But then there's no problem because then he becomes a ward of the state or the agencies. Now what we try to do in this area - taking the children away from the family, that's the last thing that we want to do. If we have to do it in a permanent manner that's the last thing that we do. At times we remove the child for a while and then work with the family also, because these people are sick. It might be something that might happen once and

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . never again. I think this is very very important because as much as possible we want to keep the families together so we're certainly working in that direction.

Now another thing that I want just in closing on this Osborne House - is something that I had forgotten for a while but I've also instructed our staff to look at to see if there is a way that we could work the grants of day care for this group also. This might be a possibility, that we could stretch the thing even if it is not funded by the Federal Government, if they refuse to fund that, but we are looking at the area of saying well these children that are kept in there to have some kind of a, even if it's a special day care system, day care facility that we could work in that direction. But the main point - I agree with everything that was said and I'm just as concerned as the members. My main concern and the point that I'm trying to make is, if I seem to be hesitant in certain areas, I am hesitant to say, "Here's just a grant and we accept the responsibility of taking care of all these people, even those that have the funds to do it." I think the members of this party would be the first ones to say to me, you know the government is involved in everything and there's no responsibility and so on. I think that we should make darn sure that the people that can afford to pay the cost should pay the cost. Not automatically if there is a domestic quarrel, again that the state and the taxpayer has to pay that. This is what I was saying.

The emergency, the main thing is the first thing that no matter who, that we must remove the people from immediate danger and then what standard do you use. You can start at the Fort Garry Hotel or Winnipeg Inn and then you can have other facilities. But that's number one. I'm not saying that I'm pleased with that and I'm not saying it's going to be the best situation. But the main thing is: all right, it it's in the middle of the night that there be a situation where these people can go. If there's a phone call and we say we can't do anything about it and then the family has to stay there. Well the whole family is removed. I think we've got to work in that direction and take first things first and the priorities. Now as I say this is under review. We're trying to find different ways to be able to remedy this without getting involved in a situation where we have a carte blanche and we pay the cost of every time that there is a fight and so on. It could be somebody that comes in with a case of beer and so on and we've got to step in and take the family in and the taxpayer has to pay the cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 58(a)(b)(1) --pass; (b)(2)-the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I see that this item is almost doubled from last year. I wonder if the Minister could explain why this increase in this particular item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: It's in relation to the treatment panel that I was discussing a little earlier. There is added cost of this new treatment panel that we have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(c)(1) Child and Family Services: Salaries \$213,300 - the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder before we go on to this item, Mr. Chairman, whether you would be prepared to call it 12:30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 12:30 I am leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.

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MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Shafransky): Order please. We are on Resolution 107 2(b). (b)(1)--pass; (b)(1)(a)--pass.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on the Other Expenses, if the Minister could just give us a brief comment on what some of the other expenses might cover.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. We are on Resolution 107(2)(b)(1)(b), Page 51.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the \$70,600 that's under that item there is related to various items within the management group, expenses of the management group such as mileage for vehicles, printing, stationery, telephones, microfilming, microfilm equipment. One of the major expenditures here is that related to land acquisition and the Attorney-General professional fees \$36,500, and the equipment related to registering of Crown lands \$36,300. There is a minor item Rental of Aircraft \$1,000, so on.

MR. BLAKE: Has nothing to do with the . . . or the setting out of Crown lands?

MR. BOSTROM: No, this is related to the management group, the administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 107 2(b)(1)(b)--pass; Resolution (b)(2). The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister might comment on the amount of survey work being planned this year. Are there any new surveys being undertaken, or what new areas are they opening up? I imagine this is where we would discuss campsite openings or any land that might come available for tourist development.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right, Mr. Chairman. There is a number of areas in which Surveys is involved. The Survey section of this department provides services for many different departments, the Water Resources people as well as people who are working directly in setting out cottage lots and so on. Some of the subdivisions in the north, for example, that are related to the Remote Housing Program, items like this are covered under this section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: I wondered if there were any new tourist areas included in the surveys planned for the year under review?

MR. BOSTROM: Well the Surveys is a service section, when lands are identified as being the kind that should be used for recreation or housing or whatever, the Surveys people are called on to go in and do the actual physical survey. They're not the people who select sites and who identify in the first place. They're called on to do the physical work . . .

MR. BLAKE: Are they doing any in the land now that would pertain . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe it is the same procedure as in the House and members should address the Chair and when you indicate that you wish to speak, I will recognize you. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: I consider myself admonished, Mr. Chairman. Through you to the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's better.

MR. BLAKE: . . . could he identify any areas that they are presently surveying that would fall within the purview of the question I asked previously when I neglected to go through the Chair.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, related to recreational lands, my department has instructions to identify areas that can be used for remote cottaging, for cottage lots, to identify potential areas for development in this coming year. They have identified a number of lakes in the north, for example, that could be used for cottage development. I don't have a list of them right here but there is one that comes to mind is a lake close to Thompson which is, I believe, Partridge Crop Lake, which is one we're considering opening up for cottage and campsite development in this coming year. It will require a road to open up the area. That, of course, would have to be covered off through a highways program or whatever, but the actual surveying once site selections have been made with respect to cottage lots and campsites could be done by this department under this section.

MR. BLAKE: . . . we'd probably obtain a better idea of what we're looking for

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) . . . . here when we get into the Estimates of the Tourism and Recreation Department, would this be ?

MR. BOSTROM: That's right. Once lands have been identified for recreational purposes they are transferred over to the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs for actual management administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (b)(2)(a)--pass; (b)(2)(b)--pass; Resolution 107 2(b)(3)(a) and (b)--pass; Resolution 107 2(b)(4)(a) and (b)--pass; Resolution 107 2(b)(5) - The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, on this item, I just comment, the Northlands Agreement is winding up as it appears here. There's a fairly substantial amount under the '76, \$1,210,900. Is this program completed or where will these funds - any programs that aren't completed, where will the funds come from to complete the program? The Minister may clear this up with just a comment or two?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the reason there is no item in the 1976-77 budget is not that there is not a continuing program here; the funding will be included in Supplementary Supply Estimates. The reason it's not included in this particular item is because the agreement has not yet been signed. There is ongoing negotiations between the Provincial Government and the Federal Government with respect to the Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement. We're expecting to sign an agreement and when we do the money would be provided through Supplementary Supply Estimates. There is an item in the Supplementary Supply Estimates for Surveys mapping northern inventory and the Canada Land Use Plan Projects 20.26 SMY and a dollar item of \$1,331,000.

MR. BLAKE: That's fine, Mr. Chairman, it was just to clarify the item missing from . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (b)(5)(a)--pass; (b)(5)(b)--pass; Resolution (b)(6)(a) and (b)--pass. Resolution 107 2(b)--pass. Resolution 107 2(c)(1). The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, on this program I would like to have the Minister give us a brief comment on the Forestry Management Program and then probably we could question him from there or something.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Forestry Management Program, I could comment generally on the whole section here and you could then direct your questions on each section as we come to it.

The Management Program relates to the overall management of the forestry and that is the enforcement of the Acts that are related to the forest protection, forest harvesting and so on. The Reforestation Program is included in this whole section. I can give you a breakdown of the costs there.

