



FOURTH SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
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DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

26 Elizabeth II

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Speaker



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thirtieth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Electoral Division	Political Affiliation
ADAM, A. R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
AXWORTHY, Lloyd	Fort Rouge	Lib
BANMAN, Bob	LaVerendrye	P.C.
BARROW, Thomas	Flin Flon	NDP
BILTON, James H.	Swan River	P.C.
BLAKE, David	Minnedosa	P.C.
BOSTROM, Hon. Harvey	Rupertsland	NDP
BOYCE, Hon. J. R. (Bud)	Winnipeg Centre	NDP
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	P.C.
BURTNIAK, Hon. Peter	Dauphin	NDP
CHERNIACK, Saul, Q.C.	St. Johns	NDP
CRAIK, Donald W.	Riel	P.C.
DEREWIANCHUK, Steve	Emerson	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent L.	St. Boniface	NDP
DILLEN, Ken	Thompson	NDP
DOERN, Hon. Russell	Elmwood	NDP
EINARSON, Henry J.	Rock Lake	P.C.
ENNS, Harry J.	Lakeside	P.C.
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FERGUSON, James R.	Gladstone	P.C.
FOX, Hon. Peter	Kildonan	NDP
GOTTFRIED, John C.	Gimli	NDP
GRAHAM, Harry E.	Birtle-Russell	P.C.
GREEN, Hon. Sidney, Q.C.	Inkster	NDP
HANUSCHAK, Hon. Ben	Burrows	NDP
HENDERSON, George	Pembina	P.C.
JENKINS, William	Logan	NDP
JOHANNSON, Wally	St. Matthews	NDP
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	P.C.
JOHNSTON, Gordon E.	Portage la Prairie	Lib
JORGENSEN, Warner H.	Morris	P.C.
LYON, Sterling R., Q.C.	Souris-Killarney	P.C.
MALINOWSKI, Rev. Donald	Point Douglas	NDP
McBRYDE, Hon. Ronald	The Pas	NDP
McGILL, Edward	Brandon West	P.C.
McGREGOR, Morris	Virden	P.C.
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin	P.C.
MILLER, Hon. Saul A.	Seven-Oaks	NDP
MINAKER, George	St. James	P.C.
MOUG, Arthur	Charleswood	P.C.
OSLAND, Les	Churchill	NDP
PATRICK, Steve	Assiniboia	Lib
PAULLEY, Hon. Russell	Transcona	NDP
PAWLEY, Hon. Howard	Selkirk	NDP
PETURSSON, Philip M.	Wellington	NDP
SCHREYER, Hon. Edward	Rossmere	NDP
SHAFRANSKY, Harry	Radisson	NDP
SHERMAN, L. R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	P.C.
SPIVAK, Sidney, Q.C.	River Heights	P.C.
STEEN, Warren	Crescentwood	P.C.
TOUPIN, Hon. René	Springfield	NDP
TURNBULL, Hon. Ian	Osborne	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Billie	St. George	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, D. James	St. Vital	NDP
WATT, J. Douglas	Arthur	P.C.
WILSON, Robert G.	Wolseley	P.C.

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Honourable Peter Fox (Kildonan): Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 30 students, Grade 10 standing, of the St. John's Cathedral Boys School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Stephen Duddy. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Selkirk, the Honourable Attorney-General.

We also have 53 students, Grade 11 standing, of the Tuxedo Shaftsbury School under the direction of Mr. Perrett and Mrs. Goodman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

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

We also have another school of 12 students of Grade 11 standing of the Warren Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Baliant. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. We also welcome you.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question this morning to the Honourable the First Minister. Some time ago, he indicated that he was prepared to have his government break traditions from time to time. My question to him, Sir, is: Is he prepared to advise his ministers to break one of the traditions of their own making, namely to have introduced into this House for consideration, possibly the two most important bills we'll be dealing with, early in the session rather than as has been their tradition, in the last week of the session. I refer to the Land Bill of the Minister of Agriculture and the Family Law Bill of the Attorney-General.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HONOURABLE EDWARD SCHREYER, Premier (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Lakeside is right on. Those are two important bills; they should be brought forward just as soon as possible. Indeed twice in the past, earlier this week, I've had discussion with colleagues and I believe that the Land Bill will be brought forward next week. —(Interjection)— Well, already we're running into problems. Within the next two weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Would the Minister now advise the House the salary of the NDP lawyer, Mr. MacKay, regarding the commission and assure the House that Mr. MacKay is not getting 2 ½ times the lowest salary of his other workers in his Labour Department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HONOURABLE RUSSELL PAULLEY (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, first of all in answer to my honourable friend, I don't differentiate between NDP lawyers and lawyers of the Liberal Party or the Conservative Party. If I think they have expertise in certain fields, I use them. If my honourable friend was a lawyer, I might even use him. However, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure my honourable friend that the Industrial Inquiry Commissioner, namely Murdoch MacKay, is not on salary. I have not received any request for payment of any *per diem* or otherwise thus far.

MR. WILSON: I have a supplementary. Would the Minister advise the House if Mr. MacKay would qualify for the same type of pension as David Cass-Beggs?

MR. SPEAKER: Hypothetical. The Honourable First Minister have a point of privilege?

MR. SCHREYER: No, just an answer to my honourable friend, to assure my honourable friend that whatever the amount, it will be less than that paid to Dalton Camp, Esq., by this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris have a point of order?

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON: Sir, you declared that the question that was asked by the Member for Wolseley to be hypothetical and therefore, out of order and if it was out of order, then nobody responds to it either.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY; Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In respect to the announcement of the grant of \$400,000 to cover the deficit of the Convention Centre, could he indicate exactly what that deficit is expected to be and can he indicate if the province has a perpetual agreement to cost-share that deficit or whether it has a terminal point in it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HONOURABLE SAUL A. MILLER (Seven Oaks): Well, Mr. Speaker, there is an agreement with the City of Winnipeg to cost-share in the approved operating expenses and therefore in the deficit if one develops.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister if he could indicate as I asked originally what that total deficit was for this year and what the projections are for next year?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have to depend on memory. It's something like four hundred-and-something thousand dollars for this year, the deficit, and that will be the Manitoba Government's portion. It's a similar amount for next year I believe; it may be somewhat less.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether the Provincial Government has requested of the Board of the Convention Centre to undertake steps to reduce that deficit substantially or to add more commercial space in the Convention Centre to try to offset those very large deficits?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, as the member probably knows, there's a Board of the Convention Centre. I know that they would very much like to be in a profit position and not have a deficit at all. They're aiming for that and I hope they achieve that goal as quickly as possible so that the province would not have to participate in an operating deficit just as the City Council would just as soon not have to pay towards any operating deficit. I'm sure they're trying to do what they can to achieve that goal.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct the question to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity of being in charge of the Central Provincial Garage, and I would ask the Minister if he could confirm that the government is paying 16 to cents a mile employees that use their own vehicles on government business and that, in turn, the government is charging 12 cents a mile to employees who are using government cars for their own personal use?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Public Works.

HONOURABLE RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'll check those details and report back.

MR. BANMAN: A further question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he could inform the House whether the new restrictions imposed on people that are driving government cars also applies to members of the Cabinet, to their executive assistants and to the Legislative assistants?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY; Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Manitoba Housing. With the announcement that the CBC has taken possession of the old St. Paul's site, can the Minister indicate whether any request has been made by MHRC to consider whether housing accommodation can also be included as part of the mixed use of that particular site and has he made any overtures or gestures to the CBC in that regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could attempt to reply to that question. As the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge may know, the CBC has, I think they will freely admit, that for many years they have been attempting to obtain approval by Federal Treasury Board for the necessary capital authority to proceed with the construction of facilities in Winnipeg that would be commensurate with what one would expect of the CBC in a city of this size. They have finally got that kind of Treasury Board approval and it was frankly hoped that before they made an irreversible commitment to a particular site, that all effort would be made to canvass the possibility of the CBC building its new facility somewhere in the area east of Main Street and between that and the Red River.

There are many arguments which CBC senior people agreed were rational arguments for attempting to locate at a site in that general area, in sort of general proximity to the Concert Hall. However, a detailed effort having been made, it was impossible, or nigh on to impossible, to marshal the necessary amount of land which in the case of the CBC's requirements, we're advised is five acres which is substantial and accordingly, the investigation or canvass having been made, the CBC has reverted to its somewhat earlier tentative decision, to locate at the old St. Paul's College site.

Speaking personally, I can only say that it is a second best but certainly acceptable second choice and that with respect to the possibility of residential component included therein, that has not been ruled out. But the CBC has repeated that they do require substantial acreage, five acres, and they have that at the St. Paul's College site with very little to spare.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the First Minister for that statement. I would ask him though if the government itself has made any efforts to assess the potential of making use of that site for additional housing units considering that the technology of mixed used or multiple use of sites is not really available and whether the government would undertake to at least make that request of CBC that a joint-use of study or examination of the feasibility be undertaken?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is no reason whatsoever why my colleague cannot attempt to take that concept further with the CBC. I perhaps shouldn't express any negative attitude in advance

because I would think the proposal has merit if the CBC feels that they have sufficient space there to allow for the integration of residential component into it. If my colleague can get a positive attitude from them, then I should think we would want to proceed.

MR. AXWORTHY: Just a final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think that it obviously has to be examined but I wonder if the government would also be prepared to take up the issue say with Federal housing officials at the same time to see again if their co-operation could be gained in this particular examination?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HONOURABLE LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have very good relations with the local officials engaged in federal housing programs, namely Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and I can advise the Honourable Member that the staff meets on a regular basis with CMHC and we are forever looking at possible combinations commercial, residential, we're forever looking at new sites for development, particularly in the old City of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this one to the Acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation. When does the government intend meeting with the Harness Horsemen's Association regarding this year and future years programming including consideration of extended race meets at Carman or Portage or indeed, if feasible, a half-mile track in Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I listened yesterday to the grievance of the Member for Virden and discussed it with members of the department and they informed me that the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission which is responsible for dealing with the horsemen and the Horsemen's Association, does in fact have a meeting planned for this Sunday and it's hoped that at that meeting they will resolve some of these questions and make their decision on the forthcoming season.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. KEN DILLEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister or the Attorney-General. I would like to ask how many times must a strikebreaker cross a picket line before he becomes proficient enough to be regarded as a professional?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is highly judgmental, I suppose. I should think about as many times as a person can go back and forth through the eye of a needle.

MR. DILLEN: Well, is it not a fact then that the police are being used as professional strikebreakers?

MR. SPEAKER: Asking for an opinion. Does the Honourable Member for Thompson wish to rephrase?

MR. DILLEN: I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, from the First Minister, if the situation were reversed . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That's hypothetical. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Public Insurance Corporation. Could the Minister inform the House whether or not it is true that Autopac has made several serious errors in assessing insurance premiums this year and, if so, could he inform the House as to when Manitobans can expect a refund?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HONOURABLE PETER BURTONIAK (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I didn't get the question at all.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister was: Is it true that Autopac has made several serious errors in assessing insurance premiums this year and if it is so, could he inform the House as to when Manitobans can expect a refund?

MR. BURTONIAK: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the errors that the honourable member is referring to. I perhaps should take this question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the other day the Honourable Member for Riel had asked for information with respect to the flows at Missi Falls and at Churchill I believe and I can inform my honourable friend that as of last week, data indicates that the flows through at Missi Falls are I believe 22,000 cubic feet per second and at Churchill, in the order of 30,000.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the Minister for providing the information. I wonder if he can also confirm that the 22,000 flow that's being effectively lost rather than being diverted into the Nelson counts for the amount of electricity which exceeds substantially the energy equivalent of the total purchases of coal in the last 12 months?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would agree that it is significant, certainly I would have to agree

that that is so. I would not agree, however, that it exceeds the amount of energy being produced by coal thermal generation. I might add to my honourable friend that even though I readily agree with him, agreement in this context isn't very productive. My honourable friend knows that we still have serious legal problems involving the Federal Department of Indian Affairs.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, to bring the question into focus, I would like the First Minister to see if he can confirm, based on Mr. Bateman's statement the other day, that the energy equivalent of the coal burned was some thirteen hundred and fifty million kilowatt hours and that the energy equivalent of 20,000 c.f.s. of water out of the Churchill diversion is equal to some sixteen hundred million kilowatt hours which is in excess of the total coal consumption in the last twelve months?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if we had enough time I wouldn't mind running some calculations and my honourable friend could do the same. We could compare notes but I would put it this way, Sir, that the 20,000 — and through Kettle it would be only through Kettle, obviously it doesn't involve Kelsey — would not be equivalent to the energy generated by coal thermal generation for any given unit of time.

MR. CRAIK: A final question to the First Minister. I wonder if he would be good enough to check that last claim because that's what my statement is based on.

TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HONOURABLE HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I would like to file the 53rd Annual Report of the Liquor Control Commission.

NON—POLITICAL STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HONOURABLE SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether members would want to also give me leave to make an announcement of a non-political nature.

This is a recent press release to be issued after this announcement this morning by the University of Manitoba.

"A new variety of rapeseed developed at the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, has been licensed by the Plant Products Division, Agriculture Canada. The variety is known as Regent and was produced by Dr. B.R. Stefansson, with major financial support from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Regent is a high yielding variety which combines high oil and protein content of the seed with low erucic acid content in the oil and low glucosinolate content of the meal.

In three years of testing across Canada, Regent yielded higher than the variety Tower and equal to the variety Midas.

The oil content of Regent is higher than Tower and almost equal to Midas. Protein content of the oil-free meal is equal to Tower and exceeds Midas by approximately four percent making the combination of oil and protein for Regent better than the combination for any other Canadian variety of rape.

Erucic acid content of Regent is similar to the varieties Tower and Midas, while glucosinolate content of the oil-free meal is slightly higher than that for Tower but much lower than the value for Midas.

Maturity of Regent is similar to Tower and Midas and slightly earlier than Target.

Regent is the second Canadian variety of rapeseed which combines acceptable yields with high quality (low erucic acid, low glucosinolates, high protein and oil content). The first such variety, Tower, released in 1974 was also produced by Dr. Stefansson. In 1977, Tower occupied 24 percent of the Canadian rapeseed acreage.

The development of the variety Regent is expected to facilitate the elimination of low quality rape varieties and thus increase the production of low glucosinolate rapeseed in Canada, and improve returns to producers, crushers and exporters.

Seed of the new variety will be distributed on a limited basis to select seed growers in the spring of 1977 and should be available for commercial production in 1978."

For the benefit of members of the House, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good point to remind us all that the research dollars that are contributed by the Department of Agriculture are doing well for the people of Manitoba and Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Although the Minister said it was an announcement, in reality it was a statement. I would hope in the future you would have copies according to our procedures because he did ask for permission. I allowed him to proceed but really he should have had copies for all the House as the procedure calls for. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition. On the statement or on a question?

MR. STERLING R. LYON (Souris-Killarney): On the statement, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure we would all on this side of the House wish to join with the Minister of Agriculture in congratulating Dr. Stefansson

and his colleagues for the manifestation of their many long years of work and research in the production of this new strain and new quality of rapeseed which will be of tremendous benefit to the agricultural community of Manitoba.

Representing as I do a constituency which has a large agricultural component, I am sure that with my colleagues on this side of the House, representing as we do most of productive agricultural Manitoba, we share the joy in the announcement that the Honourable the Minister has made this morning.

There was, I must say, Mr. Speaker, some question as to what announcement the Minister was going to make concerning agriculture this morning. We hope that when he has any further announcements with respect to matters that will be developing during the course of the day having equal ramifications on the future of one branch of agriculture, that he will be able to deliver the announcement with the same panache and the same joy as he has with respect to the new variety of rapeseed. May I assure him, Mr. Speaker, that we would be happy on this side of the House to accord him leave at any time during the sitting of the House today if he has any special announcement he would like to make further to the better development of the greatest industry in Manitoba, namely agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage La Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I pose a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Was — and it is an important announcement, there's no question about it of the great progress that has been made in the research field in agriculture — but did the Minister make the announcement today with the hopes that somehow he could obscure or push back into the back pages a further announcement that he may have to make before the weekend?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the facts are that yesterday I received a memo from the University asking that I make that announcement but it was too late for the opening of the House yesterday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY — ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake on behalf of the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

ORDER NO. 37.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Member for Brandon West, I wish to move, seconded by the Member for Morris,

THAT an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following statistics collected by the Department of Education with regard to Grade XII June final standings of high school students in Manitoba.

1(a) The total number of student marks by individual 300 level subjects for the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

(b) The percentage rate of students with passing marks by individual 300 level subjects for the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

2(a) The total number of student marks by individual 301 level subjects for the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

(b) The percentage rate of students with passing marks by individual 301 level subjects for the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HONOURABLE IAN TURNBULL (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, to the Member for Rock Lake, this Order for Return is acceptable to the extent that the department can provide the information.

MOTION presented and carried.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, normally in accordance with the Order Paper, I would be moving Committee of Supply. The Honourable the Minister of Finance has asked whether or not there would be agreement for procedures to start in respect of Interim Supply and if that's agreeable, then I would call, Mr. Speaker, on my colleague to start the process — it's rather complicated in some respects.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the initial processes of the procedure involving Interim Supply proceeding at this time. If the Minister wants to introduce the resolution and the first reading of the bill, that's fine but I think we wouldn't want to go beyond that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: We do have to go into Committee of Supply but rather than going into Committee of Supply and breaking up into the two committees considering the Estimates, that we would all stay here for a few moments for the Minister to introduce in Committee of Supply. So therefore, Mr.