There is a grant to the Central Forest Products Association which is an association of the forest harvesters in Manitoba, a small grant which is related to their activities. The operation of the nurseries are included in this section where the plants are developed for the reforestation projects. There is provision in here for forest protection and that includes all of the expenditures related to protecting the forest. We hire aircraft for the summer which are used for both detection and for fire suppression activities. Money's in here for firefighter wages, aircraft support. We have a new program this year which we have instituted to more formalize the kind of activities that have been taking place in the past with respect to hiring people in remote communities for fighting forest fires. We want to build up a more formal crew of men, so we have instituted a program of fire attack crews where we take a core group of people from a number of key areas in the north and we give them very intensive training on firefighting and these people will be on call, will be on salary for the forest fire season, they will form the core group of any firefighting effort in any of the remote areas. We hope to combine this program with a program that Northern Affairs has for fire protection generally in remote communities. There are, at the present time, really no firefighting or fire protection facilities in many of the remote areas, and these fire attack crews we hope will have a function in that area as well. So that with the co-operation of the two departments there will be fire protection for the communities all year around, at the same time as there is a very well-trained

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . . core group of people who can be called on for fire-fighting activities in the firefighting season.

The management of the forest, I might say, Mr. Chairman, traditionally has been one of carrying out the Acts and regulations to ensure that the harvesters of the forest are complying with all of the requirements, to assist harvesters in finding areas in which they can harvest, to lay out areas, to equitably distribute the areas that are available for forest harvesting. Many of the areas in the province now are - or some areas I should say - are at more or less the upper limit of the potential for harvesting. The western region and naturally some of the southern region is pretty well fully at the level of the sustainable yield harvest. This is only a small percentage, of course, of the total amount of forest area that could potentially be harvested. We have just completed a forest inventory where we determined that in the province as a whole right now we are only harvesting about a quarter of the potential available forest that could be harvested on a sustained yield basis. In other words, we could increase our harvesting of the forest about four times what it is right now without hurting the forest at all, that is on a well managed sustained yield basis. And with that in mind I've given instructions to my staff to get busy and to identify specific areas where forest harvesting operations could be implemented and to work with towns and communities, particularly in the rural and northern areas of this province where there is high unemployment and where there is a forest resource to assist them in establishing forest harvesting operations in order that they can address themselves to the unemployment problem and at the same time utilize to a fuller extent the resources that are available to them. We've identified, as I mentioned in my opening statement, at least 22 rural and northern communities where there is a potentially viable forest harvesting industry of one type or another, it may be pulp cutting, it might be fence posts, it might be lumber operations, or some combination of those three, or other activities related to the forest.

Just as one example, Mr. Chairman, in the last year I've given instructions to the staff to identify where hydro poles could be supplied for Manitoba Hydro in this province. Previous to this last year, Manitoba Hydro was importing hydro poles, we were a heavy net importer of hydro poles, and as a result of the department's efforts we are now not only supplying all of Manitoba Hydro and I believe Manitoba Telephone System's needs, but we are a net exporter of hydro poles. So this is just one example of the kind of thing that can be accomplished if we apply ourselves to a more full utilization of the forest.

The staff is, I might say, running now with the idea of working with communities, community groups, individuals, local corporations or whatever, in assessing what the potential forest industry is in each area and working with them to actually work out all the details and everything that has to be worked out, funding-wise and everything else, to establish forest harvesting industries in every area where it is possible to establish them. This is one of the key areas in the new thrust of the department. As I was indicating in my opening remarks, we are, I might say, doing this even though we are not increasing staff. So that by redeployment and by more efficient use of the manpower resources that we have available to us in this department, we hope to carry out a very significant new thrust in the forest area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister might give some indication to us. The reforestation program that's carried out or the proposals that were laid down and being carried out by the ManFor operation, are they operating satisfactorily and are they operating within the agreement originally set out?

MR. BOSTROM: In the ManFor area as in other areas of the province, the Department is involved in the reforestation activities, that we carry out, have the responsibility for and have the dollars in the budget to carry out the reforestation activities. In the ManFor area this is primarily done through the use of clear cutting and scarifying where they cut the areas clean and they use fairly heavy equipment with sort of drags behind where they stir up the ground and get the pine cones and so on available to the sunlight so that they can regenerate themselves. That has proven to be the most effective



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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . way in this area. Other areas of the province, such as the southeast and to certain extent in the western region of our province, there is considerable amount of hand planting where we hire people, particularly in the Spring season we hire people to actually go out and plant the trees. We've moved to a program of containerization of the seedlings which has proven to be a much more efficient; they're kind of a paper pot dissolvable in the soil as they begin to grow, much like the ones you had last year in that little plant that was given out in the Legislature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on the same topic, the earlier forest inventories that were taken in connection with the operation at The Pas, have they proven reasonably accurate in relation to some of the new inventory work that you have done?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, the one thing that has come out very clearly in the inventory work that we've done is that the area that had been originally allocated to the CFI, you know, ManFor was much larger than they required for the plant that had been established. The area that has been allocated, much of it could be cut off and used for other activities and they would still have more than required for, a sustainable yield harvest to supply that plant. In fact there has been discussions I believe that ManFor people have discussed the idea of actually increasing the volume of use in that complex one way or another, either additions to the pulping process or additions to other processes there, which would more fully utilize the forest and then to have an increased volume of production through that complex.

The northeast of the province around Jenpeg and that whole Island Lake area, Sipiwest Lake and so on, is an area that could support another complex at least as big as the one in The Pas if not bigger. And the ManFor area actually extends over into there, so they actually have much more area allocated to them than they require.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, . . . area supports some exceptionally good timber in there and there's no question that it could maybe be utilized better. It's not any more than a year or two ago when there seemed to be shortage of good treated fence posts, a lot of farmers complaining they couldn't get them fast enough or quick enough. This always seemed a big odd to me, in view of the remarks of some of our small timber . . . there really wasn't lumber type. I know you have an operation at Easterville, but I've also seen two or three of these operations in my years up in the north go bankrupt pretty rapidly when there was a good market and I just wonder what the pitfalls were in that operation and how the operation at Easterville is - is it off the ground functioning properly or is it in the early stages of development?

MR. BOSTROM: The Easterville operation has been quite successful as far as production and harvesting is concerned. Their main problem has been just the opposite of what you've outlined, and that is marketing. They are having difficulty selling their production. They originally signed an agreement to market their production through ManFor. ManFor has some fence post operation connected with its total forest harvesting operation. ManFor in fact has a surplus of fence posts at the present time. As a department we've been working very strenuously trying to assist in a general way the sale of fence posts in Manitoba and outside Manitoba, and just recently one of the staff discovered a two million fence post market in Chicago. We have put ManFor people in touch with this market and we hope to be able to have ManFor tap into that market and use ManFor as the marketing mechanism for the fence post operation in the area around The Pas and surrounding communities. If they are successful in marketing to this Chicago market, and as well supplying the Manitoba market of course, then we hope that this could sustain a number of smaller fence post operations in that area, including Easterville. Easterville at this present time is shut down, but if the Chicago market works out, as we hope it will, we are going to insist that ManFor purchase further volumes from Easterville and continue that operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: I would like the Minister to bring us up to date on some of the logging operators that are under his ministry. We could maybe start with Moose Lake Loggers. They had a better year the last statement we have than the previous one. I

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) . . . . know their last year has just ended and you wouldn't have a statement yet, but has their operation ending March this year been a successful operation again? Could he comment?

MR. BOSTROM: I'm happy to say that Moose Lake is one where we're I believe doing very well this year. Their production is up from what it has been in the past. The Board of Directors of that corporation and the management have been really been doing their job I believe, and they have put their company in a position where I would think we are going to be very close to breaking even this year, if not breaking even. We ran into a bit of a snag just recently however in that operation, in that the general turn-down in the market resulted in ManFor cutting back on the amount of quota which they allocated to Moose Lake. We've made personal representations to ManFor, both myself and the Honourable Sid Green, Minister who is in charge of the ManFor operation, reports to him. We've specifically requested that they not cut back on the volumes that they've purchased from ManFor since this is consistent with government policy that we try to work with communities in providing employment and that the objectives of ManFor should be the same as those of the government in terms of creating employment in the general area of forestry. And our instructions have been given, that provided that you do not harm your financial affairs, that you continue to provide a market for ManFor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe those corporations that you've mentioned will be reporting to the committee of the Legislature and those questions can be directed at that time, particularly to the chairman of the various corporations that we are discussing right now. We are dealing with matters that I do not see appearing on the Estimates of Renewable Resources. Resolution (c)(1)--pass; (c)(1)(a)--pass; (c)(1)(b)--pass; Resolution (c)(2)--pass; (2)(a)--pass; (2)(b)--pass; Resolution (c)(3)--pass. The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, would this be an area to discuss under Forest Protection, to discuss water bombing, or should we leave that until we get under the Air Division.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Air Division is the agent which supplies the services but the money for providing the services is in this section, so with respect to how efficiently the service is provided you can ask those questions under Air Division; if you want to discuss the cost of Forest Protection and other items related to Forest Protection, I would suggest that we discuss it under this item.

MR. BLAKE: No, other than under Forest Protection, do you encounter any problems in getting crews in for fire fighting? Is this any problem to the local people, the native people as well as the other local people of course, and your own crews? Do they seem to be able to manoeuvre sufficiently well in the areas or are you encountering any problems in getting to fires in remote areas?

MR. BOSTROM: None that are brought to my attention, Mr. Chairman, I must say that from all reports that I have had from the department and from my own personal experience in the remote areas of Manitoba. I would say the crews that have been developed over the years and the expertise that's been developed in the forest protection, forest fire fighting crews and so on, that we have fire crews that have traditionally worked for the department that are second to none; and that all the department has to do essentially is round up the people that have traditionally worked for the department, make sure that they are transported to the site of the fire and they are supplied with equipment, tools and food supplies, and the fire's out, with the support of the water bombers and other aircraft that we have which support the ground crews.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: The amount recoverable from Canada, is this a cost-sharing arrangement that's an annual ongoing thing? The recoverable amount from the Federal Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman this is related to Forest Protection on Indian Reserves where there are fires burning on the Reserves themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

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MR. BILTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are on (b) are we, Other Expenditures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (c)(3)(a)(3)--pass; (a)--pass; (b). . .

MR. BILTON: (b)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(3)(b).

MR. BILTON: There is an obvious increase over last year and I wonder if the Minister would give us in general terms just exactly what he's spending a million dollars on.

MR. BOSTROM: Well the largest expenditure in this area is the aircraft that are required for forest protection, first of all for detection of the fire and actual suppression. There's a number of aircraft used for both purposes. We hire two water bombers each year. This year they are Cansels as they have been in the past. The cost of those has gone up considerably. There is money here for fire detection aircraft, and there is of course wages for fire-fighter crews, fire attack crews and all of the equipment support that is required for fire fighting.

MR. BLAKE: I have two questions here. Is the Minister telling us then that there's moneys in there for the hiring of aircraft from outside of the province, that is non-provincial aircraft? And my other question is, could he give us some idea as to how many of the native population were hired last year or anticipated for this coming year?

MR. BOSTROM: As I was saying earlier, Mr. Chairman, the money for the Forest Protection is in the budget of Forestry Management, in the Renewable Resources side of my department. The Air Division has traditionally been used as the agency which provides the service. Some of the service can be provided by Air Division aircraft that are either owned or leased and operated by Air Division. However, some have to be obtained from outside the province if they're not available within the province. This year Air Division is hiring some aircraft from outside the province, but I would think that we could best deal with that under the Air Division Estimates which are at the end of this section, Mr. Chairman.

With respect to the second part of your question, definitely there are large numbers of people, many of whom are of native ancestry who are employed in the summer season for forest fire fighting, and this year we have included in the budget a special item for fight attack crews, in the amount of 161.4 thousand, which we are using to train and to pay for full-time crews that will be on call in key areas of the province. I believe there is one crew that will be set up in one area of your constituency. Oh yes, I have a list here of probable crew bases for these fire attack crews: The Pas, Nelson House, Wabowden, Norway House, God's Narrows, Mafeking, Swan River, Gypsumville, Bissett, Lac du Bonnet, Marchand, are areas that will have sort of the key core group of people who will be trained, highly trained and available on call to supervise and to work on firefighting activities. I might mention these crews consist of seven men rotated on a five-day week, giving a standard five-man crew at all times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, one point possibly, it's not within the domain of the Minister to answer, but I would like to ask the question. These crews that the Minister has mentioned, hired for the summer months I take it, through the summer months, is unemployment insurance paid for them, that is, contribution from the government and then a charge to them in order to place them in position for unemployment benefits during the winter months?

MR. BOSTROM: I can't say, Mr. Chairman. I would have to take that question as notice and obtain an answer for the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, just on that point. I wonder what other duties these crews might perform in the period, hopefully, between fires. Will they do other departmental work in connection with the Parks Branch or something?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, definitely, Mr. Chairman. These crews are used in the summer period. When there are no fires they're used for other departmental activities. They're kept busy on casual labour work or whatever is required to be done within each

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . . . region of the renewable resources.

MR. BLAKE: It seemed logical that they would be.

MR. BOSTROM: Primarily on forestry projects. There may be a reforestation project going in an area which they would work on in the days when there's no fires to attend to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution . . .

MR. BLAKE: On forestry, Mr. Chairman, just before we leave it. The Minister might comment on - are you encountering any, I should say problems or any difficulties with some of the roads that have been struck through various areas in the north that maybe make some certain lakes accessible that weren't available by vehicular traffic before. I know there are signs up that you travel at your own risk and it's a private road but are you encountering any problems with tourists going in there. I'm thinking of Namew and some of the other lakes.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, in answer to that question, I believe the information the department has is that many of these fires are man-made and in some areas where, you may have had that experience personally yourself, where in a time of very severe fire danger some roads are actually closed to the public, closed to the tourist at least, with only the most immediate local travel allowed. And definitely as new roads are pushed into areas of forestry it creates that much more fire hazard because of the high incidence of fire related to the people that are travelling.

MR. BLAKE: They're worse than bears there's no doubt about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (c) Forestry Management, Forest Protection (b)--pass; Resolution (4) Research--pass; Research (a)--pass; Research (b)--pass; Resolution (c)(5) Regional Technical Support--pass. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: . . . fairly substantial amount here. I think we shouldn't pass it without having some comment from the Minister. Salaries and that, of course, have to be paid we realize that. I think maybe Other Expenditures the Minister could comment just what he's spending the three quarters of a million on and what it might cover.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Forestry Management Regional Technical Support relates to the activities that are carried out in each region with respect to the activities of forestry. Each region has crews of conservation officers and so on that are related to forest management. Their time and efforts are calculated out here in terms of activities related to forestry. I might just be specific, Mr. Chairman, and point out some of the items here that are in the major areas of expenditure. For example, in Forest Protection there is a total of 89.05 SMY for a total of one and a half million dollars.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I notice this item, Salaries and Wages, an increase of a little over \$100,000. Does that mean new employees, and I would like to know from the Minister how many? And also the number of personnel under this.