Speaker, I would beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the purpose of the introduction of preliminaries of Interim Supply — I don't know exactly the Motion, but that's the intent.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, if the Minister of Labour will tell me what Motion he is making, is it to go into Supply and who is . . . ?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker. I made a motion, moved by myself, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. William Jenkins (Logan): Is it the will of the committee to proceed with the Resolution? Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$275,737,800 being 25 percent of the several items being to be voted for Department as set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1977 laid before the House at the present session of the Legislature be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1978.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this is the annual Resolution dealing with Interim Supply which is the granting or trying to get approved 25 percent, which is the same as last year and I believe in other years — 25 percent of the total Estimates. This is necessary because no cheques can be issued after March 31st - April 1st as I am informed, so this is an Interim Supply simply to make it possible for the normal cheques to be made available for funds for staff both in government and in agencies as well as grants to agencies so they may continue to operate in a normal way.

To my understanding, the funds so approved would carry the business of government on to some time in early July. With those few comments, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that this be passed and after we go into Committee of Ways and Means and the bill is distributed of course members at that time certainly can speak if they so wish and the matter can then be looked at.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: A couple of questions at this point, Mr. Chairman. One is the figure that is being used, \$275 million, I understand that the tradition has been that the amount is 25 percent and 25 percent of the Estimates tabled this year would be 25 percent of \$1,153,693,900 which would be something closer, I would think to \$250 million rather than \$275 million. The question is: what is the \$275 million based on because the Minister did table with his Estimates a sheet that subtracted off the tax credits out of the overall Estimates Supply and to be continuous with that, I would think he would take whatever it is, 25 percent of the result.

The other question that we would ask at this point is that within two or three days of tabling his Estimates of expenditure indicating an increase of provincial expenditure of the order of 7.52 percent which he has indicated also on this extra sheet, that the Minister of Education announced increased grants and increased amounts of money in his Estimates which would appear to net out somewhere around \$23 million which would add to the Estimates another approximately two percent bringing the total up to 9.5 odd percent. I want to then ask the Minister why Estimates would be tabled on a Tuesday by the Minister of Finance indicating one level of expenditure and changes in those Estimates announced on a Thursday of the same week by the Minister of Education two days later, indicating that the Estimates that were tabled on Tuesday were out by as much as two percent — \$23 million?

MR. CHAIRMAN: -- - The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, insofar as the latter part of the question is concerned, the fact is that the Estimates as the honourable member knows are pretty well gone through and finalized and sent to the printers a few weeks before I have an opportunity to table them in the House. I think the Minister of Education did indicate that he was not ready to come up with the final figures with regard to the requirements in Education until after he had a better understanding of the size and the amounts of the budgets that were coming in from the school boards. So that explains why there was not that kind of information in the first Estimates tabled. He did indicate that some of the differences between the printed Estimates' figures and what he announced was as a result of two factors. One was the result of a switch from current to capital; the other would be an amount that was going to appear

Friday, March 18, 1977

in the Supplementary Supply and that will still appear. I am not dealing with Supplementary Supply; I am not ready to table that in the House at the present time. What we're basically dealing with is the Interim Supply.

The member does raise a question about the fact that if this is 25 percent, why doesn't the arithmetic indicate that? I can't frankly give him an immediate answer on that, I'll have to check, but of course this can be done and I can have that information and explanation because I am sure there is one. As I say, the bill is identical to last year with the exception some figures have been changed, and when we're dealing with this in second reading I'm sure I'll have an answer for him at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the will of the Committee to adopt the Resolution?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think now that the committees would go into their respective quarters to consider of the general Estimates on Supply. There are some differences of opinion as to whether that is proper or not; however, that is what we will be doing. I do want to indicate to Members of the House that it is my understanding that the roll call for consideration of Estimates at the conclusion of the Estimates of the Department of Health, the Department of Labour will be considered in the House and Co-op Development will follow Labour in the House, and that in Room 254 we are now dealing with Renewable Resources, following which will be Municipal Affairs.

So with those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would ask Members to go if they are in 254; if they're here, stay here.

**CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY
ESTIMATES - RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. D. James Walding (St. Vital): We have a quorum gentlemen. The committee will come to order. Would refer honourable members to Page 54 in their Estimates Book, the Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. The Minister informs me that he has the information on the particular section that we by-passed last night. We will then go back to Resolution 104(b)(5)(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Minister.

HONOURABLE HARVEY BOSTROM(Rupertsland): Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the questions that were posed related to the number of staff man years and the kind of positions that are located in this particular appropriation. There are 20.26 staff man years as I reported last night. The breakdown of those is as follows: there is one Administrative Officer requested; one Administrative Secretary requested in the 1977-78 Estimates; one Biologist; one Clerk Typist; two Drafting Technicians; one Resource Technician, — I'm sorry, seven Resource Technicians altogether; one Technical Engineering Officer and .26 SMY in summer student appropriation, for a total of 20.26 SMY. The question was also asked what, if any, contract staff were in this area. There are three Resource Technicians; one Computer Programmer I; one Engineering Aid II and one Agrologist IIA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister might just give us some idea of what function the Resource Technicians perform?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the detailed description of the job duties is something I do not have at my fingertips. I will take that question as notice and table that information when we next sit.

MR. BLAKE: He can give me just a rough idea of what function they might perform, Mr. Chairman. Surely someone would know what they're doing. Are they just involved with compiling the studies that are under way or . . . ?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of this section is indicating that these people generally are the field technical staff who would be gathering the information for the perusal and decision-making on the part of the professionals. They would be the front line troops gathering the relevant data, the technical kind of data. They would have that kind of competence and the ability to compile the data for further analysis.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: They would be non-professional people for the most part.

MR. BOSTROM: Resource Technicians would not have as much training as the land planners as such but they would need to have the necessary skills for the gathering of the data in this case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his breakdown of staff. There was a third category, that is it could be possibly a third category of employee, in the other staff, other than Civil Service or contract, who are included under this vote but do not go through the Civil Service Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have outlined all of the staff in my comments just now that are connected with that particular appropriation.

MR. LYON: So that's the totality of it and of that group that you mentioned, of the first group, you mentioned there were three, I believe, who were contract employees?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I'll go over the list again. These are the contract staff employed under sharable agreements as of March 18, 1977. In this particular appropriation there are three Resource Technicians I; there is one Computer Programmer I; one Engineering Aid II; one Agrologist IIA, for a total of six.

MR. LYON: There are no other staff at all involved in this vote.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, that is the total.

MR. LYON: The contract employees are not processed in the usual way through the Civil Service Commission.

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LYON: Well, thank you for that information, Mr. Chairman. I presume that the Minister will be giving us, as requested last night, a breakdown on a sheet of paper of all staff for all the votes — I didn't expect him to have it last night nor today — before we get to the end of his Estimates.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes. I have, in fact, that information here in a detailed sheet which I'm passing on to the Honourable Member for Minnedosa for the information of your caucus.

MR. LYON: I think it might be advisable . . . there used to be a practice whereby 57 copies of it were

turned out so all members would have it.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I suppose that could be put together.

MR. LYON: Yes, thank you. If you could do that, Mr. Minister, that would be helpful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(b)(5)(b)—pass? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: On (5)(b) generally and if there has been discussion on this, I can read it in Hansard. The Minister can answer yes or no. Has he had an opportunity under this vote or previously to explain in general terms the import of the agreement that was signed between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, at Norway House I believe it was, in the latter months of 1976?

MR. BOSTROM; Mr. Chairman, that question would more properly be put to the Minister of Northern Affairs who is responsible for that particular agreement.

MR. LYON: That has no application to your department at all, or to the Minister's department, Mr. Chairman?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it only has application to this department as it relates to the particular appropriations that are cost-shared in this department. The Minister of Northern Affairs is responsible for negotiating the agreement, signing the agreement. The items that are in my Estimates before you today are items that are included in that agreement but the inclusion of them are a matter of negotiation between the senior staff of my department and the senior staff of Northern Affairs. The final agreement, however, is signed by the Honourable Minister for Northern Affairs.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, such as the item that we are now discussing, Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement, those moneys would be part and parcel of that arrangement that was signed last year at Norway House?

MR. BOSTROM: The agreement which was signed at Norway House, Mr. Chairman, was the Manitoba Northlands Agreement, which included all of the items that are included in many different departments, related to the various projects and programs within that agreement. However, the agreement itself and the nature of the agreement is the responsibility of the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs and the question would most properly be put to him.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, insofar as the agreement affects the Minister's Estimates, I presume he has no hesitation about talking about it and telling us the implications of it vis-a-vis his own department?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, as I've indicated, the questions of the overall agreement are best put to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I can discuss the items that are before us as they relate to my department, but I'm not familiar with all of the items within the agreement.

MR. LYON: I think we would welcome, Mr. Chairman, a discussion by the Minister of that agreement insofar as it affects his department and what he sees in the future, what kind of shared cost agreements he can see in these present Estimates and for what term in the future and what are the implications of that agreement, vis-a-vis his department? I'm not asking him for a rundown of the overall agreement, just the impact of it on his department.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, that question was put to me the first day of my Estimates by the Honourable Member for Lakeside and I did explain the impact of the agreement on my department; how much money in total was involved and how that related percentage-wise and in terms of its impact on my department and that explanation is in Hansard for the honourable member to read.

MR. LYON: I'll be happy to look it up, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister has had rather fruitless negotiations — I'm talking under this item because it relates to the Northlands Agreement generally — fruitless negotiations with the Federal Government with respect to their participation in a transportation subsidy for northern fish. Do you hold any hope that the Federal Government will reverse themselves in this stand or is his department still maintaining that it will provide a quarter of a million dollars, I believe it is, for that purpose, or what is the actual status as we sit here today?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the question would properly be put under the Fisheries Management section. However, I can indicate briefly at this time to the honourable member that the negotiations that we have had on an ongoing basis with several government departments federally, including the department that is related to Northlands, that is the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, these negotiations have been largely fruitless and that we have not had any agreement from any of these government departments to assist in the area of fish transportation subsidy.

We are continuing those negotiations, however, on an ongoing basis. Senior staff from my department are having discussions with the Department of Indian Affairs at the present time with a view of attempting to have them supplement the transportation subsidy which is provided by the Province of Manitoba, in order to better support the fishery in the north.

I am informed that we have made available to them, for example, statistics from our experience over the last year with the transportation subsidy. That is how it applied to the fishermen, how many fishermen were treaty Indians, how many treaty Indian fishermen received subsidy and how much they received, and using this information based on hard facts we are attempting to convince Indian Affairs that they should, indeed, be involved in assisting in the transportation of the fish from

northern Manitoba in order to provide the fishermen with an opportunity to work rather than be on social assistance or some other form of non-work activity.

MR. LYON: Well, of course, Mr. Chairman, we wish the Minister well in his negotiations. Has he or his colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs, not been able to impress upon the federal authorities that in an overall agreement which encompasses — well the figure escapes me, \$105 million was it? — the umbrella agreement that was signed at Norway House.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the terms of the agreement, as I indicated, that was signed in Norway House, the amounts and so on would best be addressed to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I can relate exactly to the amounts that are in my Estimates but if the honourable member wishes me to guess at amounts that are included in a short-term interim or long-term agreement, I don't wish to engage in that kind of discussion.

MR. LYON: Well, I'm searching for the figure, myself, and I don't have the government's press release in front of me. But the figure that comes to mind, and I don't put it forward as an accurate figure at all, it's only a recollected figure, was the agreement was in the amount of something in excess of \$100 million, unless I'm mistaken. But talking within those figures of those parameters, has the Minister not found it possible to use that as a bargaining lever with the Federal Government in order to indicate that a quarter of a million dollars to supplement the Government of Manitoba's subsidy \$250,000 would not cut a terrible hole in that kind of a budget. I'm trying to help my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman, not hinder him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I'm sure the honourable member would also wish to assist the Chairman who would like to restrict discussion of anything to do with fishing or fisheries' management to the section, when we reach it.

MR. LYON: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I'll try to be of as much assistance to you as I can but we are talking about the Northlands Agreement and one item that I'm sure my honourable friend is negotiating, well he has admitted he is negotiating with the federal authorities, has to do with the fisheries' subsidy or transportation subsidy. I am merely suggesting to him that in an agreement of that scope, or of that size, that surely he should have a good bargaining lever vis-a-vis the transportation subsidy, negotiating under an umbrella agreement that encompasses several scores of millions of dollars. I'm really asking for his opinion as to whether . . . What has been the roadblock? What seems to be the holdup with the federal people when you're dealing with such huge sums of money?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government in this case has to approve of the projects which are included within the agreement and therefore in this case it is their prerogative to decide whether or not they are going to cost-share with us to help finance a fishery program in northern Manitoba, and to date they have refused to do so although the representations have been made. The people of my department have been working through the officials in Northern Affairs. The Ministers concerned here have made representations directly, and yet to date the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has refused to enter into an agreement regarding transportation of fish.

MR. LYON: That's the same department that will pay multi-million dollar subsidies to industries to establish in DREE areas but will not assist your department with respect to transportation of a primary product in Manitoba. It's very strange, isn't it?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can agree with the honourable member on that point that it is indeed strange and disappointing that we have not been able to obtain agreement on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition makes a point, when one is talking in terms of negotiations with the Government of Canada on any cost-shared program. I think what point is missed here is the fact that DREE does not normally enter into agreements, development agreements, wherein they participate in continuing subsidized programs of an ongoing nature, that the agreements are usually that of developmental projects which, after a certain period of time, have to carry on on their own. The question that we have before us is the question of picking up transportation costs for fish. That properly belongs under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fisheries. So I don't think one can make much of the fact that within the DREE Agreement, which is an economic development thrust for development of new job opportunities, that that is where that should come from. I think it's almost unfair to criticize the department for not being able to get that from DREE. But I think it's certainly fair to criticize the Fisheries Department of Canada for not sharing in the cost of transportation of fish from the north.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that the Minister of Agriculture understands that I am not criticizing the Minister of Resources here. I share with him the concern that the federal authorities can be so blind as to a need of a primary industry in Manitoba and can engage, as they do, in other broad hand-out programs for the establishment of industry, in the case of jobs. I'm sure that I'm not saying anything that the Minister and his staff are not fully aware of when they indicate that, according to figures that I saw recently, the poundage of fish taken in northern Manitoba is only

about half of what it was ten years ago. The transportation is one of the problems that is bedeviling that primary industry in the northern regions of Manitoba and notwithstanding the obvious work, and I'm sure effort, that the Minister and his department have put into it, there seems to be a blank wall at Ottawa in terms of their understanding of what is important, not only to the economy of Manitoba, but to job opportunities in this region of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again I would ask honourable members if they would defer their remarks on fish until we get to that particular section.

MR. LYON: I'm dealing with the Northlands Agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(b)(5)(b)—pass; (5)—pass; Resolution 104(b)—pass; Resolution 104(c) Forestry Management: (1) Program Development and Management (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, well we covered this fairly fully last night, Mr. Chairman. There are some points further down, under inventory and protection that have to be covered and I think that I can wait until we get there unless some of my other members of the committee have some further questions on (a) and (b).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(1)(a)

(Short recording failure here.) and maybe the jackpine hydro poles as well. How much earnings do the department get from those two products?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, that's a detailed question that I'll take as notice. If the officials here have the information I will give it at the end of this committee, if not I will bring it as soon as I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: The other question on the metric system which came up the other day, the department has had the meetings and there was a sub-committee formed, I believe, of people from the department regarding the metric scaling and apparently have prepared a draft of what we can expect in the near future. I wonder is that public information?

MR. BOSTROM: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(1)(a) —pass; (1)(b) (1) Other Expenditures — pass; — pass.

Resolution 104(c)(2) Forest Inventory (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wondered on Inventory if the government were doing their inventory work on their own; are they doing it in conjunction with others, say Abitibi or if Abitibi are doing their own on Forest Inventory; do they share this information? He could probably just cover these points for us.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the inventory work in the Province of Manitoba is the responsibility of this department. To my knowledge, none of the forest companies operating within Manitoba do any forest inventory work which is of the nature that could be used for the department or departmental purposes and forest management. It may be operational timber crews is done by Abitibi and other forest harvesters in Manitoba however, the detailed forest inventory is done by the department.

MR. BLAKE: Is this information readily available to companies such as Abitibi or Roblin Forest Products? Do they have free access to the timber inventory?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the forest inventory information is public knowledge. It's available to any citizen of Manitoba and it's used extensively by the companies who harvest the forests of Manitoba.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, while we're on inventory, my colleague from Roblin mentioned hydro poles. I notice there is a comment in the Annual Report on that, I also wanted to get into fence posts. In their inventory findings, what is the potential market for hydro poles, telephone poles and fence posts and if the Minister might give us some indication as to how far the fence post market has been developed, how many fence posts they have purchased from the various manufacturers of that product, if they have them in stock-pile or how many they've marketed?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, with respect to hydro poles, my department has been working in co-operation with Manitoba Hydro who is a major user of poles with a view to having them purchase as much as possible of their requirements from operators within Manitoba and by making information available to operators and as to the demand that is available from sources like Manitoba Hydro, we have been able to satisfy I believe almost completely the demand for hydro poles of the particular nature that can be produced in Manitoba. Over the last two years we've been able to virtually completely satisfy the hydro demand through the encouragement of the local producers in Manitoba to produce the poles that are necessary.