MR. BOSTROM: I believe there's only been an increase of two here, Mr. Chairman. There were a total of 87.3 SMYs last year and this year there's 89.04, so most of the rest of the increase in salaries and wages would be related to salary increases that are budgeted according to the salary agreements that have been reached through collective bargaining process.

MR. BILTON: So there's only an increase of two in staff in this particular department?

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (5) Regional Technical Support (a)--pass; Regional Technical Support (b)--pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management (1) - the Honourable Member of Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like a little bit of information on the - I guess this would include your wildlife management areas, etc. I'd like an indication of what acreage has been taken over, whether or not this is leased back, what's being developed along this sort of line if the Minister would give that information please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The wildlife management areas in the province, and I just might give you a brief breakdown here, in 1974-75 there were 13 new wildlife management areas established encompassing a total of 62,994 acres, that was in that one year, while additions totalling 45,960 acres were made to 12 existing wildlife management areas. In 1976-77, this coming fiscal year, it has been recommended that seven new wildlife management areas be created for a total of 13,000 acres and that additions be made to three established wildlife management areas for a total of 1,500 acres. These recommendations are now in the proposal stage.

MR. FERGUSON: . . . the Minister then Mr. Chairman. Could he indicate the location of these areas? We're getting involved here with about 115,000 - 120,000 acres. We would like to know what's going on in this. Has it been taken out of agricultural production? What's been introduced on it? What's going on?

MR. BOSTROM: The existing ones - there's 41 existing ones. Would you want a list of them provided? I could provide you with a list separate from the Estimates process here . . .

MR. FERGUSON: I'd appreciate a list, a breakdown by the areas of the province and basically what's going on in it.

MR. BOSTROM: I could do that. That would probably save time here today.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will xerox the list and make it available to the members of the committee.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like some of that information now so as to be able to make it work with the discussion, in a general way at least.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, in a general way, as I was saying, Mr. Chairman, it's recommended that there's seven new wildlife management areas for the coming year and additions to three for a total of about 14,500 acres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina. Pardon me. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Will this section include our wildlife seasons, etc? What particular clause do we take that up under?

MR. BOSTROM: Seasons?

MR. FERGUSON: Seasons for deer, etc.

MR. BOSTROM: Well I would think we could discuss it generally under the first item there, Program Development and Management. -- (Interjection)-- That's right.

MR. FERGUSON: My next question then to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, would be what the proposals are going to be towards the deer season?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, at the present time there has been no decision taken on a deer season for the coming year. We're still assessing the situation with respect to deer populations. The initial reports that we had from the count that was made is that the deer populations are up very substantially. We are making an assessment of what the impact has been of the recent bad weather and whether or not that's had any negative impact on the herd and to what extent that impact has hurt the herd. The last sort of estimate that we had was that we have a herd size of about 80,000 animals in Manitoba which is a very substantial increase over a couple of years ago. So that the closing of the deer season has had a very substantial effect on increasing the deer herd in Manitoba, it's been very successful in that respect.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like the Minister also at this time to indicate, during the Estimates last year he said that he was holding meetings with the Indian

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(MR. FERGUSON cont'd) . . . .Chiefs and hopefully there would be some decisions made which would be acceptable to all parties with the idea of - private land excepted. Was there any outcome of these discussions or where do we stand along this line?

MR. BOSTROM: Well we've taken initiative, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated last year, in bringing together the Indian people of Manitoba through the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Federal Government who has the authority in this area and who has guaranteed to the Indian people of Manitoba certain rights and privileges through the ties and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement. We've taken the initiative to bring them together in three-way discussions with ourselves, the Federal Government and the Indian people of Manitoba represented through the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. Discussions have been held over the last year. I believe some progress has been made in respect to identifying very specifically what rights the Indian people have to get some co-operation from them in terms of protecting the wildlife resource. I might just, by way of example, Mr. Chairman, read a letter that was written to all of the Indian people in the area of The Pas by the Chief of The Pas Band, Gordon Lathlin and the Vice-President of the MIB, Lawrence Whitehead. This is following the discussions that we had and I believe it gives an indication of some considerable effort on their part in coming to a more rational use of the resource.

"Treaty No. 5 made provisions for Indian people under Treaty to pursue their way of life through hunting and fishing. This is a recognized agreement between the Federal Government and Treaty Indians. In 1916 The Migratory Birds Convention Act came into existence. It chopped away some of the Indian hunting rights in respect of migratory birds. Hunting therefore is restricted for all people, but regulations were introduced that hunters may hunt at a time and in an area mentioned in each season for hunting to begin and end. In respect to Treaty Indian hunting at all seasons of the year the Indian people in working with people connected with migratory birds and the RCM Police have been able to express their concern in pursuance of their hunting privileges to continue.

"Under law at the present time it is illegal to hunt migratory birds out of season. However there is an attitude of leniency in respect to prosecutions towards Treaty Indians hunting game and fish for food in The Pas area. The RCM Police have been extremely co-operative and lenient in this area. The Provincial Government under The Transfer of Natural Resources Act of 1930 made provisions for Indian people to hunt game and fish for food at all seasons of the year. The Attorney-General's Department through a letter confirmed our hunting privileges. The local game branch and officials also have been very co-operative to Treaty Indians.

"We must return this recognition and co-operate to the fullest extent. Chief Gordon Lathlin and myself have worked very hard to preserve our way of life in one aspect and that is hunting and fishing for food for Treaty Indians to continue. Our request is very simple. When asked by the RCM Police or Game Warden of your Treaty number and name or any other information required by law please give it immediately, (b) do not sell your ducks or geese, moose etc., (c) do not abuse your privileges by taking more than you really need." This is signed by the Chief Gordon Lathlin and the Vice-President Lawrence Whitehead.

I believe it's some indication at least that the Indian people are prepared to try to co-operate in using the game resource responsibly. We have not been successful in changing any of the rights and privileges that they have, nor has there been any indication that they would be in agreement to do that. But I believe it's at least a step forward when we're able to achieve a measure of co-operation in which the Indian Bands and the leaders of the Indian people will work with the province and the Federal Government in working out a rational use of the resource.

A MEMBER: What do they charge now for hind quarters?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: You maybe could answer that better than me.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I don't think that the Minister is getting the point here. I'm certainly not arguing at all about Treaty provisions or anything along

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(MR. FERGUSON cont'd) . . . .this line. What I'm arguing about is the same thing as we were last year. What about private property? The Minister seems to skate around this. I'd like a little bit of a straightforward answer this year. What are the instructions that the conservation officers have if an Indian is caught jacklighting on private property? Does he prosecute or does he not? Now this is what I want to know. I'm not interested in the Treaties.

MR. BOSTROM: As far as private property is concerned, Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the law is that no one has the right to hunt on private property without obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone on private property at night or in the day can be charged under The Trespassing Act with trespassing. We print it right on the licenses that are sold that someone who is hunting should get permission of the owner. He shouldn't take it for granted that he has the right to hunt on private land.

MR. FERGUSON: Very well then, Mr. Chairman. Through you to the Minister. Are you saying then that land does not have to be posted properly? Proper posting is every 80 rods of which you are quite aware. In many cases it's impossible to keep these posters up so this would be thrown out of court by a technicality I expect. Now the municipality did make a suggestion here, I think it was about 1974, that designated areas could be given the proclaimed or created - whatever you want to call it - with a given standard mark and that this would stand up. I would wonder if the Minister would consider something along this line, or what about posting? Are you going to insist that it be posted to make it stand up in court?

MR. BOSTROM: What kind of standard mark are you talking about?

MR. FERGUSON: Well something along the line of your game management areas or something along this line.

MR. BOSTROM: Well if there were areas to be set aside with a certain provision, it would have to apply to everyone. I mean there could be, say, no hunting areas established or something like that but it would have to apply to everyone and it would have to apply in and out of hunting season. This is one of the unfortunate things, of course, if there is a reaction against treaty Indian hunting, whether it's day or night, and this is something I've brought to the attention of the treaty Indians that I've met with that if the public reaction to their hunting is such that all farmers start to post their land, or to withdraw the privileges that they had given over the years to the use of hunters generally hunting on their land, that there will no longer be any hunting seasons for anyone, not only treaty Indian people but for everyone because 70 percent of our wildlife, particularly the deer resource, is on private land. So that if it comes to the point where private landowners and farmers in particular want to get tough about hunters on their land, whether they be treaty Indian or otherwise, then the sportsmen and those who are hunting for food will be in trouble.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, here again we are skating around the thing, I think, a little bit. This would only have to do with private property, it would have to distinguish between Crown land or reserve land, or whatever the case may be, or land which these people have been granted access. There's no problem there. All I'm saying is that this would make it an awful lot easier for the Conservation Officers and the RCMP to prosecute someone that was on this land so marked. Now private property you can put up a "no trespassing" sign but my God it's costing a fortune to do it, and it's the only protection that there is. This is all I'm asking.

MR. BOSTROM: I believe one of the problems, Mr. Chairman, as I'm told from enforcement people, is that when charges are laid it's a requirement to have the landowner in question appear in court, and for one reason or another most of them are reluctant to do so, so that the charges are not proceeded with.

MR. FERGUSON: If I'm caught jacklighting on my own property then who appears against me, or if I'm caught on my neighbour's, he's certainly not to come in and appear against me, I'm going to be charged under the Act, I'll be prosecuted. Then why is this brought up?

MR. BOSTROM: If you're caught nightlighting, you have no right to nightlight, you have no privilege to nightlight.

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MR. FERGUSON: No, neither does anyone else on private land - that's the point I'm trying to make if the Minister would listen.

MR. BOSTROM: The information I have from enforcement people is that they can be charged under the Wildlife Act if they are caught on private land nightlighting.

MR. FERGUSON: Then you're saying that I would not have to appear in court at the same time. It would be laid the same as it is against anyone else, this is the point I am trying to bring out.

MR. BOSTROM: That is the information I have, is that a treaty Indian who does not have permission to hunt on private land, but then again the permission question is the "Catch 22" or whatever you call it here, because the treaty Indian could make the case that he has permission to hunt on that private land and then somebody has to appear in court and say, well, no, he does not have permission to hunt. You see, that's the catch.

MR. FERGUSON: The distinction I was trying to make, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that rather than being charged under Petty Trespass, which I believe the maximum fine is \$25.00, that all people would be treated equal on private land. This is all I'm suggesting. I don't think that there would be any hang-up on anybody's part to say, well I either gave permission or I didn't give permission.

MR. BOSTROM: This is one of the things that we've made clear through these joint meetings that we have been talking about, is that a treaty Indian who doesn't have permission to hunt on private land doesn't have any special rights under the treaty regarding that land, and can be charged by Conservation Officers or RCM Police under the Wildlife Act. But the key word there is "permission" and if he comes to court, and my information is that if he does come to court and says, "Yes, I did have permission from Farmer Brown to hunt on this land," then Farmer Brown has to come to court and say, "No, he didn't have permission."

MR. FERGUSON: One more question, Mr. Chairman, then I'll stop. But I would like to ask the Minister then, has instructions to this effect gone out to the Conservation Officers. I've talked to several of them and they've received no indication that this is the way the thing is going.

MR. BOSTROM: Well I believe they have those instructions. I can ensure that that is the case.

MR. FERGUSON: Very well then, if the Minister would guarantee to me, or check it out, that they have received this sort of instruction, I will stop my questioning on that then. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Chairman, is he through with the Member for Gladstone because . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think so.

MR. BOSTROM: No, I'm done, temporarily.

MR. HENDERSON: Well I'd like to bring up the same point because it was in my area where an Indian was shot and where we've had a whole lot of trouble, and we were hoping that there'd be something good come out of this so there wouldn't be more trouble but I understand that the Indians have been in there again, and that they have been going out with large numbers of deer.

MR. BOSTROM: On private land?

MR. HENDERSON: Well they come in there and if the land isn't posted they just seem to be shooting. They seem to be on the road allowances or something, but they're doing a lot of shooting and they're taking out large numbers of deer - it's not just for food. And so the question that we're wanting is, we're wanting this settled. Surely some way can be figured out. I believe when this here treaty law, when they were allowed to kill for food and all this, I think it's about time it's changed. This was when the country was just . . . and they were bargaining with them on the beginnings. Circumstances have changed and I don't believe the Indians need to shoot at night any more than any white man does.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member's argument is more with the Federal Government than with the Provincial Government since the laws



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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . . governing hunting by treaty Indians of wildlife is a federal law, and it's granted to the Indians through the treaties which were signed between the Federal Government and the treaty Indian people of Manitoba, and it was reaffirmed in the Natural Resources Transfer Act of 1929 or '30. So that the province never had a hand in this, the Provincial Government never had a right to change that law one way or the other, and if the law is to be changed then it has to be done by the Federal Government. And I would assume that if it's going to be changed, it would have to be done with the consent of both parties since it's a treaty that was signed by both parties. Now the Federal Parliament may be able to change it, I don't know, they may be able to change it unilaterally without the consent of the Indian people.

But our approach has been to at least get the Indian people and the Federal Government sitting down and talking about the problem and to try to come to some rational consensus about the problem. The reason for sitting down initially was the problems that have been brought to the attention of the government and also the problems with the deer population of Manitoba. There was a real problem a couple of years ago where the deer population was in some considerable danger and this necessitated some pretty close attention.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm not saying that there isn't a problem and that isn't a federal one, but I think that a lot of the federal problems are solved when members of provinces, when the different ministers get together and discuss these things and go about, you know, really doing something about it. Because in this area down around where I live, it's been a problem for years and you don't know how riled up some of those people get; they've had public meetings and such like, and as I've said already there have been Indians that have been shot at and one has been killed. So I think that it's something you should continue to work on to see if you really can't come up with a little bit more satisfactory way of handling it.

I think I can leave that then and go on to these areas that you're buying up for wildlife. I don't know whether it's done through your department or some other, but I have heard complaints that the government's buying up land and that they pay quite a high price for it, and it's even land in some cases that was farmed and then later on when the government got it they just let it go and for the first years it was pretty near, you know, growing up with a lot of weeds and stuff, but they were saying this is a wildlife area and they aren't even paying taxes on it. This was making some of the other farmers pretty upset. I'd like your opinion on that.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, on the issue of price, all of the acquisitions are done through the Land Acquisition Branch, and the Land Appraisal Commission do the analysis on the price. I can just give you some very specific examples here. I believe the question was asked in the Legislature about lands purchased in the Lauder area, and it should be very specific, one piece of land here was bought, 158 acres, at a price per acre of \$15.19; the highest price paid here was for 480 acres where the price was \$46.87 per acre. All of the purchases done here - this is in the Lauder area, there's a number of purchases - all of these purchases were voluntary sale agreements, and the prices arrived at were prices that were considered fair and reasonable by the Land Value Appraisal Commission.