In the second part of his question, he indicates the interest in fence posts. Mr. Chairman, if I can just look at the historical record, fence post production has gone up from what it used to be, as far as the statistics show here in 1966-67, where there were 274,000 cubic feet of material produced of the

fence post variety and in 1975-76 this has been increased to 1,100,000 cubic feet, an increase of at least four-fold since a decade earlier.

The only area in which my department is directly involved in assisting fence post producers is in the community of Easterville where there's been a community operation established to produce fence posts from the nearby forests with a view to improving employment opportunities in that community. In order to ensure them the opportunity to continue producing this year when they were unable to find a local market for their fence posts, we undertook through a program which is indirectly related to my department but my department made a submission to the Special Northern Employment Program Fund for moneys to purchase the inventory of fence posts from the Easterville operation. Our agreement was to purchase about 150,000 posts I believe and staff in the department are assisting this company to locate a market for those fence posts. At the present time, we are hopeful and indeed have very positive indications that there is a fence post market that can be tapped immediately south of the border. We have at least interim indications that there is a market immediately for something in the neighborhood of 40,000 fence posts.

MR. BLAKE: Are these treated fence posts? Is there a complete finishing operation at Easterville? How many other native co-operatives or whatever involved in the industry are producing fence posts, if any?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is the only community-based fence post operation that I'm aware of and they do not complete the fence posts completely; they have a cutting, sharpening, peeling operation and they produce a raw post ready for treatment. The treatment in this case is being done by the Prendville operation at Neepawa, I believe, and they are channelled through there, treated and then shipped on to market where we have obtained markets for them.

MR. BLAKE: Would the Prendville operation be the marketing agent for the Easterville firm or they just treat the post at a per post cost and they are paid for the actual work that they do?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, in this case, since we have undertaken to purchase the posts from Easterville, guarantee the purchase of their posts, we are, in effect, the marketing agent for those posts, in fact we are, in a sense the marketer, because we have taken possession of the posts as they are produced; we are making the necessary agreement with Prendville to treat the posts in order that they can be in the proper stage for final sale.

MR. BLAKE: Could the Minister also indicate to us the cost for treating a post and what market price they hope to market the product at and will the profit be returned to the Easterville operation or will some of the profit be funnelled off into the treasury?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, we have set up an account to deal with this operation in respect that we have made a commitment to produce or to purchase 100,000 posts and we have made arrangements through the Department of Finance to set up a trust account or a revolving account where any funds that are obtained through the sale of the posts will go back into that account and the idea is that if there is a profit from the sale and hopefully there will be, that that profit could be used on an basis to purchase and finance the continued production in the Easterville operation.

MR. BLAKE: Just a word on the hydro poles. Are the hydro poles being produced by some of the native operations in the north or are they done by individual operators? Also are they produced on a contract basis or on what basis are they produced?

MR. BOSTROM: There are two communities on the east side that I am aware of that have produced some hydro poles. The poles generally are sold at an established rate to Manitoba Hydro. The department's role in here is to let the community operations know that this market is available and to also give the community operations or independent operators, whatever it may be, a short course in how to go about selecting the right kinds of trees for hydro poles and the largest production, I suppose, for hydro poles has come from independent operators. At least two community operations have also produced hydro poles.

MR. BLAKE: These hydro poles are also treated. Are they treated on-site in most cases or are they treated elsewhere and is the price competitive with the price of hydro poles imported from say British Columbia or some other area?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the posts that are produced are mainly in the untreated variety unless the operator is able to make a deal through a treatment plant, I believe some of them used to use the old Dom-Tar plant here in Winnipeg, however, they're mainly sold in the untreated stage and Hydro looks after the treatment. The price is, I would believe, competitive in that Hydro would not be paying any more than they would pay for posts to anybody else delivered from anywhere else in Canada. Our role as a department was to try to ensure that Hydro made every effort to buy from local producers rather than buying outside the province as Hydro is a corporation which would normally just buy from whoever was able to supply. They didn't really have a preference. We have attempted to steer them to purchase from the producers within Manitoba and as I say, we have been successful over the last two years of virtually supplying all the hydro poles that can be supplied from Manitoba for Hydro purposes.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, a final question while we're on Inventory. I wonder if the Minister

might give us just a little more detailed view on the forestry inventory in the province: what are the forecasts for our forest industry and I know when we get under Research, we'll be getting some more detailed work but if he could just give us an over-view on the forestry inventory, just where it stands and what he sees for the future of that industry in Manitoba?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we have put together a publication which is quite an extensive volume indicating some recent information on forest inventory. I could make that publication available to the Honourable Member, a copy for his caucus at least. I believe that we did send those out to the MLAs.

MR. BLAKE: The Manitoba Forest?

MR. BOSTROM: The Manitoba Forest. The most recent information we had at the date of publication . . .

MR. BLAKE: It contains all of the inventory material eh?

MR. BOSTROM: . . . it's this book here, Forests of Manitoba. It indicates generally what I was saying yesterday in discussion of the forest resources of Manitoba that we have many areas of untapped forest resources, in fact, the most recent inventory in that book indicates that we are only producing essentially about 25 percent of the potential harvest within Manitoba. The potential sustained yield harvest of our forests. There's many areas of Manitoba that can yet be tapped and that is the reason for my department working more aggressively with communities in areas where there are forests in order to help them to get forest industries established which would provide employment in that area.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, that covers it. I just wanted to be reassured that the information was in there. I haven't got through the book in detail. I recall the statements that he had just related to us, that I did read them in that book, so if that information is available there, we won't belabour here, Mr. Chairman. Some of the other members have questions on Inventory.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I now have the revenue figure which was requested. The anticipated revenue from all forestry activities for the fiscal year 1976-77 is \$1,887,000.00. That is the best estimate we have available at this time — \$1,887,000.00 — that's for the fiscal year 1976-77. It's anticipated revenue.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister perhaps at this time to give us with the aid of his forestry official, some overview about the forestry operations at The Pas. At the time of the inception or conception of the project at The Pas, there was a great deal of controversy among many things political and financial and others which aren't germane of this committee but among those concerns certainly was and with perhaps reason at that time to be concerned about, (a) the capability of the forests in and about that area to sustain a lasting viable complex.

I know that many forestry officials were concerned about lack of data in terms of at that time going back to the period of time that the project was first conceived — whether or not the bulk of the marginal stands involved in some of that area could sustain over in perpetuity, that kind of an operation. The plant has been operating now what . . . three seasons or in that neighborhood. Your people must have, Mr. Minister, by now had an opportunity to have from actual experience, a far closer look at what's happening with respect to the forestry resources in and about The Pas area and of course in particular, the forest resources covered under lease to the project through ManFor.

I would like to solicit, Mr. Chairman, through you from the Minister, a general statement as to how does his department, as the managers of this resource, regard the position of that resource, vis-a-vis The Pas Forestry Complex? (a) Is it the professional judgement of his staff that the kind of resources set aside by lease are proving out in terms of capacity to supply that plant and (b) also again, and more in the role of the managers and I speak in attempting, Mr. Chairman, to avoid the political overtones that have always been attached to that project. I'm asking the Minister as the Minister responsible for the management of this resource, what do his officials tell him? How does he feel about how that resource in fact is being harvested? What the future holds? Is the clear-cut method that is being employed there, what are its consequences? Are we looking to a better second generation of forests when we make the full cycle?

I would like to have him speak to us, Mr. Chairman, as a resource manager about the resource that we are now dealing with in the Estimates, namely forestry and how it's working out with the biggest operation that we have in the forestry field, namely the one at The Pas. He indicated just a little while ago the gross royalty or stumpage fees returns to the department on the forestry operation of the Province of Manitoba. Perhaps he could also indicate to what extent, to what portion of that \$1,887,000 The Pas operation contributes, if any, or has there been because of its current deficit situation a holdback charging of certain fees? Mr. Chairman, I invite the Minister to give us his comments on the Forestry Complex. I would also invite him, Sir, to do that in the same tenure that I am giving them. Let's leave aside the whereabouts of one Mr. Kasser, and whether you guys did

wrong or we did wrong, I'm asking him as a forestry resource manager at this moment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I respect the honourable member's desire to get straight answers on the questions that he has put. I'll refrain from discussion on the politics of the operation.

The wood supply from the reports that I have had from the department is more than ample to keep the operation going on a sustained yield basis. In fact I believe the honourable member, if he looked at the Forestry Management book which was sent to all MLAs it would indicate in there that the area that's designated to ManFor is twice the amount that would really be required to support the present operation. In other words, the 40,000 square miles that was designated to the CFI project originally is now deemed after further forest inventory studies to be more than double what was required; and that in fact there are areas in there that could support another mill equal to the size of the one that's in that area.

In fact the area which is outside of the ManFor designated area — the original CFI designated area — would also be available for a future forestry development which is in excess of double the amount required for that mill. I believe these figures are based on a sustained yield basis. That is, this is an amount that could sustain the mill in perpetuity.

The reforestation efforts of the department have been, in the opinion of those that have been monitoring these activities, very successful. There is something in excess of 8,000 acres that are reforested per year in the northern region, mainly by way of clear-cut method and scarification. The reports I have indicate that the scarification method is very successful bringing about regeneration.

The percentage of revenue that I indicated earlier that could be attributable to ManFor is actually quite small, because as the honourable member knows, at the risk of sounding political, the rates that were originally established for the CFI complex were very low, and the rates have been maintained in effect through the operation of the present corporation which is operating this complex; and of the \$1.8 million that we have suggested is an anticipated revenue from the entire forestry operation in Manitoba, only some \$48,000 is expected from the ManFor operation. So although it contributes a great deal to the north in terms of provision of jobs and job opportunities in remote communities such as Moose Lake where we have community-based forestry operations supplying pulpwood to the mill at The Pas, the returns to the province through revenues from the stumpage fees is not that significant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would — just on the last subject — gently remind the Minister that of course there's been a change of ownership of that project, so that the original agreements made with the former owners, in my judgement, need not necessarily have been pursued. That, Mr. Chairman, is my express desire on the part of this government and this Minister.

But more to the point, Mr. Chairman, and I come back to that original point. It can then be laid to rest, the suggestion, that was given great comments by original critics of the concept of any viable pulp and paper operation in northern Manitoba that, (a) we didn't have the necessary resources, and (b) certainly we couldn't sustain them for a long period of time, that any major capital plant operation would require. I gathered from the Minister's statement this morning that that can be laid to rest.

I would also solicit from him whether or not he's prepared to agree with me that some of the information that's now accruing in the department of course took some time in gathering. The original size and sale of lease, one cannot encourage that kind of an industry into northern Manitoba without being very sure of the necessary amounts of material available to sustain that plant. If the Minister is now indicating that the lease can be, in fact, cut back considerably in size and acres and square miles, is he doing so, is my question, to afford perhaps other operators — not necessarily on that scale — smaller operators that wish to operate in the timber industry and the lumber industry in that area?

I'm cognizant of the fact that a very large tract of land was initially set aside when they leased this project. The Minister seemed to indicate this morning that that 40,000 square miles of land, which was originally set aside, can be considerably reduced — I believe he used the figure "halved" — is that in fact taking place and are provisions being made by his department for smaller or independent operators to operate on some of this land that over the past eight or nine years has been under lease to, originally CFI and now ManFor?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is a matter of public record that the government recognizes that the area that was set aside for the forestry complex at The Pas was adequate, and that in fact the forest resource is indeed there to support the complex. I believe other members of this government besides myself have indicated that while the way in which the project was introduced may be up for discussion and dispute, that the project in itself is a useful one, and that it can continue to be a useful one in terms of providing employment in the area.

On the other hand if you want to get into the profitability of the operation that is another question, and in fact it may not be profitable for many years to come and it may not have even appeared to be profitable in the first place if all the facts had been known and properly documented at the time.

MR. ENNS: Just one more area that I explore with the Minister finally in concluding and my concern about this matter. The kind of environmental concern that's expressed by many people removed from the scene about the method of clear-cutting, about the management of the complex in the harvesting of timber in that area, your initial reports indicate the reforestation program as being successful. Would your officials be prepared to say that — which I believe is the fact — that the second generation of stands in fact will be likely better than the original ones, or the opportunity for them being healthier and better is there.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated the method of clear-cutting is one which is accepted by the experts in this department and it is the reason for it being followed in that particular area. The department officials would not be allowing clear-cutting operations if it was considered to be a dangerous practice with respect to long range forestry development. The reports that I have from the department indicate that the regeneration that we are getting through our reforestation activities is more than sufficient to maintain a sustained yield basis. So that, in effect, both the clear-cutting and the reforestation activities by my department are successful techniques.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, under the item of Forestry Management I raise the general question again to indicate to the Minister, part of the problem that the opposition faces with respect to a review of the Estimates. This department as we all know was established, I believe it was toward the end of 1975 or early 1976, was it?

MR. BOSTROM: The department formally was established in the fall of 1975, although I assumed responsibility for this particular part of what used to be part of the Department of Mines and Resources in the fall of 1974.

MR. LYON: The fall of 1974.

MR. BOSTROM: So that the Estimates as you see them here - this is the second year for this particular type of Estimate.

MR. LYON: Part of the problem, so that the Minister will be aware of the fact that the requests that we're making are not frivolous or intended to put him or his very competent senior staff who are here, to extra trouble is because, when you go to the Public Accounts — and forestry management is perhaps a good example - Public Accounts of course only speak as at the year ended 1976, and you go to the Public Accounts and you try to find the different categories that are comparable to what appear on the Estimates, and it's very difficult either in terms of the votes or in terms of the names to fit people into place, and that's why we want to get this additional information that I was speaking about.

My main point however, was to ask the Minister under this heading — and again it would apply perhaps more appropriate under his salary or under the general administration — if he could give us a breakdown, organizational chart or whatever he will, of the organization of the department so that we can see what the chain of command is and so on. I looked in the Annual Report to see if it were there, but I didn't find one. I presume that there's one available that we could look at so we can know what the chain of command is administratively.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will undertake to supply such an organizational chart to the committee.

MR. LYON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(2)(a)—pass; (2)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (2)—pass. Resolution 104(c)(3) Forest Protection (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go on with the question I had yesterday to do with the spruce bud worm and what precautions the Minister's department have taken, what the area of infestation is, how general it is to the province, etc.?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the only area that the department is involved in, in combatting the spruce bud worm is in the Spruce Woods Provincial Forest, and there's some 2,000 acres of spruce bud worm infected area in this Spruce Woods Provincial Forest and the department is proposing in these Estimates a spraying program of approximately 2,000 acres at a total of \$12,200 in these Estimates.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes. Then could we go on to the Dutch Elm disease and how general is this affecting the province? Outside of the City of Winnipeg I understand that there are indications that it's here. Are there any reports from rural?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, that question would more properly be put to the Minister of Agriculture since his department has taken the responsibility of the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: The Dutch Elm disease is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

MR. FERGUSON: Then I take it the Elm trees not considered part of the forest of Manitoba, is this

correct?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps it's use as an ornamental tree, rather than a tree which is commercial in nature, is the reason for it being within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. It's use is for beauty and for shade and so on, more aesthetic than commercial.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HONOURABLE SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Chairman, it should be observed that the National Forestry Service works very closely with the Department of Agriculture on disease prevention and control. That is the longstanding arrangement. It has nothing to do with whether the tree is a forest product or an aesthetic product or whatever, it has to do with the way it is structured, federally and provincially. There's an Act that provides for the protection of trees from disease and whatever, and that Act is housed in Agriculture.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, I guess we'll accept that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand my colleague's concern because a town in his constituency, Neepawa, while we all know that it's not nearly as beautiful as Minnedosa has been winning awards for quite a number of years as being the most beautiful town in Manitoba — somebody is related to the judges somewhere — and I think the Elm trees in that town account for it having that recognition.

I suppose the question — we'll probably deal with the Minister of Agriculture also — I was concerned with forest tent caterpillars. I had asked the question earlier in the House in connection with Riding Mountain National Park. It's doubtful if they will allow any spraying there and it's been requested by the municipalities there to have a buffer zone, roughly two miles around the outside of the park, sprayed to prevent the spread of the caterpillars. I don't know whether this would come under forest protection or whether it would come within the Minister of Agriculture's purview with it.

MR. CHAIAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Here again is an area which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture to the extent that the provincial government is providing assistance and support for the control of this problem. As I understand it, the program that has been announced, is the same as it was last year and that is that municipalities essentially are making the arrangements and doing the work of controlling within their jurisdiction. The Department of Agriculture provides assistance and, perhaps the Minister is indicating he could answer further.

MR. CHAIAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we have volunteered to be the agency to assist municipalities in the control of forest tent caterpillars although not because it's required of us by legislation. Simply because we were already involved in bulk purchasing of chemicals for other uses that we undertook the responsibility of assisting municipalities, towns and villages in their sort of protection war against the tent caterpillar. The bulk purchasing of chemicals is done through my department. We don't make any money on it, it's at cost to the municipality. Municipalities have to take on responsibility in delivering whatever program they wish to deliver within their area, with our technical advice and assistance.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, through you or if I might, to the Minister of Agriculture, it's not surprising that any undertaking by one of the government departments wouldn't make any money, that comes as no surprise. I'm just questioning if the municipality in question, a great part of it will be the local government districts that wouldn't have the funds maybe the municipalities would have. I'm just wondering if this can be co-ordinated with this department. They will require a fairly large amount of aerial spraying and it will be impossible for them to do it by themselves. I just wonder if the Minister would be open to negotiations with the . . . I'm speaking of the municipality of Clanwilliam and the local government district of Park around Riding Mountain. You've had some representations from them and I just would like the Minister to keep an open mind and continue negotiations if the threat of the tent caterpillar becomes as severe as it has been.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman if we can get back to my Estimates, I'm sure the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will take the honourable member's concern and do whatever he can with it.