And I might say, just in answer to your general comments about municipalities or people in the area not wanting this to continue or not wanting wildlife management areas, we're presently establishing one in the area of the Brokenhead Rural Municipality, and the rural municipality in this case is asking for this land to be put into such use. In fact, large areas of the intended or proposed area is owned by the Brokenhead Rural Municipality and they have agreed to sell it to the Provincial Government at a lower price than they could have obtained on the private market because they particularly want to have this land in that use.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm not saying that there isn't some areas like that but the very fact that all of your purchases were voluntary and that they weren't disputed is a fact that you were paying a pretty good price. Now I know it didn't sound big per acre for anybody that's used to valuable land but land is all prices in Manitoba, and even though it's small in that particular area it might be considered fairly large. I

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd) . . . . say the fact that they were all voluntary sales and they weren't disputed was a fact it was a pretty good price.

Anyway I'd like to move on to something else, and I don't know whether this is the place or not, but it has to do with the wildlife and the settlements that are made to people that have damage done by, we'll say birds and ducks and geese in the fall of the year. Is this the place you'd like it brought up?

MR. BOSTROM: You can bring it up here if you like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is wildlife management (d)(1).

MR. HENDERSON: I would say that the policy at present is you have to report to the crop insurance people and you have to leave it until they come and assess, and everything else, and I don't know if you've ever been in an area that's got quite a few sloughs in it but when the ducks are migrating and they move into a certain area, they can wipe out a field so quick that it's unbelievable. If it just happened to be a dull day or two and you're away and they moved into that area, they can do an awful lot of damage. Then the people come over and they'll only pay you a small percentage of the damage. Now I know we need our wildlife around but I came to think there's an awful lot of these people that are talking about wildlife, whether it's duck and geese or that, they're very happy about it, they like to come out and have a lot of fun shooting them but they don't know about the damage they're doing and they aren't prepared to pay for it. And I know that where you have a lot of damage done that they never pay enough. And I think there should be something done about this. I don't think they have a way of dealing with these complaints quick enough, because I know in my own particular area last year, it isn't everybody that's living exactly right on their own piece of property. We went over to, to this particular field at the time and there was just ducks there by the thousands, they were just. . . and we had come to combine and they were just there and there's just no way that you were going to wait for any inspector or anybody to come, you were going to combine and there was a lot of damage done and they said, well we can't inspect it any more now because, because you've threshed it. And there's just no way any farmer would wait on a dry day for an inspector to come. I think this should be changed.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll certainly take the Honourable Member's comments into consideration and see what can be done about those specific problems.

Just in general, in commenting on the issues that you've raised. All of the money that is now paid out to farmers for damage to crops from ducks is paid from a fund which is contributed to by hunters, and so far all of the money that has been paid out has . . . there's been enough money paid into the fund by hunters to pay out all of the moneys that have been required so far. There are no moneys going into that from general revenues.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, the complaint that I heard was that they weren't able to pay more because there wasn't enough in the fund.

MR. BOSTROM: Well the fund has pretty well balanced out so far, that's what I'm saying. But so far we have been able to cover all of the expenses through the fund. It's been a joint agreement where the Federal Government puts in so much and where we've had some overages they've agreed to come up with the extra moneys and cover it off.

MR. HENDERSON: What would be the maximum amount paid on any acre for a crop?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe it's \$25.00 an acre. It's generally \$25.00, Mr. Chairman. Although in the area of Oak Hammock where the government has developed a marsh there has been full compensation, a hundred percent compensation paid to the farmers in the immediate area of the marsh where they've suffered duck depredation.

Just in general though, we are reviewing the present payment. The comment you make about the amount of money that's paid being too little is recognized and we are already working on that. There's a joint committee set up right now between the Department of Agriculture and my department and we're going to be working out a plan which we will be discussing with the Federal Government to try to come to a more equitable arrangement on this particular problem.

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MR. HENDERSON: Well, I'm glad to hear that. Well, I'm glad to make these remarks then because in my particular area you pay \$25.00 to cash rent the land before you ever went on it. So \$25.00 by way of settlement per crop isn't fitting at all. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just received an important message and I wonder if we might just back up with leave for a moment to an item that we've passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed? (Agreed)

MR. BLAKE: I've just heard that, or received word that there are fires burning along the highway. Highway 10 between Cranberry Portage and the Thompson road caused, reportedly, by unsupervised burning of bush by highway crews. I wonder if the Minister was aware of that. They've had prisoners out fighting fires apparently, and it's been going on for three days and our informant would like it stopped immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, this has really nothing to do with this particular aspect we're dealing on. . .

MR. BLAKE: I'm back under 4, it's Protection I realize that, I just wondered if the Minister might like to comment. Is his department aware of this or . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Well, I'm sure they are and I'm sure there's probably someone out there working on it right now. If they've had time to notify you, I'm sure they've notified the local authorities.

MR. BLAKE: We just happened to have both the Ministers handy so I thought it was possibly a good opportunity to make them aware of it if they weren't already aware.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, by tonight you'll find out how fast our crews can work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways)(Dauphin): All I was going to comment, Mr. Chairman. If things get out of hand the Minister for Renewal Resources and the Minister for Highways will be out there fighting the fires themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (d) Wildlife Management Program. Development and Management --(Interjection)-- Yes, you are. I'm just trying to get to the point where we are. Wildlife Management (1) Program Development and Management. The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: On the Wildlife Management, the Minister has completed the deer count and I know it's going to take consultation with many groups to decide on a deer season. I'm a big game hunter and I enjoy the sport very much and it's going to be a question I suppose this year whether there is a deer season or not.

A MEMBER: How many did you poach?

MR. BLAKE: I haven't poached one, Mr. Chairman, this year. I've talked to many wildlife groups and there seems to be quite a split in feelings. Some of the real ardent hunters say let it go one more year before you have a season, and others say well, you should have some type of a limited season, possibly with a draw for licences to provide some balance. I know the Minister is going to be working on this decision and will hopefully come up with one that's acceptable to all of the sportsmen.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and I would say that with all due respect to the sportsmen we have less concern for the sportsmen than we have for the deer resource. And where there's any doubt in mind with respect to the protection of the species, the species must come first, and we will not be trying to set a season simply to accommodate the sportsmen but we will be trying to set a season which will provide the greatest protection for the resource.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, back onto the waterfowl areas. Could the Minister tell us how many licenses were issued for the Oak Hammock marsh area and would he have - I don't know whether this information would be readily available or not - how many prosecutions there were for infractions of the licence as issued in the Oak Hammock area for the past year? Some of these. . . areas are difficult for a lot of sportsmen or hunters to accept but I think they're starting to realize more and more that they have to

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) . . . . accept areas like this. And those friends of mine that hunted in there last fall - I was in there but wasn't able to hunt because I didn't have a licence - I think those that were issued licences in there were more than pleased with the accommodation that they had and the hunting that they had in there and it's probably eased a lot of the hue and cry that went up when that area was established originally. I just wondered if he would have any record of the number of licences issued and how many prosecutions, or how many infractions there were of people taking an excess of their bag limits or whatever.

MR. BOSTROM: I have the number here of the number of hunters that were licensed to hunt in the area and that is 3,100, Mr. Chairman. I do not have information on the number of infractions or just a ball park estimate on the infractions by the Chief Enforcement Officer here is 20 to 30.

MR. BLAKE: I didn't realize how many licences. That's not all that bad then. I knew there was quite a number but . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Oh, it provided hunting for a total of 3,100 hunters at one time or another.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, you had two days, or a week was it, in or out?

MR. BOSTROM: Not all at the same time.

MR. BLAKE: Right. They were allocated a certain section of land or a certain portion of land, a quarter section I believe it was for 200, and you were allowed to change I think with others if the areas weren't satisfactory.

No I think that's working out very very well and I just wondered if there are any other areas, other game management areas where they're planning a similar type of controlled hunting.

MR. BOSTROM: There's one area that had already been under this kind of a scheme and that was the Grants Lake area. We have not any specific areas in mind for next year for this coming year. But we're looking at this program and how successful it is and how it can be applied to other areas. As you indicate, the reports we've had as well are that this was a very well thought out and well executed way of allowing for very good quality hunting.

MR. BLAKE: Also on the item of Wildlife Damage. This fund that you mentioned was balancing itself out, does this include the damage done by elk, deer and bear?

MR. BOSTROM: That's right. Mr. Chairman, the fund that I'm talking about here is the fund that's established through the Wildlife certificates and the waterfowl hunters also pay for a certificate to the Federal Government of which we receive a portion of that money back. We don't receive it all back but we receive a portion of that money to cover a proportion of the costs.

MR. BLAKE: I see. Some of the areas in my constituency border on Riding Mountain National Park and there's been pretty heavy damage over the years from the elk herds in there where there was no compensation. Now I think three years ago was the last serious one or maybe two. This fund had not been established at that time. Would I be correct there? I know one particular farmer had affidavits signed by about 35 different people and he had two lawyers but he still didn't recover any compensation. So maybe it was three years ago. How long has this fund been in existence?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe it's two years ago, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLAKE: Well it will be three years ago then because he wasn't compensated at all and I saw the field myself; it was a field of oats, probably 120 acres and it was just completely trampled to the ground. So they will be getting some compensation from now on, however small. Hopefully it can be built up to the point where it is useful to them. I know many cases of damage such as this - it's something like the flooding that occurs, it's almost an act of God, you can't just tell where that flock of geese or ducks is going to land. If they happen to pick your barley field and leave your neighbor's alone there's just not too much you can do about it. The damage is pretty hard to assess in some cases, too.

MR. BOSTROM: To be very specific, Mr. Chairman, on the question of the honourable member, Manitoba Regulation 324/74, which means it was passed in '74,

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . .provides for compensation to be paid to farmers for loss or damage caused to certain agricultural crops by big game animals or black bear. Compensation shall be 75 percent of the commercial value of the damaged crop up to a maximum of \$5,000 per claim. No compensation will be paid where damage is less than \$50.00. And I believe I did give the procedure in the House as to how people may go about making a claim. There's a \$25.00 fee which is returnable if the claim is approved for payment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this heading, I wonder if the Minister could inform the committee as to where the matter of trophy licences stand. I appreciate his concern this morning, by his remarks, as to the depletion of wildlife and the efforts of the department to conserve it. Could the Minister tell me how many trophy season licences were issued last year?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we do not have any trophy licence season as such. Last year under the scheme we worked out for moose hunting, there was a "bulls only" season, but it was not specifically set aside as a trophy season, it was set up in that way because of the particular management, game management practice that was required to protect the moose resource and to take a more rational harvest of the resource. This department does not encourage, nor do we promote the idea of a trophy hunting season. Our main purpose in having a season is to achieve a reasonable harvest of the resource and we expect that people will fully utilize the carcass that is obtained as a result of the hunt, and where people are not doing that they can be prosecuted under the regulations that we've set up.

MR. BILTON: Well, I'm sure the Minister will appreciate the fact that it's the fall and early season that . . .Do I understand him now that the trophy season as such - and many bitter memories some people have had of it, that is in the wastage of game life - that's really stricken from the books now. There's no such thing as a person getting a licence for the simple reason of obtaining a trophy; in other words, the antlers.

MR. BOSTROM: That is correct, Mr. Chairman, and we do not have a trophy season as such, and in fact we have a regulation in effect under which people can be prosecuted if they are wasting the carcass of the animal that is shot.

MR. BILTON: And with regard to the elk season, I'm not too sure whether we had it last year in the Duck Mountains. Did we?

MR. BOSTROM: I didn't hear the question.

MR. BILTON: The elk season.

MR. BOSTROM: The elk season was on a draw basis I believe.

MR. BILTON: Could the Minister tell the committee how many elk were taken out last fall through this means?

MR. BOSTROM: I don't have the information here, Mr. Chairman. I would take that question as notice and provide that information to the honourable member.

MR. BILTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Going back to this duck compensation there's a couple of questions that I'd like to ask there. When was the cut-off date on this, or has there been a cut-off date? Because I think the Minister would be aware of the fact that with the return of the birds that there's a lot of unharvested crop in my area and some of it would be salvageable, some of it wouldn't be. What would the procedure be there?

MR. BOSTROM: April 30th is the cut-off date, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FERGUSON: April 30th. Has there been any settlements made for these claims up to this point?

MR. BOSTROM: On assessments made this spring, you mean?

MR. FERGUSON: No, no, made last fall.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes there's settlements have been made on those.

MR. FERGUSON: Those settlements have been made, eh?

MR. BOSTROM: I'm not sure if all of them have been made but some of them are still being processed, I believe.

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MR. FERGUSON: Yes, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, if he wants to go back to talking about those claims I have a little bit different thing I'd like to bring up. I'll let him go ahead and then I'll ask mine afterwards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Just for the edification of the people I represent, the question has been brought up several times and I know that the department has done something about it on occasion, but I wondered if it would not be better, in the opinion of many of my constituents anyway, rather than having this elk season for thinning out as it were of the herd, that some of these elk be trapped and put into areas around northern Manitoba or east of the lakes in order to develop herds in those particular areas that are practically barren now. Could the Minister give us some opinion on this? Is it being done then? Tell us about it.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the only experiment that I am aware of is one where some have been moved into the Interlake area and that is the only one that's been tried but your suggestion could have merit. We certainly would look at it.

I have, Mr. Chairman, just on the former question that was asked on the elk draw, the applicants last year, or rather for the 1975 season I have here, there were 731 applicants for the fall elk draw, 421 of those were successful. In the winter elk draw for 1975, there were 857 applicants, and 106 of those were awarded licenses. In the '75 resident caribou draw, you may be interested to know that there were 38 applicants and of course there were 38 successful applicants in this case since there were less supplied than the quota.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for those remarks. But it takes my mind back to when he mentioned caribou, a matter that was brought up in the House last year, he brought over a couple of Russians, I understand. Would he care to tell the committee as to what they did, and is it the intent to develop a caribou herd in northern Manitoba? Why didn't you bring Laplanders?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, these people came over here on invitation to pass on some of the knowledge that they had in developing domesticated caribou herds in their own country and they were also asked to comment on the native caribou herd that is in Manitoba, in our far north in the barren lands, and to give us some idea of what the potential would be of building up that herd, either through a natural means or through domestication. They spent about four or five days, I believe, in Manitoba with our wild-life biologist. They travelled our north; they were very very impressed with the potential for the herd in Northern Manitoba. They felt that the existing herd there could be built up five times what it is now, that the natural range was there.