This particular section under discussion, Mr. Chairman, is related to the protection of forests mainly from the point of view of providing protection against the ravages of fires and there are eight staff man years in this section, salaries and other expenditures as outlined in the book. We have had the worst fire season on record in 1976, although I must say I have to commend the department in maintaining an excellent record of controlling the fires. The province experienced 1,128 forest fires, the highest incidence in recorded history. This surpasses the old record of 707 established in 1961 when three million acres were burned. Despite this record number of fires, only 162,000 acres were destroyed. That compares to three million in 1961. The previous five year average is 417 fires per year, with an average burned acreage of 110,716 acres and I have to say that our excellent record has to be the result of very vigilant efforts on the part of our staff who has maintained an excellent record

of early detection and very efficient suppression of the fires in this province. If I could just by way of comparison point out how we compare to other jurisdictions. For example, the amount of acres in Manitoba which are under protection, that is that we have designated major commercial forest areas of Manitoba and those areas around communities and cottages and campgrounds and so on under protection by this department, it totals 82.2 million acres. The number of fires, as I said, in those areas this last year was 1,128 for a total acres burned of 162,000. In Minnesota they only protect 16.8 million acres, less than one-quarter of the area we have to protect, they had 3,500 fires last summer and they lost 150,000 acres. In Ontario, they protect about half again as much as we do, 128,000,000 acres, they had almost 4,000 fires, almost four times as many as we had and they had an area of destruction totalling 1.3 million acres which is almost ten times the area lost in Manitoba. So I have to say that the department has done an excellent job of controlling the forest fire situation in Manitoba and we are gearing up with the necessary equipment and personnel to do as good a job, if not better, for this coming year.

MR. BLAKE: I notice in the Annual Report, Mr. Chairman, that a study was undertaken to determine the effectiveness and the benefits from provincial expenditures on forest fire detection and suppression and I would assume that the study has produced the results that you have just indicated to us. Would the Minister care to comment any further on that particular study?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we did put some figures together to indicate what forests are calculated to be worth in terms of their value as standing forests, their commercial value when cut for pulpwood or lumber and the final product value and we've taken a formal look at that to see what the value is of the forest and how it relates to the expenditures in controlling the fires and it is our opinion, from looking at that information that indeed the expenditure and the protection of forests is well worthwhile and that we are, indeed, getting our money's worth.

MR. BLAKE: It may be opportune now, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could bring us up to date on the success they've had in suppressing the peat bog fires since last report.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in fact I had a statement to make with respect to that which I just received the details on. We have found a total of 177 peat fires burning within the province's wooded district and these have been located by the third week of March.

MR. BLAKE: With this new detection equipment? The aircraft?

MR. BOSTROM: That's right. Twenty-two in the western part of the province, 80 in the eastern area and 75 in the southern region including the Steinbach-Sprague areas. Sixty-four of these fires have been extinguished and work is being carried out to bring the other 113 under control. Sixty-three of the fires still burning are in the additional area which we took in as a result of the Order-in-Council which I took to Cabinet to give us the authority to control the fires that were outside the old designated boundaries of the wooded district. While 50 of these fires that still need to be brought under control are in the former wooded district, about 40 men using bulldozers and similar equipment are engaged in fighting these fires. It is expected all peat fires will be extinguished or fire guarded, that is brought under control, by April 15th. Daily flights are being made by helicopter equipped with the Therma-Vision unit which can detect fires that cannot be seen by human observers. It's a device which is heat sensitive and it locates the fire and the 'copter crew can then mark the area on the ground and it's followed up by men and equipment to extinguish or control the fire.

Burning permits are being issued in the wooded district only to persons who show a valid reason for obtaining one. For example, the burning of trees infected by Dutch Elm disease is allowed by permit. Permits may be obtained only by applying to a conservation officer, who will forward the request to his regional office for consideration and/or approval and I must emphasize that we have had excellent co-operation from municipal authorities and private land owners to date in our efforts to extinguish or bring these fires under control. A letter has been sent out to the land owners who are in the areas that are under our jurisdiction in this case, indicating that it is the land owner's primary responsibility to extinguish the fires if they are burning on his land and he is certainly encouraged to do so. However, if the fire that is burning on his land is considered to be a public hazard, we would request permission to go on his land and to extinguish or control the fire. If the land owner refuses, and if the fire is deemed in the opinion of the fire protection people in the department to be a hazard to health or safety, then we will serve notice, one week's notice, and enter the property to control or extinguish the fire.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, that clears that situation up very well, Mr. Chairman. It's encouraging to hear that the program is being that effective. Just a final question. There are quite a number of roads built by the ManFor operation that opened up several new lakes in the area north of The Pas and I've travelled a number of those roads and fished in these lakes. I know at one time you had to obtain a permit to go on them. I just wonder if he might bring us up to date, if permits are still required, what their experience has been with sport fishermen going in, if they're causing any problems with open fires or is that situation well under control?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, indications from staff are that a permit is not required if it's a

company road. Normally, out of courtesy, people let the company officials know that they are going into the area. The experience of the forest protection people has been that hunters and/or fishermen have not by an large caused many problems with respect to fires. It has not been a great problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Is there a charge for putting out these peat fires on private land if you enter the premises to put the fire out?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, for this year and this year only, I have the approval of Cabinet to control and extinguish the fires because of their public and health hazard and the province pays the full cost of extinguishing and/or controlling these fires. As I said, if the fire is burning on private land, we would encourage the land owner to take action on the fire himself if he desired to do so. But in the event that he does not do so and it's considered to be public hazard, we will enter the property with his permission, without his permission we will serve him notice if we need to and enter in any case.

MR. FERGUSON: And this policy is province wide, it's not just confined to the area around Richer and where the general fires were last fall?

MR. BOSTROM: The policy refers to the wooded district and we have made a change in the definition of the wooded district to take in those areas where there were fires burning outside of this department's jurisdiction. As I indicated there are some 63 fires which are still burning in that area which we added to the province's wooded district in order to give us the authority, jurisdiction to do so. We've been putting ads in the local papers. I've noticed them in the press lately, indicating the change in the area and generally it's the area from the Red River east to the Ontario border and the area from about the bottom of Lake Manitoba across diagonally to the western boundary of the province.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, just a final question. The cost, I believe, the Minister indicated of controlling or suppressing the peat moss fires was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$400,000.00 I wonder if he could tell us if that figure has been realistic, are you operating fairly close to that figure?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The most recent reports I've had is that we don't expect it will cost that much, that we will be well within the estimates that we have made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c). The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY: When you were describing the area to which the fire fighting is being covered, does that include the Interlake area all the way up into Fisher Branch?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the actual description here, but it's approximately from the bottom of Lake Manitoba on the map north. So all of that area in between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg and between Lake Manitoba and the western boundary of the province would be included.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: And the U.S. border down south, in the southeast . . .

MR. BOSTROM: . . . in the southeast corner, yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(3)(a)—pass; (3)(b) Other expenditures—pass; (3)—pass; Resolution 104(c)(4) Research (a) Salaries and wages. The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister might just give us some general comments under research and give us some idea of what has been accomplished here, what new species are being tested and what the results have been.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't have all the progress reports on the types of projects that have been undertaken by the department. The research that the department is doing is related towards tree selection, that is to try to obtain those that are the best kinds of trees for obtaining the highest commercial value within our commercial forests; seed orchard development, a rather technical kind of work done by technical people; we have experiments or trials on exotic species of trees, that is trees that are not native to Manitoba to determine how well they work in our environment, to see if they would be of any use; we have people working on improving nursery management techniques which are of value to our own people in terms of making a better product for the reforestation program as well as producing information which is valuable to private nurseries, as well. Selective breeding operations are going on to try to produce the hybrid types of trees which are fast-growing and which can produce a good commercial value; and to do general research on seed production areas within the province. There are 2.26 staff man years in this category. And if the honourable member wants, like, detailed information on areas contained within what I have just outlined we could make that available.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering what success we've had with any exotic trees, if any, what exotic trees were being used. Some have been tested in other areas with considerable degree of success but our climate is certainly different. I just wanted to get some more detailed information on that. And also on research, what success they've had or what experiences they have had with fertilizing forest areas.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, given the honourable member desires that kind of detailed information I will take the question as notice and get a more complete report and description from the research branch as to their success in these areas.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, I suppose under research there is continuing study on other uses, or other ways to provide employment opportunities, or economic opportunities to people in the areas that are native to our forest areas. The Minister might make some comment on that particular area.

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, that would fall more under the planning and management of our existing forests. This section here is related more to the pure research, scientific research of a laboratory nature where they are doing quite academic and technical kind of research. Not so much the field work which would be associated with helping communities to reforest areas or select areas which would be best to cut in, and so on. That would be done by regional technical people.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, that's fine, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c). The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, one brief question. The project that was attempted in the Turtle Mountain area, oh three or four years ago, where they went in and bulldozed out rows and then left a row, has that project been scrapped or is that . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I have heard reports on that particular project and it was a regional effort by the western region. It was really an experimental or pilot project to assess what the value would be of cutting in strips rather than using the clear-cutting method we were discussing earlier. I do not have a report handy on that but I could take that question as notice and provide the honourable member with that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(4)(a)—pass; (4)(b)—pass; Resolution 104(c)(4)—pass; Resolution 104(c)(5) Regional Technical Support (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I suppose the technical support staff would be an area where we might get some answers to just what this covers. One particular area, would this in any way cover work done on the road on Black Island? Was any technical assistance provided by this department in that area?

MR. BOSTROM: In that specific area, Mr. Chairman, there was no technical work of a forestry nature provided. The road route on Black Island was laid out by the transportation services section of my department and in fact was built under the jurisdiction of the transportation services section of my department. The technical people within parks were involved in laying out the area, laying out the roadway itself in order to make it most compatible with the type of development that was being planned for that part of the park.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, we would get some answers then under the transportation section on Page 57 of the report. This would be the more correct place.

All right, then, if the Minister might just elaborate on how many people are employed in the regional technical support area and just what their function is.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, just in general this regional technical support section includes a majority of the actual field that handles the projects that are level implementers of forestry programs. It's this level actually put into service to the public. They are the front line troupes, if you will, that put out the fires, plant the trees, construct fireguards and roads, supervise timbercutting and the general regulations contained within the Forest Act. There are 102.24 permanent staff man years in this section. That's the same number that we had last year. There is no increase. The breakdown of the major activities is in the four regions. There is 23 staff man years in the northern region; 39.51 in the southern region; 21.41 in the eastern region; 18.26 in the western.

MR. BLAKE: That would just generally include the normal staff that would be employed in carrying out the functions of the department.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right, Mr. Chairman. Some of the staff man years that I've mentioned are related to more people than would normally be indicated by the staff man years because people are hired under this section, seasonally. There are forest firefighters and supervisors for forest firefighting hired here. There might be four people hired for three months which would, in effect, mean one staff man year. But there would be four people attached to that staff man year.

MR. BLAKE: Would there be any duplication here with employees of the parks branch or with the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, no problem with duplication? .

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, this would be the professional foresters, forest technicians who do the tree planting and handle the technical aspects of forest management. There the firefighters, as I said, the enforcers of the acts and regulations, and just in general people who carry out a function which is related to forest management, not only within the general Crown land area of Manitoba but also within parks at the request of parks. So we provide a service to other departments as well.

MR. BLAKE: You'd recover any costs involved from the other department?

MR. BOSTROM: I don't believe so. It would be a service provided. If they had some technical assistance that they required for park development and one of our foresters, or forest technicians went in and did some work it would be just part of their normal function, and would be part of our normal funding process.

MR. BLAKE: These would include some of the people involved in your Resources for Tomorrow program. Would they be involved in that program in any way?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, only to the extent that there might be some co-operation on conversion of those lands, or something like that. Something related to forestry. For example, in the silver culture section of this, there are 15 staff man years, 2.26 in the northern, 12.2 in the southern, and .10 in the western. And they are related, they are the ones who do the reforestation. And as may be indicated by these numbers, much of the reforestation work by staff is done in the southern region where most of the staff are located. They treated 1,575 acres in the southern region plus an additional 574 for parks. And they prepared for planting and scarifying and so on a further 1,950 acres in the southern region, plus another 600 for parks. This is done, you know, through the normal process of the department. The Parks don't reimburse us for this.

MR. BLAKE: That's fine, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(5)(a)—pass; (5)(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I don't have any other questions here. I'm just thinking and looking at the time. We're finishing this section and going into another section, that we may pass this and possibly the committee could rise and go into Wildlife this afternoon if no one has any further questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 5(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: That, I take it, is generally support for the staff shown in the (a) item, and so on. Are there any notable figures in there that should be brought to our attention, a breakdown of that figure of you know three-quarters of a million dollars.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it represents funds which are divided among the various regions for the various activities. Just to break it down by region: The other expenditures for the fiscal year 1977-78 are projected as 210.9 in the northern, 415.4 in the southern, 241.7 in the eastern, 135.0 in the western. It's further broken down into management. That is the professional foresters and forest technicians, as I indicated, where there is 33.6 in the northern (that's thousands of dollars), 85.1 in the southern, 65.6 in the eastern, and 41.0 in the western. And then there's further breakdowns for those that are involved in acts and enforcement, and reforestation, and forest protection. So you know if you would like me to go into that kind of detail, I could.

MR. LYON: I don't know if this is possible because I haven't had any success in finding it, Mr. Chairman, but referring again to Public Accounts, and I know that these items were extracted and reformulated when they were drawn out from the old Department of Mines and Resources. But again, I suppose, I'm trying to point out the difficulty of trying to relate an item such as a three-quarters of a million dollar item, regional technical support. It appeared in last years Estimates. It does not appear, so far as I can see it, in the Public Accounts of the province. To get some general breakdown by function, by the amount that is spent on uniforms, the amount spent on transportation, fringe benefits, etc., etc. If anyone, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister or his department can indicate to me where I might find some elucidation in Public Accounts of this same item in the old Department of Mines and Resources, I'd be deeply grateful. I haven't been able to find it.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I can take the question as notice and perhaps supply the Honourable Leader of the Opposition with an example breakdown for the projections for 1977-78 and where they would likely show up in the Public Accounts when they are published.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I know this is not a question for the Minister. Perhaps the accounting staff of his department could tell us. Perhaps it's more appropriately directed to the Controller General. But if the department, as the Minister says, was severed from Mining and Resources in 1974, why is it that in the Public Accounts of March 31st, 1976, we still do not see the separate items shown for renewable resources and transportation services. At least if they are there, I haven't found them. I stand subject to correction, but I haven't been able to find them.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the information available, at this time. I'll take that question as notice and I should be able to bring it back this afternoon, I would hope.

MR. LYON: I'm just looking for health. I'm not trying to be overly critical of the Minister. I know the Minister to be critical of, when we come to it, if I'm right in my assumption. But if the Minister of his staff can give us some indication as to what touchstone we could use from Public Accounts to bring us up to date on this, that would be helpful.

MR. BOSTROM: It would have been within the fiscal year 1975-76 that the department was reorganized as a separate department. And I would expect possibly when the Public Accounts were made up that it would have been shown as a section of Mines and Resources yet in the published Public Accounts. So if the honourable member would look in the Public Accounts under Mines and Resources, there should be a portion of that department that relates to this one that would give the breakdown by the various sections that are pretty close to the ones that are in this book here. Because previous to the splitting off of this part as a separate department it was very much a separate part of the previous department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. I operated as

Friday, March 18, 1977

the Minister responsible for the lands, forests, and wildlife resources section of that department since 1974 although it came out in the published public accounts as part of the total department. And I would expect if the honourable member can't find it as a separate item within the public accounts that it would be still published as a part of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

MR. LYON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has given me some help. Now I see on Page 145 of the Public Accounts we have land, forest, wildlife resources \$15,375,000, etc. Administration, Minister's compensation. But the problem we're running into, if I can lay this burden on his shoulder and ask for some help, is that as for instance in the case of forestry management I don't see a comparable item.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, this probably would be a complicated accountant's task of relating the breakdown that you see in this book to what it was when it was still a part of the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. As I explained in my opening statement when we went into the Estimates, and I grant the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was not here to hear that, but I did indicate that we've gone through a major reorganization in the department. And, given that we have and the year end that we have, there have been transfers around, redeployment of staff and so on, to effect the figures that are in this book. It is a completely proper process as I am sure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will recognize and it is laid out in the book here in the manner in which it is estimated that we will spending all the funds that were voted to us in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1977.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The time being 12:30, I am leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.

ESTIMATES — HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would now refer honourable members to Page 29 of their Estimates Book. Resolution No. 60(c) Child and Family Services (1) Salaries—\$276,200.00. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HONOURABLE LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, before we proceed with the Estimates, I wonder if I could answer some of the questions asked of me yesterday.