They advised against domestication of caribou. They advised it on the basis of the cultural values of the people living in the area. Knowing our northern native people they said they knew that they were hunters by culture not herders, that herding caribou was a very very difficult way of life. It necessitated a nomadic way of life where the peoples would follow the herds from their summer range to their winter range and in the process take a harvest of some of the herd. They were just very strenuously advising against it.

They've written a report. An interim report was obtained from them by way of interview before they left and they've, since that time, sent us a written report to follow up more specifically the recommendations that they had. It was very useful I believe from the point of view of giving us a very quick analysis of what the potential is in our north for the caribou herd and to comment on the possibilities of domestication of caribou. Many people were talking about it in very romantic terms but I believe these Soviet experts brought it down to earth and said that these are the problems with domestication. The return is not that high; the way of life is very hard and it was simply not recommended on the basis of not being culturally suitable for Manitoba northerners.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Well I lived through the era when the Federal Government brought

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(MR. BILTON cont'd) . . . .the reindeer over from - 4,000 of them - from the Yukon over to Richardson Island and they can be herded and they can be handled. I don't know where that stands now but insofar as the caribou are concerned I agree with the Minister. Their treks from the barren lands to the Yukon each year backwards and forwards, it varies. There may be years when we don't have any caribou in Northern Manitoba whatsoever. That would cause my curiosity as to why that was being done last year and while I didn't get the answer I've had today, I do appreciate it.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, just for the honourable member's information there is one captive herd of caribou as we call it in the area south and east of Churchill where they remain in the area winter and summer. They travel a very short distance between the coast and the inland area. That herd is being looked at specifically as one which could be built up through careful management and careful protection, protect against poaching and at the same time to assist in building up the herd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Pembina wants to speak about rats and that will come the next item. There were buffalo released in the area north of Cranberry Portage and also up north of Gypsumville I believe some years ago. Could you give us a report on the state of the buffalo population being introduced in other areas of Manitoba, other than the Riding Mountain National Park? Have the natives got them all yet or are there some still around Cranberry Portage? There was one big one on Highway No. 10 two or three times there a couple years ago.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am informed those that were there have disappeared and we're not introducing any more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask if the muskrat population is increasing in Manitoba?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not at that . . .

MR. HENDERSON: Well it's wildlife and this is wild fur development. If you don't want to answer it now you can answer it later. I just thought if we do it now we won't have to do it later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's very logical. The Honourable Member for Lakeside wishes to set a trap.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with Wildlife Management. There has been over the years a fair amount of discussion among the two sides that are always in any game. In this case it's the game that's the one side that is not being represented and I would like to represent the game a little bit at this committee meeting. I'd like to ask the Minister about . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are on Wildlife Management: (1) Program Development and Management (a)--pass; (d)(1)(b)--pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (2) Wild Fur Development (a) - the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: All right. Coming back to the game Mr. Chairman. Through you to the Minister. Can the Minister indicate to us what the current situation is vis-a-vis the development of more humane trapping methods than are currently employed in the harvesting of fur. I should make it clear, Mr. Chairman, that I seldom get myself caught in these leg traps and I don't have such a specific interest in them one way or the other but it's been brought to my attention by numerous constituents of mine who have expressed a great deal of concern. I know that the department has from time to time expressed a concern and I believe has engaged in some developmental work with other traps. I would invite the Minister to indicate to us what stage that development is in; what in fact are the prospects for perhaps doing away with some of the more brutal ways of trapping our little wild furry beasts in the forests of Manitoba and if in fact there is an answer to that question that has been raised on numerous occasions by people, correctly put I suppose, not directly involved in the fur industry but people who have nonetheless an abiding concern about the humane treatment of our wildlife. Mr. Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, just to be correct in terms of discussing things under the proper item, I would suggest that we discuss this under the Wild Fur Development.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: That is where we are now.

MR. BOSTROM: Humane trapping has been a concern as the honourable member has been indicating in his remarks. The department has, I believe, been the leader in Manitoba. This department has been a leader in Canada in fact in promoting the use of humane traps and more humane trapping methods. There have been experiments with various devices since trapping in Manitoba began, but more specifically in recent years. I believe direct government involvement dates from 1958 and has greatly expanded since 1973.

Between 1958 and 1973 nine traps invented outside of Manitoba were tested. These included - and they're all listed here by name if the honourable members are interested. There's Coney Bear, Bigelow, Tulloch, Finn, Sawyer, Mohawk, Canada Northern and one called by the appropriate name of Killer. Of these only the Coney Bear has proved to be practical and humane. Testing was carried out by trapper education and selected trappers.

Between 1969 and 1976 nine traps invented in Manitoba by trappers have been and are being tested. These include a Dahlgren compensator, Dahlgren circular, Larouque, Brownlee, Sawchin, King, Durand, a Larouque pass through and a Connelly. These are all being tested at the present time. All are being field tested by trappers and Renewable Resources and Transportation Services personnel.

The emphasis is on developing lures and scents for the upland animals, fox, coyote and wolf which cannot to date be taken in the Coney Bear trap. These are the animals which have been trapped by the leg-hold trap traditionally and for which every effort is being made to try to find a more humane trap. We have, at the present time, four persons who are employed full time in Field Testing Programs. All are trappers. There have been experiments with leg-hold traps which have been altered to act as body grip devices and these seem to be working out. There was a brief experiment with cyanide gas and fish nets in taking beaver which were tried in the early sixties which the honourable member may be aware of. The results of these experiments were not encouraging apparently.

Trap introductions and exchanges. Grants the trappers, which have been in effect for the past few years through the Special ARDA Program and others, the granting agencies have been instructed to try to supply humane traps wherever possible. More recently I've given instructions or rather a request to the Special ARDA people, since they don't come under our jurisdiction entirely, but I requested that all future traps which are supplied to trappers, through their granting program, be of the humane variety. They have agreed to do this. So that from this day forward all traps that are supplied through that program will be humane traps.

The practical problem here, Mr. Chairman, as I see it, is that there are thousand upon thousands of leg-hold traps hanging up in trappers' cabin and farmers' sheds and what-have-you, all over the province. The only way that you are going to be successful in eliminating the use of those traps is to provide a better trap. The eternal search for the better mousetrap sort of thing. The trapper who has thousands of traps in his trapper's cabin on a trap line cannot be expected, I don't think, to follow a regulation that cannot use those traps. If he can't be supplied with a better trap then he's going to continue to use them whether or not we have a regulation. That is the problem. It has been suggested that we pass a law immediately that the leg-hold trap be eliminated from use, but I do not believe that to be that to be a practical suggestion at this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Lakeside has set a trap and I believe that he would like to catch something. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased at the Minister's response. The trap that is on the table was sent to me by a constituent who wanted me to demonstrate to the members of the Committee the kind of situation that the animals face when they're caught by a leg hold in these kind of traps. I have done so and I intend to do so and thank the Honourable Minister for giving us some encouragement that this kind of a trap will perhaps find its way into antiquity. Obviously if it were trapped by me it would be safe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 12:30 having arrived, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 2:30 this afternoon. Committee Rise.