First of all, a question of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. During the calendar year 1975-76, members of the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee met 45 times; since the beginning of 1977 it has met 7 times. The committee has developed four formularies and published 17 drug information bulletins which have been made available to all medical doctors, dentists and pharmacists in our province. It has also had several discussions with other provinces and participated in a number of federal-provincial meetings. Presently this four-member committee has been assisting with the task of making the program of the Health Protection Branch work in a fashion that is more responsible to not only matters with its needs but also the needs of other provincial jurisdictions. This task has been particularly evident during the past twelve months. In order for the Manitoba committee to revise the existing inter-changeable formulary any further, it is awaiting constructive actions on the part of the Health Protection branch.

I am pleased to note that the members of the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee were single-handedly responsible for the removal of a drug crisis treatment guide for Manitoba hospital emergency centres because this publication published by the authority of the National Health and Welfare contained basic inconsistent therapeutic recommendations. The guide is presently being revised and may be reissued in the near future with suggested corrections that our provincial committee has spent many hours in identifying. The committee's work is done mostly during the evenings and it employs with one full-time secretarial staff member. The Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee consist of: Chairman — Dr. I.R. Innes, Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Manitoba; Members: J. L. Johnson—BSc. Pharmacy and community pharmacist; Paul A. Mintenko, M.D., Clinical Pharmacologist, Health Sciences Centre; Jeffrey Morris, M.D., Director of Clinical Nuclear Medicine Laboratories, Winnipeg Clinic.

Then to a question asked of me by the Honourable the Member for Rhineland: what percentage of children are immunized against polio? The pre-school immunization 2-4 years old: 90-95 percent; school age: 95-98 percent; adults: 90 percent plus, in the 90 percent plus range. It is possible that the Sabin vaccine could give a life-long immunity.

A question from the Honourable Member for Swan River. What is the age breakdown of venereal disease cases? The answer: Fifty percent of all cases of venereal disease are under 25 years of age; 75 percent of all cases are under 30 years of age. I have a detailed — I can send a copy to each party — on the breakdown by age of the main venereal diseases.

I am not sure whether the Honourable Member from Fort Garry was finished when we closed the shop last night — he was making an interesting suggestion and if he is not. . . Fort Rouge, I am sorry. I wonder if he was not quite finished, I would relinquish the floor to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is somewhat difficult to pick up a particular thread of thought but I was suggesting that if the diagnosis of the Minister, that the problem in the child care areas was increasingly reaching into a larger percentage of young adolescents, those in the age bracket of 14 to 18, and that the availability of care facilities, particularly foster homes, group homes, community-related facilities, were shrinking because of a demand put upon it by other kinds of community-related health and care services, for senior citizens and day care and whatnot; that really suggested to me that there was a major problem looming in the sheer availability of places and opportunities for these young people coming under the wardship of the government, to find a place to go. If something isn't done, I guess we might be forced back into the whole institutional care idea

which we have now been spending a few years trying to get away from, recognizing its real limitations.

I guess what I was really trying to suggest to the Minister is that, within the Estimates that are available here, I felt that there should be some assistance available to provide incentives to a broader spectrum of private organizations. I think I included in this, groups like trade union organizations, many of the church and charitable organizations and perhaps a lot of the community organizations, to provide types of residential work opportunities for these young adolescents. I know that my mother is involved on the boards of several halfway homes in the city which deal with delinquent children and in many cases one of the real problems is finding work for them to do; that they do have a house but they have no place to actually go out and spend their time and make money and yet, where those opportunities are afforded, it in some ways is almost the best therapy available, because it gives some meaning and purpose to their time and to their activity.

It seemed to me that what we need in our Estimates really is a form of incentive program to encourage and induce a number of community organizations to begin thinking in terms of developing the kind of situations in which these younger adolescents under the wardship can be placed and placed in a fairly meaningful way. I think I used the example — I could perhaps be more precise — where in some areas of Great Britain for example they have taken schools in parts of the cities or in rural areas which no longer have a high school population, and began turning those over for the use of those kind of workshop type atmospheres. In some cases they have taken over a number of older buildings that are going to be abandoned or which need an upgrade, and they provide a kind of living-in quarters for them but which again are associated with some kind of work activity.

It would seem to me that that should be the direction we are going into, into that developmental idea, but presently the funding for foster home, group home and care home facilities, is geared mainly to maintenance and retention of people and not to a developmental kind of activity, a preventative type of activity. It is to hold them in a place and maybe provide some psychiatric or psychological treatment but not in terms of giving them some opportunity to enlarge and experience, go into work worlds and so on. It would seem to me that that would be one of the areas where you could probably end up doing a lot of cost saving, if that kind of incentive was being offered and that it was trying to enlist the co-operation or the involvement of a much wider range of community services, rather than simply relying upon the traditional sources of group or foster home placements.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this is quite interesting. I don't know if this would solve the problem of finding a place for these people to live. I don't think it would; I think it would maybe help to keep them busy but I might say, most of these children are at school during the day. We have something, not exactly like that, fairly close to it with the STEP Program but that is only during the summer, mostly in the holidays and so on.

Now, that will not replace the group homes or the foster homes and there is no doubt that because of the increased age and also because, as I stated yesterday, that we are competing with our other programs and so on for these type of homes, that it is going to be a problem. Some of these people, they had a program that they were taking people that had been in a mental institution for a long time and they go in the home. That was a highly successful program but again that is all competition. My honourable friend is right though, that that is the problem that we see all of a sudden and it makes it difficult when there has been a tendency or a policy of going to the community. We are not quite ready and we cannot cope with it and that is why we had some of the trouble in Selkirk. At one time the staff didn't know exactly where we were going and so on.

Now, without saying that this definitely would be approved, we would certainly be interested in looking at the programs. When my honourable friend was speaking yesterday I thought, well all right, if that is going to replace the group homes or the foster parents, there would be money there, but that would be in addition to making it easier for these people to try to teach them discipline and keep them interested and so on, and I guess you could, you certainly could include sports in that also because I happen to think that sports can do wonders with people to teach them discipline and fair play and concern for others. I am not necessarily talking about the brawls they have in the NHL and so on to amuse the mostly-American audiences but I can assure my honourable friend that we will look at this very seriously. I am sure we will find some money somewhere. If we had a good program and if somebody could come in with a worthwhile program, I would be very interested, especially if we deal with volunteers, because I think that is another thing we need and it is another source of revenue, I might say, which is drying out because of too much involvement sometimes of the government. I would be ready to look at that only on paying certain expenses but not in paying these people. I don't think that is what my honourable friend means anyway. At one time you had the fire department and the police department very active in that. I understand that this kind of work has been a real success in Chicago for instance where their problems are even worse than ours and apparently that has been very successful. I remember having a talk once and I was greatly impressed by the former boxer Tony

Zale who has devoted his life to do exactly that kind of work. So I thank my honourable friend for the idea, for reminding me of the idea again, and I can assure you that we would gladly sit down with people that are interested in doing this kind of work and we would encourage them as much as we can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(c)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: On this particular topic, Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind the Minister of conversations — well, I suppose more than conversations — of some disagreements that we had last year with respect to the approach of the department in terms of who could deliver some of these necessary services faster and better, preferably faster: the government, the department or the private resource and agency field. And in particular I would remind the Minister that we talked at that time about psychiatric services for severely emotionally disturbed children. —(Interjection)— That's under Mental Health and the Minister has a statement coming on it? The Minister has a statement coming on that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. DESJARDINS: I think I have if it is what we were talking about last year, but this will come under Mental Health; that is, there will be more explanation on that. I have already made a statement last night that covers part of that and that is probably why my honourable friend is referring to that, but I would hope that we could continue this because we are zeroing in on a special need now and this will be covered under Mental Health if my honourable friend doesn't mind.

MR. SHERMAN: That is fine, then, Mr. Chairman. Well, let me move then to another area, and that is the *per diem* funding arrangement and the criticisms of that arrangement that are largely based on the argument that you can't apply standardized universal parameters in the field of funding and that many services of the department and of related agencies working on department programs are hampered by the locked in *per diem* approach. There have been suggestions, of course there are always suggestions, that *per diem* rates should be raised, but quite apart from that, there have been suggestions that the whole approach to funding should be changed, particularly with respect to foster homes and foster parents, and that the single *per diem* rate does not reflect the differences in services required, the differences in program quality, the differences in intensity of treatment, and that there should be some serious consideration given to a salaried base for the operation of foster homes and for the funding of foster parents. It has been pointed out, some criticisms, that in the final analysis the *per diem* rate doesn't reflect the real cost of services anyway, Mr. Chairman, because all deficits are picked up by the government, picked up by the taxpayer. I would appreciate the Minister's views on that as to whether it might be practical and more productive to approach foster home funding support, foster parent funding support, from the perspective of a salary and that kind of support rather than the straight *per diem* base.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, first of all I have mentioned, I think, two or three times and I will remind the members again that we hope that the first question of my honourable friend, we hope to be able to cope with that with this new Office of Residential Care. Now on April 1st, my Deputy Minister is meeting with all the associations, all the organizations that are delivering the service. They are willing to co-operate; in fact, they desire and wish it and they will work together. And approximately in July, around July 1st, we will have a new funding arrangement for group homes. Certainly this has to be done and of course the funding arrangements, we will be looking at what kind of services are delivered and so on, and then the need. Of course this will be based and those that will be approved will be to answer the particular need required.

Now personally I would not be in favour of changing the foster homes, foster parents. There is no doubt that we have to increase our rate. If some of the people want to regard that as a salary, that is fine. I certainly would never want to call it a salary because what this department is trying to do, is place these people in a home, in a family, and there are many, there are still many, there are still a lot of good people around and there are still many people that are not looking to make money on this. They would like to cover the cost as much as possible. Some of them are willing to spend a little bit of their money. It is the next thing to adoption. Mind you, for some it is very, very difficult, but I would not want to encourage that mercenary approach and unfortunately I have seen that. I have seen where some of these foster homes were using these people practically as slaves for cheap labour. In fact they were being paid for it. I have had people, when I was a kid, living on my street that were doing just that and I thought that was awful. So I think that going to the salary bit would be just that, you know somebody would be coming in and then God knows, we might have a union in there in no time and saying, "Well, this is not a salary, you have to take a course for that," and the first thing you know, there will be a trace of what is going on in the day care now of people wanting to set a new profession, somebody that is going to take care of kids. It might come to that but I certainly hope I never see it. I hope that we go back a little bit. You know, we are supposed to look forward and think of the progress but at times I would like to go back a generation or so to see where people in the good of their heart and feeling there are some underprivileged kids in society that we are trying to help and they feel that they have a duty. They might not have any children of their own or their children might be away and

they are very pleased to help.

Now having said that, we also recognize and I think that I should point this out to the Minister, that we will spend approximately another million dollars too because there is no doubt that the *per diem* now in most cases are not sufficient and the people are going into debt and I think that is something different. If we do that, if we just make it where people will have to go into debt, we will lose a lot of homes of people that have what it takes to make good parents, they give love to these people, but just couldn't afford it. So we are going to try this. We might have to do what my honourable friend stated. I certainly hope that we don't have to, that I never see it.

MR. SHERMAN: Do I take it from the Minister's comments then, his earlier comments, that the reform and upgrading that is under way in this area of funding will include consideration of a grading system or a gradation system on *per diem*, that there will not necessarily be just a flat standard universal *per diem* rate paid, but the *per diem* will be selected to reflect the programs and the treatment and the environment in which the foster homes and foster parents are operating?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, there would be a system of grading because we would have to look at the age. As I mentioned yesterday, that is a big problem. It is much more difficult to keep kids around eighteen years old for instance, and then of course the needs of the children themselves, so there would be some kind of a standard, the clothing and all that. I don't have the details, I don't think we've worked all the details up to now, but there would be allowance for clothing and at a certain age again it is a little costlier, so there would be some kind of a grading of the *per diem* rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I take it that the child aid societies and child care institutions are funded under this item. Do they bring in a financial statement which is examined by the department? And I wonder if I could have a list of the names of the societies that are given grants under this item, and the amounts.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, yesterday my closing remarks were a plea for the Minister to indicate what the *per diem* was going to be. I realize it's a grading system but of some kind of range. The media has reported increases as high as 60 percent and that information would be valuable to me in my assessment of the many, many group homes that I have in my particular riding. I would like him to further elaborate, if he could, on what he is attempting to do to spread these group homes throughout the metropolitan Winnipeg area because we responded to an ad that was placed by his department in the papers and the girl answered that they preferred a central location. And I really feel that these children, many of who will in a short period of time will be readjusted but some may have language difficulties or may be slightly disturbed children, or troublesome children, and it has been proved that if they are integrated into the school system they have a better chance. However by concentrating them all in one area, as I said yesterday, it becomes necessary to hire distress teachers, and what have you. What you do is basically have other taxpayers saying, well why don't the suburbs share part of this responsibility. And the other aspect was pertaining to . . . Well I'll just leave it at that so that we don't give him too full a plate. But it's basically I'm trying to seek out the scale of the new rates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN: I understood the Minister to say that there were some sixty children that were placed for out-of-province placement. I wonder, the funding for that placement, is that included in this particular Estimate. I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell me how much funding, how much this is costing the province, and what the reason is for the out-of-province placement. Would this be because of advanced psychiatric care?

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the question from the Honourable Member for Rhineland, I think that we certainly covered that thoroughly that they didn't have the facilities. The reasons were very plain when this was started, and I believe this was started quite a few years ago, that they didn't have the facilities. And last year we said, and repeated this year, that we would try to change that. It would be phased out and I would be very surprised if in two years we wouldn't have a single person out-of-province. In fact with many of them it might be that it could be done in a year. The cost has been approximately \$850,000 for that.

Now, the Honourable Member for Wolseley talked about the rate. The increase is not, and I repeat not, for group homes, it is for foster homes. We're not encouraging group homes. We're just taking them when there is no foster homes and we know we will need some.

MR. WILSON: The Minister mentioned yesterday that he was going to — again I'm glad the differential has been made — begin to license these group homes and I wondered would it be the city health inspectors or is he going to hire more health inspectors for his own department? Is there going to be sort of an overlapping of service because most of these homes are in the central location in Winnipeg. Would it be the City that was going to inspect these or would someone on the Minister's staff be doing this? And what type of licensing is it going to be? Is it going to be really a burdensome fee that is going to discourage a broader base of people who run these? Possibly the Minister might indicate who qualifies to run a group home because allegations have been made in the media and I

talked about the February and March news stories of last year where they said the group homes were making money and it was becoming big business. So I wondered if it became public knowledge, what are the requirements to manage one of these group homes maybe we would have people from the suburbs and professional people offering their services in this line of work.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I definitely can't answer all these questions at this time. As I stated to my honourable friend we have set up the office of residential care. That will be set up to do exactly that. If we had all this information and if we were able to copewith this we would not need the office of residential care. I might say that it is not the intention of the province to go in the licensing business. We do not have these types of people. It is the responsibility of the City of Winnipeg to do so. We will discuss this with them. This is what will be suggested.

I must point out, in all fairness to the City of Winnipeg, that they accept the responsibility but they've said that when these arrangements were made the government did not have all these programs and that we're having more and more programs and it makes it more difficult to them. So this is what will be looked at. We have had some meetings. There has been a committee working with the people of Winnipeg and I think that once my Estimates are finished, in a week or so, I intend to meet with Mr. Galanchuk who is the Chairman of that committee, whatever the committee is — Committee on the Environment and responsible for that for the city.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(c)(1). The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister is considering the questions I put to him a short while ago.

MR. DESJARDINS: I can tell my honourable friend the people that are in the services, that's not the homes, these are the Children's Aid Society and so on, that are covered here. The Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, the Children's Aid of Central Manitoba, Western Manitoba, Eastern Manitoba, the Jewish Child and Family Services. And the last item, where you see External Agencies on (5), that is for administration and the Maintenance of Children is close to \$17 million under (2) Other Expenditures.

Now my honourable friend wants a breakdown on what, because the agencies receive grants for administration. Or are you talking about grants to breakdown to every single home and so on, that would be very difficult to find. I could give you the breakdown on administration costs, the grants for administration to the different Children's Aid Societies. And then, of course, added to that the government in some of the rural areas are doing it directly through our field people.

MR. BILTON: Just to complete that, I wonder if the Minister could advise me as to whether or not the government has any control, or in other words do these Societies bring forward their budgets and does the government have the authority to reduce or increase or whatever the case may be? Is there close liaison between the department and the Societies to see that the money is being well spent?

MR. DESJARDINS: I think you can always improve that. I must say that because I know that we have improved in an awful lot since a year ago, since I was last standing in front of you. And in fact we've spent, we've had — they had trouble, the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, which is a very difficult one, they are operating in the core of Winnipeg and we have looked at all their operations with them. We have been satisfied with the co-operation that we have received and so were they. They were running quite a deficit and so on. There has been an improvement on that and we have looked at their difficulties and so on, because at times it is difficult to sit in our office and think that we can do it better than them until you go and find out what they have to do and meet the day-to-day obligations that they have, and this has been done. So, of course, there will be a little less pressure on these people now, but we have a branch of the department that constantly is reviewing the budget and so on with these people and working with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, Sir, my information is that of the dollars spent in this whole area, Child and Family Services or Child Welfare, that two out of three dollars go on Child Welfare, the actual service in the field, and one out of every three dollars goes on service and administration. Would that be a correct conclusion?

MR. DESJARDINS: This item here, we are not dealing with our field people that will do some of this service, but under (5) External Agencies, that's administration, that's the five or six Children's Aid Societies including the Jewish Child and Family Service. Under (3) the \$16,971,000, that is strictly maintenance that is spent on the children.

MR. SHERMAN: When the budget was in the area, a couple of years ago, in this field, in this particular area of service, when the budget was between \$13 million and \$17 million, in that range, at that point in time it was estimated that one out of every three dollars went on service and administration and the other two actually went to Child Welfare. Is that a fair conclusion and an honest conclusion, and is that still the situation? I am not asking this from the standpoint of direct criticism, I am asking the Minister if that is about the ratio that he has to cope with in terms of application of dollars.

MR. DESJARDINS: It is quite difficult because my honourable friend considered Administration all the social workers that they have that are actually giving the service. This is not administration, but

they pay their staff with that. You know, it is not just the staff of their Executive Director and their clerks and so on. So it is quite difficult and if we are going to look at the figures in front of us it would be more, even with that, dealing with this part of it anyway, it would be more one to five because of the two amounts that we have in front of us.

I'd want to repeat that under (5) External Agencies that covers the staff and also the social workers who are counsellors and so on, there's a big part of that I can't give you the percentage of that now. And under (2) the \$17 million well that's all maintenance.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes No. 3. What I was looking at was the total figure in this service, in this branch of the division. We are voting \$23,000,000. Last year we voted \$17.8 million. What I was looking at was the \$23 million taken in total. Is it fair to conclude that... what would it be? It would be approximately \$15 million of that \$23 million goes into maintenance, into Child Welfare and approximately \$7.5 million or \$8 million is really in the area of service and administration.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, that's a different story, but it still will not be \$15 million Under (3) Maintenance of Children makes it quite clear, it's \$16,971,000, and then under (5) External Agencies there is \$4 million but out of that they have many social workers and counsellors also that should be added to the maintenance. Now, my honourable friend is including the whole package there and there is \$276,000 for salaries, that is of our staff, government staff to run the whole thing, that is 21 — there is an extra staff man year this year, that's 21, and then the other expenditures and so on. If we are going to look at the whole thing, what it costs us, that again would not be a complete story because you will find under another item something that we have passed already in Committee — no, we are still to come to that. There is 105 of our own staff who are delivering the services in certain areas through the community field workers. So that would be added to maintenance also. Well to service, yes, which is still social workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(c)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Just one final question on this, Mr. Chairman. I take it from the Minister's remarks introducing his Estimates and in some references that he has made through the exchange that has gone on since that time, that I would like to conclude anyway that he was unhappy with some of the directions and some of the approaches being taken by the Child and Family Services Directorate and in the whole field of Child and Family Services at this time last year, that he felt there was a wide amount of rationalization and improvement and firming up of direction and change of direction necessary, and that he feels that he has moved some distance down that road, that he has changed course, changed direction and that he intends to continue to pursue the changes and the rationalizations and the efficiencies that he felt were needed when he assumed charge of the department.

Last year at this time there was considerable unease about the directions in which this service was moving and I have inferred from what the Minister has said that he shared some of that unease, that he feels that there were some changes in direction necessary, that he has initiated some of them. There is still more to be done, but he has changed course from the courses that were being followed at the time of the previous Deputy Minister. Is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: Partially correct. First of all, when you change Ministers you inherit the good points and the problems also, so I am not going to blame anybody else. It was evident under the former Minister of Health that they were concerned when they commissioned Dr. Ryant to prepare his report. I might say that I will not blame the Directorate at all. You don't blame the employees, it is the policies, the leadership must come from the top. I accept all blame. That doesn't mean that if they can't carry on other policies and so on, that we are not going to make changes. This is something that might be done and we are going to try to get the best possible people in there, but I don't attach any blame to the people that were maybe left without clear-cut direction or policies of the government. But all in all I accept as my responsibility that we had to make changes, we are moving in that direction, including reorganizing the office of the Directorate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(c)(1)—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; (c)(3) Maintenance of Children—pass; (c)(4) Program Expansion and Development Fund—pass; (c)(5) External Agencies—pass. (d) Public Health Nursing Services (1) Salaries \$145,700.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We already have discussed this item to quite some extent but I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell us who the head of this program is, Public Health Nursing. And these Public Health Nurses are playing a very important role, especially in the rural community. I wonder if he could tell us whether he feels that there is a sufficient number of nurses out in the rural area at the present time.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, I want to remind my friend that we've covered the Public Health Nurses in the field, where I mentioned that we had ten more and so on. Now this is just the central office and that's just a limited staff, and that department is headed by Ms. Janet Kennedy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I mentioned it the other day in the speech that I made on the Speech from the

Throne but I'd like to prevail upon the Minister to give some consideration to the Health Nurse Service in the Swan River Valley, particularly Birch River and north of Birch River. The nurse at the moment is located in Swan River and it's quite a distance from Swan River for instance to Pelican Rapids where I believe she goes once a week or once a month. And I believe if the services of a nurse could be extended to Birch River for that area north that it would meet with a great deal of satisfaction by the people that are complaining from time to time that this service is not as readily available as it might be because of the distance.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think you're being quite rightly tolerant in this. We have covered this and I received the message from my honourable friend, the same message, yesterday. Now we are dealing only with the administration, the top people, we will look into that. I'm not making any commitment because I think that probably anybody or everybody could make the same point. This is something that the department was charged with the responsibility of, all Manitoba fields. As I said, that was our first priority. We received ten staff man years, new ones, for an existing program not a new program. There is difficulty. The living accommodation in these areas is very difficult, so that it is very difficult to recruit nurses for that area. I think one of the possible solutions also might work with assistance with native people. And we've taken some of them. We only have some for the urban area at this time. I think we've got five for the core of Winnipeg but it is our intention — I think that the Department of Education is training some of these new careerists and we would look at that also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(d)(1)—pass; (d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 60(e) Health Education and Library Services (1) Salaries, \$211,200 —pass; Other Expenditures \$126,300—pass; Home Economics Services, Resolution 60(f)(1) Salaries \$185,600. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could give us a breakdown of how many home economists in Winnipeg and how many in rural Manitoba.

MR. DESJARDINS: Are there any other questions? I'll have to give this information a little later. I haven't got the breakdown with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 60(f)(1)—pass; (60)(f)(2) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister would favour the committee with an explanation as to what this covers.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm sorry, I didn't get that.

MR. BILTON: This item of Other Expenditures of \$131,800, I wonder if the Minister would favour the committee with an explanation as to what this covers.

MR. DESJARDINS: Going back to the first question of the breakdown, there are 11 working with us under the Department of Agriculture, working in the rural area. With the department, there are 8 in rural Manitoba and 3 in Winnipeg and there are 6 with the Northern Offices — 8 in Winnipeg, 3 in the rural areas, and 6 in the northern area.

Now the breakdown on Other Expenditures, there are expenditures that relate to travel and office supplies. Major requirements are for the provision of technical information material including pamphlets manuals, some of these books that I gave you the other day comes in this, necessary for the delivery of the Home Ec Program.

Last year the following pamphlets and material were distributed: Nutrition and Food 139,100 items; Homemaking Skills, 34,700 items; Housing 24,000 items; Money Management 23,100; Family Living 22,100; Miscellaneous 2,000, for a total 245,000 items.

There has been some minor reduction on that this year because we are cutting off all through the department on travelling costs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; Resolution 60(g) Continuing Care Services (1) Salaries \$1,117,700. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an area in the Community Operations Division, and indeed in the whole department, that is another crunch area in terms of budgeting, in terms of service delivered and in terms of measurement of benefit, and also represents one section in the division in which we are being asked to vote a substantial amount of money. Not that it represents a great increase over last year but it's always a substantial amount of money. We are looking at an appropriation of \$9.1 million dollars this year compared to \$8.1 million last year and that's a big chunk of the overall budget in the same way that Child and Family Services commands a big chunk. There is another parallel here, Sir. I think all would agree that there is considerable public concern with respect to delivery and benefits in the Child and Family Services area over the past two or three years.

There is equally widespread public concern with the operation of the Continuing Care Services Program and with the measurement of benefits and with the fulfilling of needs. I have in front of me the latest, I think it is, newsletter of the Health Sciences Centre, Scope, in which the lead story amounts to a stinging criticism of the critical bed situation in the Greater Winnipeg area, particularly

as it relates to the Health Sciences Centre and in which the writers and editors of the story underline what many people in the field and the general public have insisted is the case for some time, that is that the community simply does not have enough chronic care facilities; that persons and patients requiring the kind of service offered in the continuing care field are occupying acute beds and critical care beds in hospitals such as the Health Sciences Centre to the disadvantage of not only the community at large but certainly to the disadvantage of many persons requiring immediate and emergency and acute care. The article to which I refer is headed: "Critical Bed Situation Continues," and the Director for the Adult Nursing Directorate for the Health Sciences Centre, Margaret Nugent, is quoted in it as saying, "What we used to consider a crisis has become the usual." Essentially her message and the message of the article itself, Mr. Chairman, is that there is such a tight bed situation at the Health Sciences Centre that that facility is simply not able to cope properly with the normal demands and requirements of a hospital facility of this kind. The reason cited is the reason to which I have alluded and to which reference has been made many times in this House and in the press and public generally, that there are simply not enough facilities and beds available in the chronic care and continuing care field and as a consequence hospital facilities like the Health Sciences Centre are overtaxed with chronic care and continuing care patient responsibilities and are in a continual crisis situation in attempting to fulfil their first-line service responsibility, that is to patients requiring immediate attention for immediate medical problems. The article goes on to quote Dr. Wade to the following effect, Sir. This is a direct quotation: "The community needs more chronic care facilities— (Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Health state his point of order.

MR. DESJARDIN: The point of order, Mr. Chairman — I hesitate to stop my honourable friend. I thought he would use this article to go into Home Care. The programs are related no doubt, but he seems to be talking about the necessity of beds and so on and I will not answer these questions at this time. This will be under the Commission. I realize that there should be leeway here because we're talking about an office that does the panelling for personal care. That hasn't too much to do with the acute beds. I know that if you find more places some of these people that are occupying the acute beds will be removed but I wonder if we could now without trying to muzzle or to prevent my honourable friend from speaking — he'll have all the chance in the world — and I'll have the people that are dealing with that and the information in front of me when we deal with beds.

And while I'm on my feet could we talk — we are looking at (1), (2), (3), (4), if we look at salaries and so on or when we start programming the policies of Home Care, we'll try to look at that program and give him all the time in the world to discuss the beds or lack of beds when we look at the Commission's Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is well taken. I wonder if we can just confine — I know I have been trying to give the committee a certain amount of leeway when we are dealing with an item here, but

MR. DESJARDIN: But, Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult, it is a big department, and when we have the people in front of us that could give us the information on that — if I start jumping all over the place it will be difficult. But there will be ample time and I should remind the members that we also have the Minister's Salary where then there's a wider range without getting the details. I think this exercise is to get as many details as possible then we could talk about the policy of the Minister's salary if that hasn't been fully covered to the satisfaction of everyone. Also, as I said, there'll be a wide range of discussion under the hospitals and Medicare for these programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the point is well taken and I think the point that the Minister made of the Minister's salary being a Catch 22, I guess that's where you can catch him on pretty near anything else that you want to talk about. But I would caution the members to try and keep to the item that we're under. We're under Salaries under Continuing-Care Services and I would appreciate it if the members would co-operate and try to keep their discussion confined to that item.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the direction. I hadn't intended to digress from the subject immediately in front of us. I was simply using that reference to underscore the point that there seems to be a major concern and there seems to be ample evidence for it that there are widespread shortcomings in the area of chronic care and continuing care in the community. I appreciate that we will be able to discuss the subject of bed shortage and bed crisis when we get to the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission section of the Estimates. But the point that I'm trying to make, Sir, without dwelling any further on that specific, is that the community in general, and representatives and spokesman in the field who are most directly concerned, have stressed the acute requirements for more facilities, more services in the chronic care and continuing care field in the community, and I wonder whether the Minister is intending to make a statement covering this area of his operations along the lines of the one he made having to do with Child Welfare and Child and Family Services.

To begin with in this area of continuing care, Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate an indication from the Minister as to how service in the Continuing Care field in terms of patients or clients serviced

compares this year as against last year. What kinds of numbers are we talking about in terms of Manitobans who have required and utilized the services offered in this particular branch of the department? To what extent do those numbers reflect direct relief of pressure on acute beds? To what extent have those persons serviced been rehabilitated to the extent that they are able to take care of themselves in their own homes and don't require beds and facilities at acute care institutions? Does the Minister have any yardstick of measurement of that kind to compare the services and results this year as against last year or the preceding year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I also have some questions that I'd like to ask. We have a huge salary here of \$1,117,700.00. I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many people are involved in that salary. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how effective the program is. I understand that the program was designed primarily to keep people at home so that your waiting list would not be quite as long for people awaiting placement in personal care homes.

So I wonder if this has reduced the waiting list any at all, and if it has then by how much? I wonder if the Minister could tell me how much of this salary is management and I would like to know if there is a full time physician involved in this salary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I think my concerns in this particular department are slightly different from those that have been expressed so far.

What I'm more concerned about is the gaps and inaccuracies in the continuing care program, but I accept I think without hesitation, that it is the proper alternative to providing care for the elderly as opposed to providing institutional or personal care homes. But what does strike me from the experience in my dealings with a number of people in my own area, and certainly many others, is that really the availability of the range of services required to provide for proper continuing care is not available, and that we really haven't worked out a complete system of ensuring that not only do we provide direct care for medical problems, people in their home, but also that we provide a fuller range of services in terms of housekeeping, maintenance services which are as equally critical for the ability of an elderly person in many cases to maintain their occupancy of their own home as opposed to being forced to move into a group home area. One of the things that I did come across is the recent study by the Science Council of Canada which has just been printed in July of 1976 which deals with, in large part, the problems to be encountered by the increasing numbers of people over the age of 60 and 65 in our community. I think it's now going up from around eight or nine percent up to about ten or twelve percent in this province. And what they point out perhaps most importantly is that the availability of services in Canadian provinces is significantly lower than almost anywhere else in the world in home care, continuing care opportunities. The kind of services that, for example, are provided in a number of European areas, nursing, chiropody, meals, baths, hair dressing, travel, physical training, day centres, and that what is more interesting is that in many cases these services are provided by the elderly themselves. They are hired on as the homemakers to provide it, so that for many people over 65 who are still very fit and able but are by our relatively stupid pension laws, retiring at 65 when they are still at the full powers they are all of a sudden, and I realize that maybe it is more anxious for a politician to retire at that age, but certainly there are many people whose own ability is totally wasted, simply because of these pretty silly laws, I think.

But the fact of the matter is that many of them would then be available for providing the kind of maintenance, home care services, that would be provided, not in the direct medical sense, but providing the kind of visitations, the kind of supports — I was talking to a lady on the phone last week that said her problem is that she can't change a light bulb in her place anymore.

A MEMBER: You talked to her last year too.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, I talked to her last year, she phones me every year, just before your Estimates are on. She knows when your Estimates are coming up. I don't think the Minister could change the light bulbs either.

But there are things like snow shovelling, shopping, even having someone available to talk to at a period of time, but also to provide many of the basic minimum maintenance services to help people to move around from place to place. Now those things are not provided in any comprehensive way, and I think that while I have nothing but the greatest respect for those who are providing Continuing Care Programs, because believe me it is a tough job and knowing many of the circumstances they get into they work at it very hard. The fact is that if the emphasis is going to be to try to maintain opportunities for services in the home, because it is both better for the person and also probably better from the cost-accounting point of view, I think you have to provide fully adequate services, and that the range of opportunity, as I say in the Canadian system we have about the lowest percentage of home care opportunities and visits of almost any industrialized group, perhaps with the exception of the United States. It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, and I have raised this point with the Minister before, and that is to what degree again does this program try to fill in those gaps and provide for those interim services, those additional services, that are required to enable a proper home care program to be

maintained. I guess my concern is expressed mainly because of the statement made by Mrs. Shapiro who was formerly head of the Continuing Care Program of the Department, who indicates that there is still a tremendous problem in the providing of home care, continuing care services in the province, and to quote her, she says, "I have consistently said that the older person now is encountering, in any of our settings, a series of barriers rather than a systematic approach to continuing care." That was in November of 1976, only three or four months ago. So it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that we still haven't addressed that particular problem of providing a comprehensive continuing care program, and are simply concentrating in many cases on the most extreme or critical medical problems as opposed to providing that secondary range of services that are probably just as essential for enabling a person to maintain themselves in their own place.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I guess in an item like this we are covering all the points together, I guess there is no other way. I was going to wait to answer under (3), but this might make it more difficult, so I think we should have leeway.

The breakdown starting with (1) Salaries, the total staff man years there is an increase of two, from 78 1/2 last year to 80 1/2. That is for the question of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. And six of those are actually on the management, the head office.

Now the beds, the waiting list, I want to make a point very clear though. The waiting list doesn't necessarily mean because you have a waiting list of so many that these people should be in a personal care home, that has to be clear. There are some people that are well but they are panicking because they think, "What's going to happen then," so they put their name on the list. The waiting list doesn't necessarily mean that much. Oftentimes there is duplication, somebody will put their name on two or three different places to make sure they get a place, where they are already on one but they would like to transfer because their friends or their relatives are in another one. That causes another problem. So, as close as we have, I'll give you the waiting list. The waiting list in Winnipeg last year at this time was 1,127, now it is 1,114. The waiting list outside of Winnipeg last year was 914, now it is 1,013. The number in the hospital, that is this famous point that we hear of occupying beds, who are waiting to be placed in a personal care home, at the end of February is 387, and that's on the total list, that's not in addition, that's on the total list of 1,119.

Now, I might say that I know, before we discuss too far that I will not satisfy completely the Liberal party on this, or the health critic for the Liberal Party. I know that last year we had quite a discussion on that. He feels that we should do much more and I know, or I feel, if we are going to follow like last year, that the Conservative Party feels that we are doing a little too much on this, that we have to be careful. But that is not one that I am on the defensive like I was in the program of child care. I am very very proud of our program, I might not be completely happy, but I am very proud. We have growing pains because it is growing, and it is recognized in many quarters, in many provinces, as the best in Canada. Now I have some figures to give you on this, but there is something that I could not agree with more, some of the statements by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, and I think I tried to make that point in a resolution that we had when we were talking about an increase in pensions. I don't think the government can do it all, and I agree that with all these things the money is an important thing because you want to be independent, but it is not the sole thing, and as I stated at that time, I think that society is coping out. We will have at the turn of the century one out of every five people will be over 65. As I say now, by law, they retire. I think they are unemployed employables, many many of them. And the most unfortunate thing is that a job is not only where you will earn the money to have a better life, I think you have a right to work, it is something that human nature should do, I think it is a right to do. Of course, doubly so if you need the funds to keep body and soul together, but besides that and I think that unfortunately government and people in society in general feel a certain responsibility to see that people have enough to eat, but they don't think anything else. They don't think very much of someone who is retired, has lost his job, oftentimes one of the partners will die so he is alone, people that have been very happy together, have a lot of time on their hands, that might start drinking, that are living in despair, sometimes within four walls. They don't move, they might watch television and that's it and they are just waiting to die. I think this is awful, I think that society and the whole care must be to keep people — and I don't think that age means that much. Sure they might not run the 100 yard dash in ten seconds, but many of them — for instance the Leader of the Liberal Party, I think he is 82.

A MEMBER: What about the Honourable Member for Swan River?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, but he's only 80, I'm talking about the Leader of the Liberal Party, who is 82, and I will bet that he will beat anyone and every one of us in a race, and I'll make more money than I will lose, I can tell you that. Or going up the stairs or down the stairs. — (Interjection) — There's only one that is 82, the others were shot before that, I'm talking about Mr. Campbell, I'm sorry, I thought it was obvious.

A MEMBER: I thought you were talking about Charles.

MR. DESJARDINS: Oh, no, he just looks 82. So I agree with this.

Now a lot of this work has to be done by — you know my honourable friend is right — somebody to

talk to, somebody that cares, and we are funding, we are encouraging that under — I don't know exactly what item — there are some agencies that we passed, and they have this phone call. I know that one time somebody phoned me, he was quite concerned, he had to go away on a business trip, the mother was away, what can we do and I got in touch with these people and they visited him and they phoned the mother quite often and he was very pleased. So these are some of the things that we might do. I think that society in general is coping out.

Somebody said, my honourable friend I guess he wanted to be humble or maybe he was aiming at my honourable friend from Swan River and he says, "Not necessarily politicians." Well even politicians. Not too long ago, the very respected politicians were Eisenhower, Churchill and all the . . . —(Interjection)— You didn't respect them? Well anyway some people respected them and they were people that were not that young in age, maybe young in spirit. So I think that this is very important and I will never be satisfied when I hear the Minister of Labour of this province, or the Prime Minister of Canada, stand up and say we have cut down on the unemployed because I think that's a joke. We might as well pass a law that nobody under 21 should work, you know it would be just as ridiculous as far as I am concerned.

Now, as far as the program, as I say, we have growing pains but it is a good program, it is doing what we want to do. The main concern is not necessarily just that we are going to take care of people until there is a bed, there are some people that are coming out of the hospital that could come out a little sooner, that want to be in their home that probably would be better off in their home if they get a little bit of assistance. I think that this is one of the things that it does and there are some people that are waiting to be admitted to a personal care home and they will receive this help also. So I think it is really doing a service, it will not completely replace acute beds or personal care beds, there are some people that must be placed in an institution, but it is doing a service.

Now we have a wide range of services, we have not only nursing, there is homemakers and of course if they need even social workers and Counsellors, that will go also. There is quite a wide range but we must be careful. I don't think that Manitoba has the resources to say that we are going to guarantee the shovelling of the snow or the changing of light bulbs and so on. I would hope that society will leave, at least in government — and you are the socialists now, not me, you've bypassed me — I think that it is important also while we are trying to help people that we must leave something for the volunteers in society to do. I think this country will be much richer if these people have a chance to do some of these things to provide the service for their fellow man.

I think that in general most of the people are very happy. We get many many letters, there are some that aren't happy, there are some that want more. For instance, some people want to be paid to take care of their own relatives, they say, "Why not?" You're providing homemakers." We will not do that, we will not pay people to take care of their relatives, certainly not while I am the Minister responsible because I think this would be going in the wrong direction.

I would like to give you some information on this now. The Home Care expenditure in 1973-74 was \$157,600, that is in 1973-74 and in 1977-78 it is \$7.6 million, so that is quite an increase. We might be able to do more, there is always a chance to do more.

Now the primary objective of home care is to provide a coordinated service program of care at home to people who without support and services are or would become at risk of not being able to remain at home in the community. \$190,000 is provided to implement a Home Dialysis Program. Funds are provided to allow for an eight percent price increase and a workload increase of six percent in rural Manitoba and ten percent in Winnipeg over the previous year.

In one year approximately 9,300 citizens were admitted to home care, 8,000 discharged and approximately 15,000 citizens received home care. Of the 9,300 admitted during the year 1,302, 14 percent would have been ineligible for personal care home placement; 2,604, 28 percent would have required hospital care, and 5,934 or 58 percent would have been at home without appropriate care. In a typical month the program employs 1,529 homemakers, 138 registered nurses, 49 LPNs, 65 aides and orderlies, and 45 therapists, several hundred volunteers. In the fiscal year 1976-77 the average monthly cost, that is monthly, not daily because some hospitals are over that for a day, cost of home care per citizen served was \$73.87. Last year 3,000 persons were assessed for personal care home placement, with 1,762 persons being actually placed. In some rural areas the waiting list has increased for some levels of care and in Winnipeg the waiting list has not increased. Before Home Care there was a continuous increase in the waiting list. The home care program caseloads, I'll give you a for instance the last month December 1976, 349 between the age of zero and eighteen; the age of 19 and 64 - 1,687; 65 and over 5,779 for a total of 7,815.

The average monthly number of persons receiving selected service: nursing services 2,841; auxiliary services 658; therapy services 437 and home help services 3,290. The assessment for placement in personal care home by type of care: hostel 729; personal care 1,539; extended care 801. I'm tempted to go on and respond to my honourable friend about what we have in store and it's not going to be new because I announced most of it last year in personal care beds and so on, but I will

refrain from doing so and take that up when we are looking at the Estimates of the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I think that the statement by the Minister requires some response because I think he partially agreed but then he didn't and I think that there are some areas where we do agree. Perhaps many of the problems could be solved if he and I and maybe other members of this House made a concerted attempt to start changing the pension laws and to get rid of compulsory retirement at 65, at least to maintain the voluntary point. If he's prepared to fight that with his Cabinet then I'm prepared to fight along with him. I think, not that the opportunity shouldn't be there at 65, but I don't think it should be compulsory and I agree with it.

Let's come back to I think a very important distinction between our positions and that is this: the Minister is saying that when you come down to it, someone else has got to do the job. Government can't do the job because we will provide a minimum of medical and up to a certain point of care, but then it's up to society to take the rest of the load. I'm suggesting to him that really the argument he is making is wrong on two points: One, the sheer economics of it, that the intense demand for personal care homes is a highly expensive item. I think it's proven that by a more extensive community care program, you can eliminate the demand for those personal care homes, a difference between building a unit for \$15,000 or \$20,000 and providing up to a \$40.00 or \$50.00 care *per diem* is very different from having a range of services in those communities where there is a higher concentration of elderly people to ensure that they are able to stay in their home setting.

The difference is this, if you compare the statistics for those over 65 in Canada, seven out of a thousand are in institutional care. In many European countries it's around three out of a thousand because they have a much more extensive program of community care available. And if you look at the sheer economics of it, they get better value for their money than we do simply because they provide a much more extensive range of services to enable people to stay in their home setting, as opposed to having to provide a more expensive institutional form of care or personal care situation.

So part of the basic argument is on those grounds alone. I'm trying to say that the continuing care that we now have, as good as it may be, isn't sufficient to enable many people to stay in their home. They still get frightened, they do become insecure and yet, for example, if we had a more extensive network, say, of day hospitals in those parts of the city or in some rural areas where there is a higher concentration of people who need that service, that would prevent them having to go into hospital. Many of the programs are working in some of the European countries where you have a six-week in, six-week out arrangement, where the day-hospital people can go in and get their therapies and their treatments and then go back to their home at night. And that becomes a much, much less expensive way than occupying an acute care bed.

Yet we really don't have the availability of that kind of day hospital system, other than, I think, St. Boniface Hospital has one in operation if I'm not mistaken. I think that the record of the St. Boniface experiment has been astounding, it's been remarkably successful. But the point is that it's only one in an area where there are many, many concentrations and I can say to you that there are, within the inner city of Winnipeg alone, probably we've estimated about 25,000 people over 65 and the percentages are going up.

So we are saying that the availability of a day hospital type program again is far less expensive to do than providing that kind of personal care institution and lessening the demand for it.

Secondly, on the area of community homemaker services, the Minister was a little disparaging about the idea of someone shovelling your walk. Well I can say to him that he right now is getting off the hook in part because of make-work projects like LIP, because every year at the beginning of October and going into November, LIP usually forms three or four or five maintenance-type programs in the city, but it's done on a pretty random basis. Sometimes it's over in Transcona, sometimes it is in East Kildonan, sometimes it is downtown Winnipeg, and yet the demand on those services — what are the demands — maintenance and things like not just shovelling walks but sort of going into homes and doing some fix-up and clean-up in those homes, doing a major wash down, those services. Doing the kind of upkeep or maintenance that seems to be required, shopping services in many cases, and in some cases, transit services, taking an older person who is stuck in their apartment from January and February who wants to go out-of-doors to see a friend or to go shopping at Safeway or to go to the doctor, unless they've got the charge for a taxi cab, they don't get out. They literally don't get out, many of them.

So I'm simply saying then that becomes the kind of situation where then debilitation begins to occur. It's when you get locked into that isolated position, all of a sudden you are cut off from the normal range of human activities, that you begin to debilitate and begin to feel that there's nothing, you know, that's when you start getting frail and feeble and begin feeling sorry for yourself. I've talked to many people who say, "Just give us a chance. Provide those basic services."

Again, some of the illogical things that go on, again in my own area there are about 15 or so nursing homes. Many of them provide hot meal services or provide certain therapy services for the older person who lives five doors away — doesn't make use of that service. There's no way of

connecting him to it, there's no co-ordination on that community level to those kinds of services that may be available within the same geographical space.

So what I'm saying is that I think that it's being short-sighted to say that all we will provide is basic crisis-type % medical services for those who are absolutely feeble and not able to care for themselves. I think you provide a slightly additional range of services and then you would find that that would provide a real alternative to many people who now feel very anxious and worried about getting into that nursing home or that personal care home, and it would take the pressure off, in some of the cases, because then they could occupy it.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, it's interesting that even in many of the senior citizens' homes funded by the Manitoba Government, the elderly persons' homes, the same anxiety exists and simply the availability of having more care within those institutions, in those homes, would provide for a lessening of their anxiety. I've attended meetings of all those in my riding and you talk to them, what's their major concern? "We want more nursing homes." Why? Because they feel that even if they fell ill for a short period of time or that if something happened to them, or they broke a hip, that they would not be able to get the proper care even in what are very good homes. I have a very high regard for the elderly persons' institutions in my area, but they still don't provide that full range of services in the community.

So I don't think the Minister can argue it on economic grounds. I think, in fact, he's going to end up spending more money unless they begin moving into this area of providing a secondary range of home-type care services within — it doesn't have to be a universal-type program. It's pretty easy to start pinpointing those sections of the city where there is large proportions of elderly people living and they are primarily living in large apartments in many of the older areas of the city, Wolseley and Fort Rouge and Crescentwood, downtown areas, parts of the north end, perhaps in St. Matthews, large numbers of them in those areas.

I think that by making those services available, it goes back to the point I was making this morning, providing incentives for many of the organizations in those communities, whether it's the Red Cross or VON or in many cases some of the other kinds of organizations working in the community. They don't want full salaries for everybody, but it does take some staff time to organize such services. You can't expect volunteers to organize a . . . type home maintenance service. It does take an initial incentive to get the volunteers working and to organize volunteers as we find in Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels is a volunteer service but this government still puts out money to enable them to have a certain staff to provide meals. But I think you can go beyond that, that it's not simply again a matter of meals or medical service, there are a range of services in between. I think it would be worthwhile trying some experiments to fill in those gaps.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend is insisting that home care will only take care of sick people and he's not looking at the other programs. I could agree with many of the things that he has said, and I think there is just a nuance, but I didn't say the government will do so much and society will do the rest. I said that society had to do part of it also.

Now, all right, the personal care home, that's something else. We have personal care homes. We're one of the only provinces, in fact, we're the province that has a universal coverage on that under Medicare without being cost-shared with the Federal Government, for personal care homes, number one.

My honourable friend heard me talk many times about enriched senior citizens' homes, and we are moving in that direction. We are moving, it hasn't been that easy, but we are moving and I agree that there are some people in senior citizens' homes who are satisfied and all of a sudden the children come in and they say, "My dad and my mom are so happy there but they are so afraid because after a while they can't prepare their meals there because it's a home."

And we are moving in that direction. . . mind you, you have got to start somewhere. As I said, four or five years ago it was \$730,000 for home care or three hundred and something, now it's \$7.6 million. All right, we recognize the need of enriched senior citizens' homes. But there is something else, and forget the people that have no funds now, I think there is something else that we are missing and that I'm discussing with my Cabinet colleagues. For instance, to go into a senior citizens' home, you must qualify and you can't have over a certain amount of money or you don't get in and I think that's bad because some of these people can pay for it. We are encouraging them to make an application, they say, "You've got too much money." They go back, give their money to their children and then come back and say, "I've got no money, now the taxpayer can pay for me."

A MEMBER: Right on.

MR. DESJARDINS: But there should be a possibility of these people going into the homes and paying whatever it costs, without being subsidized by the taxpayers, and they would be ready to do that but we haven't got these facilities and I think that's wrong. We're talking about not discriminating against anybody and if we're discriminating with people because they have a little bit of money I think it is wrong. But we are believing in enriched senior citizens' homes.

Now, the day care for the elderly is another way that we are going. We are going in that direction. We've had some pilot projects, it was not the St. Boniface Hospital but the Tache Geriatric Hospital that has a program that I visited myself and it takes them a while to build it and so on, and we make mistakes. At one time we didn't provide for any transportation cost so therefore we had difficulty in getting the people in there. That has been corrected up to a point and there are still volunteers that are going ahead with that. And that is being done.

We are looking, in some of the new hospital personal care homes, to keep retaining beds, I don't know if that's the right term, but beds where, for instance, you or I are keeping our parents with us, elderly parents and our wives will say, "I can't stand it any more. You'll have to get her out of here, she'll drive me nuts and I can't go shopping, I can't get a holiday." So we would like people to know that they could go ahead, that once in a while they can have a bed, let's say for two or three weeks, that they can take a holiday and then they will come back all freshened up and they will take the old mother again and take care of her. And we are going in that direction.

But my honourable friend is going a little too far, I think. You know we're going to go ahead, where I say society has to help, what happened to this neighbourly friendship that you had before? That still exists. Many people do shopping for older people. Many people that have their relatives somewhere, they'll come in, if that's the only thing they can do once a week or so, get them in the car and go and get their groceries for them. That is being done. My honourable friend said himself, "Fine, the Meals on Wheels, the people are paying for it," and they should. They should because you are looking at the welfare or the pension that they are getting. That is supposed to pay for certain things so they can pay for their meals. These meals are not costly, a lot cheaper than if people had to do it for themselves for a hot meal. And as my honourable friend said, we are financing that.

These are other people we are giving that incentive. There's a lot of people who were like that, the ones that I said who have these telephone calls, and so on. But my friend wants us to go — maybe that will happen some day, I don't think we can afford it. I think there are other priorities. I think there are more people that we have to see but if I could give my own impression, I hope that we will never see in society where more and more until finally everything is loaded on the government, that you come in from Day One, you provide first of all the pills to make sure there are no kids and if that doesn't work, well you are responsible from Day One and right up to the grave everything is done by the government. And I don't think that is right. You are robbing the family of a certain pleasure, a right and a duty that they have to look after people that brought them into this world. And I say there has to be a happy medium.

I am not saying, no way am I saying, that I disagree with everything that my honourable friend said. I agree with most of it but I say that we have those programs. My friend said not necessarily universal. Some of them are not universal and we have increased the costs very much, but I do not think that the government must accept all responsibility and if this is what my friend is saying, well then on that we certainly don't agree. I think that society has a role that it wants to play and it should play a role in taking care of their senior citizens or sick people. I don't think that that is asking for too much and that is being done. There are a lot of volunteers that are doing that and not only that, but I think it would be the best therapy for people.

You have people with large families or something that have been a housewife all of their life and all of a sudden . . . where do you see the most divorce? It is about after 25 and 30 years of marriage. Well, I shouldn't say the most divorce, there are some that don't stay more than a day or so, but I am talking about people that have had a chance to live together because all of a sudden there is a change, the housewife who is not working is kind of lonesome and they want something to do, and all of a sudden they feel they are not appreciated and many of them find their reward in going out and working as volunteers. There are many of these groups that are doing much work, much good work.

Now the only thing I am saying is they can't do it all and I never said that and I don't intend to ever say it. But I don't want to see the government accepting all responsibility and we are going to stifle this kind of healthy situation that we should have in society today. That is all I am saying.

I suppose in all of the things that you said, I disagreed probably in having somebody that is going to change the light bulbs and that necessarily will have to do all the work, domestic work, for everybody. I think that some of that should be left to volunteers. The Home Care will do some of that. The Home Care or some people that can't do it, for instance if the nurse has to come and so on, will even shovel the walk for them so that people can come in. So I don't think we are that far apart but on certain things we probably disagree pretty violently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to enhance the Minister's political standing or political strength because I think to a certain extent he represents a formidable opponent, not an undefeatable or a non-negotiable opponent in his constituency, but a formidable opponent in his constituency, so I hesitate to endorse his comments but I think in fairness I should say that there is not very much that the Minister has said that I personally, or I think members of the Conservative Party, could disagree with. We are examining here the Estimates of the Department of Health and

Social Development as it is run under the stewardship of the New Democratic Party. It is unfortunate perhaps that we are not examining the Estimates of a Liberal Minister at this time because I think that is where we would find a real difference in philosophy on this subject.

I think that what the Minister has just delivered, if he doesn't mind my saying so, is an excellent Conservative speech and one that we all can subscribe to. I think what the Minister has said provides a great reassurance for many of us who felt over the past few years that there was a tendency on the part of this government, and certainly on the part of this department, to phase out the kind of support, the kind of input, the kind of creativity and the kind of energy that is provided and has always been provided in this field by volunteers, by persons who are willing to give of themselves themselves and their energy and indeed even of their earning power to help their fellow members of society.

What has been unfortunately happening in the last few years is that government has been persuaded and seduced into moving into so many of these fields and areas that we have lost the commitment and the willingness of many volunteers, both in the collective sense and in the individual sense. Volunteer groups, volunteer associations, and individual volunteers who used to say, "Well, this is the kind of thing that I can do. I can devote some time to, I can even devote some money to in the sense that it represents an application of time," which always translates into money "but now that government has moved into all these fields, there is no role left for me and so I am opting out, I am packing it up, I am quitting."

I know of many people, individual persons who were very active in volunteer and voluntary capacities who became disenchanted, became disillusioned in just the way that I have described because of the impression, and to some extent the actual manifestation, of government intrusion and intervention into this whole area of mutual social responsibility and help. So what the Minister says about a basic framework which is the responsibility of government, but about the recognition of the kind of creative energy and commitment that private individuals and volunteers can bring to the field certainly receives my support, my endorsement, and I think the endorsement of our entire caucus.

It would be wonderful if we had millions and millions of dollars to take care of all these problems on one level. It would be wonderful because you could say all those problems are taken care of. On another level, though, I think it would be to a certain extent destructive to pursue that, kind of a course because it would remove from many people in society today the initiative and the desire that is a basic part of human nature in certainly the majority of people, perhaps not all, but certainly the majority of people, to do something useful and creative and be helpful. Let us not move too far in any direction that is going to reduce or destroy that basic part of the human temperament. I think that we should encourage wherever we can the participation and the input of volunteers and private citizens and if government can do that, then government is serving a double need and performing a double service in my opinion.

I also want to say that I agree with the Minister and I agree with the Member for Fort Rouge that the kind of arbitrary decision that we have come to that life is over at age 65 is something that critically needs reassessing and needs removal. I think this is one of the biggest problems we face in terms of society in general today and I think it is a problem and a subject that crosses the whole spectrum of society, not only government but the private sector too and it certainly is a problem that requires addressing by various departments in government and not simply the department whose Estimates we are considering at this time.

I think that the Ministry of Labour has a serious responsibility to address itself to this question. I think the whole labour community has a serious responsibility to address itself to this question. It is simply not good enough that we say that life is over at age 65 and that's it. I agree with the Member for Fort Rouge that it should be optional, but if one wants to continue and can be active and can be productive, there should be opportunity for that kind of life in senior years. I am encouraged by the Minister's obvious commitment to that objective. I would hope that some initiatives might be undertaken under his stewardship to change the general attitude and the general climate of opinion that has led to the formulation of laws and regulations that impose this arbitrary retirement age.

The question of usefulness after age 65 leads me back to a position that I suggested when we began examination of these Estimates yesterday, Sir, and that is that there is a role for government and for this Minister in this field for initiatives and for breakthroughs and for preventive action. I would think that there could be a number of things that the Minister and his department might undertake that would help to change the kind of fixed retirement age syndrome that exists in society today, and I would think that it might be worthwhile spending some of the dollars expended by this department in that area. I don't think there is any panacea for this problem and I have no simple solutions, but I think that public education is something that government can undertake with justification and legitimacy provided the budget is reasonable. There are many initiatives the government takes in the area of industrial safety through advertising, through promotion material, through literature. There are many initiatives this government takes in the area of liquor consumption and the need for moderation in that area. They expend a good deal of money on that argument and I don't find any fault with that. I haven't seen, and it may be my error, but I haven't seen any comparable

Friday, March 18, 1977

efforts made in an effort to promote the concept that people are and can be useful beyond age 65, and that in the whole area of continuing care and services to the aged and particularly services to the well elderly, not just the ill elderly, that there are things that people in society generally should be thinking about and could be doing. I wouldn't mind seeing a small reasonable budget for advertising in this area.

I read ads all the time about preventing forest fires and about cutting down on drinking and about driving under 55 miles an hour, and about using my seat belt and about not smoking. I'm not saying that I am persuaded to change my way of life by those advertisements, but I will tell you one thing, Mr. Chairman, a lot of people are, a lot of people are. A lot of advertising of that kind, a lot of literature and promotion material of that kind is quite effective. I think it can be demonstrated that the messages in those areas of social improvement and social service and individual responsibility have some measurable effect and I would think that there could be some initiatives that the government could be taking in that area which would represent an expenditure of dollars albeit, you know, in a specific field that sometimes comes under a great deal of criticism, but I think could prove to be useful. I think that people have to be made aware, made conscious of the fact that there are a great many members of our society, a great many members of our community beyond the age of 65 who have, as the Member for Fort Rouge and the Minister have said, have been shunted aside, have been pushed aside, have been left on the sidelines, and who are withering away.

Now I think a lot of us need reminding of that fact. Some of us have parents in that position. I remember reading a poem one time. I wish I had it in front of me. It was a poem of which the final line dealt with how to live with parents, dealing with older people, and the final line was, you know, whatever you did never never never put your mother in a nursing home. —(Interjection)— Well it probably was in the United States. That is a little bit strong and I don't mean to suggest, I don't mean to propose that to the Minister as a criticism of nursing homes. My own mother was, unfortunately, in one for a good many years and their services to her were excellent and their kindness to her was excellent. The point was the point that the Minister has made, that once they're put in a nursing home they are really out of the mainstream for the rest of their lives and not very many people come out of nursing homes and get back into the mainstream.

I think there are things that a lot of us could be doing in the area of services to the aged. I know that the department through its programs conducts a number of helpful, friendly services to the well aged as well as to the ill, and I would suspect that a good many new volunteers in the field and a good many new individual efforts could be recruited if there was a conscious effort on the part of the government to get that message out to the public, to apprise people of the fact that there is an area here of people who need service, there is an area and opportunity for individuals to give service and that it is a creative role that is as helpful to the giver as to the receiver. So that's I think one area that the Minister might be looking at, Sir.

Another area and I won't have time other than to just mention it at this point, is in the area of services such as transportation to the elderly. I think there are a number of initiatives and efforts that could be co-ordinated by the government there employing individual volunteers, and many of them themselves, many of those volunteers, would be beyond the age of 65. We are talking here about the problem of making a person over age 65 feel useful. He or she has been forced to retire and they have been removed from the mainstream of life. They need something to do to feel useful, to feel important, to feel valuable. Well in this area itself I would think you could tackle the two problems by utilizing many of the elderly people who have been forced into retirement to provide some of the services that I think all of us agree the elderly in our society need. So you could dovetail the service on two levels. These are the kinds of initiatives, I think, and incentives that this government, or any government, could be taking and it reverts back to what I said at the start of the Estimates, that the government has a role not just to be remedial, not just to do the catch-up patchwork, but also to initiate some programs that will head off the problem from developing later on. Sir, I have run out of time at this juncture.

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

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the specific procedures and protocols that must be followed to ensure that all records are properly maintained and updated.

3. The third part of the document provides a detailed overview of the various systems and tools that are used to manage and store records. It includes information on the hardware and software requirements, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the staff involved in the process.

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ESTIMATES - RENEWABLE RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, D. James Walding (St. Vital): Order please. We have a quorum, gentlemen. The committee will come to order. I would refer the attention of honourable members to Page 55 in their Estimates Books, Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services, Resolution 104(c) Forestry Management (5)(b). The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, just in response to a question that was raised this morning by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition with respect to the way in which the Estimates are outlined in the existing Estimates' procedure before us and how it relates to that which is in the Public Accounts and how that in turn relates to the voted Estimates of the previous year as it would relate to the Public Accounts that are published.

I believe in going back to Hansard, Mr. Chairman, that one of the reasons for us changing the format of the Estimates that are before us, that is, changing them from the way they were printed for the fiscal year 1975-76, was made at the request of the Members of the Opposition. I would refer the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to page 3792 of Hansard, June 11, 1975 in which the Honourable Member for Morris made the suggestion, and I quote: "I would suggest to the Minister that whoever is responsible for structuring these Estimates, that the next time he brings them before this House that he has them identified in such a way that we can properly debate those measures that he brings before us." Mr. Chairman, that is one of the reasons for dividing the Estimates, or structuring them in such a way that each area is clearly identified as to the nature of its program that is being carried out by this department. In the Estimates that were before the House that year it appeared as part of the Mines Resources and Environmental Management Estimates in the Estimates Book and it was divided according to Administration, Resources Planning, Delta Marsh Development, followed by the Northlands Agreement, in those various packages, followed by Lands Surveys and the Resources Management operations that now appear as Lands, Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries all separate, were lumped into a section called Resources Management Operations.

And further to that the regional breakdown was in that estimate breakdown. So, Mr. Chairman, we now have before us an outline of the Estimates of this department which are more clear in our ability to be able to debate the items as they are applied to the programs that are carried out by this department and it is to facilitate the debate and the questioning of honourable members of the Legislature that was the main reason that we've made the change to this format, Mr. Chairman.

I would refer the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to the breakdown in the Estimates Book which applies to the year 1975-76 and if he would look at that breakdown and then look at the Public Accounts which relate to that year he would probably find the kind of information that he was requesting this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's comments. I wasn't sure there was some other motivation in the suggestion by the Honourable Member for Morris for the changing of the Estimates but I commend them. I'm not finding fault with the Minister or his department whatsoever with respect to the form in which the Estimates appeared in 1975-76 or 76-77. The problem arises by virtue of the fact that the third cog in the wheel, namely those who were responsible for the preparation of Public Accounts, not bring their report to the public and to the Members of the House into a situation of consonance with the printed Estimates and that's wherein the problem lies, plus, to be fair to the Minister, the fact that there was departmental reorganization which was manifested in the breakdowns as we see them here today. I accept the fact that he was persuaded, I dare say more by common sense than any exhortations by the Member for Morris to make the changes that he has made.

I have no objection to the form of the Estimates in which we find them today even though we almost do need a table of concordance to bring us up to date on what was spent last year and what is being spent this year, what the supplementaries are and so on. We've got enough problems without finding the Public Accounts being really out of ratchet so to speak with what we are finding. But anything he can do by way of the request that the Member from Roblin, the Member from Minnedosa and I have been making to supply us with this concordance information will be extremely helpful in our better understanding of the operations of his department and thereby, hopefully, all of us being able to contribute something in the public interest with respect to the debate that is going on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, again on the same point, the next item that we're going to look at is a classic example of the dilemma that we're in in the Opposition, Wildlife Management, which in my book shows at the year ending March 31, 1977, \$369,600.00. My statement here of the Estimates of expenditures, '76-'77 shows an item of \$160,000. That's \$200,000 bucks of the taxpayers' money. Sure, we can go and dig through all these records, but we don't have that kind of research staff. I would just like some better accounting system for us to

come here and scrutinize the Estimates. That's only one example of where we were going into the next item, that maybe next year, we can't find some better formula. You know that's a lot to be out, \$200,000 on Wildlife Management under Program Development and Management. That's about all I had, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(5)(b). The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Just in reply to the Honourable Member, I can give him a detailed breakdown of the items which make up the difference from what was voted last year in the appropriation before us and what appears now as the anticipated expenditure. I might point out that these are still, Mr. Chairman, estimates, the final figures of spending are not yet compiled and will not be compiled for several weeks to come, and when they are they will appear in Public Accounts for the scrutiny of any citizen of Manitoba.

The voted last year, Mr. Chairman, was \$103.7. . . —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, the voted last year in the salaries area of this appropriation was \$103,700.00. There was a general salary increase which amounted to 8.9 which was an additional item in there. There were transfers into this appropriation as a result of departmental reorganization. There were transfers in from Appropriation 19(2)(a)(4)(a) Operational Policies, two permanent staff man years, for a total of ; \$16,000 Transfers in from 19(2)(a)(7)(a) Resource Extension, four staff man years, for a total of \$68.6 thousand; Transfers into this appropriation for 19(2)(a)(5)(a) Resource Management, two staff man years for a total of 31.7. That covers the transfers. The adjusted vote therefore changes the permanent staff man years from six to fifteen in this appropriation. That is not additional staff man years to the department but transfers into this appropriation from other parts of the department as a result of the reorganization, and it brings the figure up to the amount which is in the budget here of 228.9, or \$228,900.00. That is the salary part. The increase in the Other Expenditures, I don't have the breakdown on that but it would be those expenditures associated with these transfers in of other departmental staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. That is the next section which we have not yet reached. If the members wish to discuss that maybe they could wait until we get there. We're presently on 104(c)(5)(b).

MR. MCKENZIE: I apologize, Chairman, I just used that as an example of the problem. If we had that before us we'd have no problem. If we had access to the figures that the Minister has some place, then it would be all solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, if we could move to (5)(a) or (b), it doesn't matter particularly, we can use both figures. Here in the 1978 Estimates, under Regional Technical Support (5)(a) Salaries and Wages, we are now being asked to vote \$1,086,100.00. We are told that the vote last year for that same vote was \$1,009,700.00. If we refer to the Estimates of last year, under the same item, Regional Technical Support, we find that the actual amounts that were voted last year were, in the case of (5)(a), \$832,200 as opposed to the figures shown on these Estimates of \$1,009,700; and under (5)(b) Other Expenditures, voted last year, \$748,000, whereas the figure shown this year in these printed Estimates is \$856,000 for the year ended March 31st, 1977.

It's that kind of discrepancy that we are referring to constantly and that's why the sooner we can get from the Minister this Table of Concordance to show how these individual items can be reconciled, then I think we're on a smoother course in terms of discussing the Estimates with him. It's extremely confusing, not only for Members of the Opposition, but for the general public, to understand how these figures can increase sometimes by 25 percent and so on and at the same time here we are in the committee which is one of the most responsible committees of any parliament in the Commonwealth system, voting Supply to Her Majesty. We should be voting figures that are firm, figures for which logical explanations can be given and I'm sure the Minister can give them. All we are attempting to do is to find out what those figures are, what the reconciliation is as between last year's figures voted, last year's figures actually spent, this year's figures to be voted, and the figure that is shown in this year's figure for what was spent last year.

I repeat again, I hope he can appreciate the kind of dilemma that the average layman finds himself in trying to get into this kind of a mare's-nest of figures and at the same time do, hopefully, a responsible job as I know the Minister is trying to do with respect to the public interest in voting these large sums of money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would remind honourable members that we have passed (5)(a) Salaries and Wages and we are now on (5)(b) Other Expenditures.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, with the leave of the committee, I would introduce the detailed list of changes which resulted in the change in the figure which is before us on (5)(a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can the Minister have leave? (Agreed)

MR. BOSTROM: The voted last year, as the honourable member has indicated, was \$832,200.00. Added to that you have a general salary increase of \$50,400, and there were as a result of departmental reorganization, various transfers into this section from other parts of the department; transfers in from Appropriation 19(2)(c)(1)(a) Program Development and Management Forestry, Southern, there were two permanent staff man years, .26 term staff man years, 9.46 departmental employees, that is casual staff man years, for a total of 12.20 and for a total of \$114,900.00.

From Resource Extension, Eastern Region, there was a transfer in of one permanent staff man year for a total of \$12,200.00.

Mr. Chairman, if you add those figures to the voted in last year's Estimates book, it totals \$1,009,700, which is the Salaries figure which is printed as the 1977 Estimate in this book.

If there is a discrepancy in the other expenditures, it would be due to expenditures being transferred into this section as they relate to these staff man years that were transferred in. I might further point out, Mr. Chairman, that these sheets which I am reading from, I am having prepared in a form which can be passed out among the members for their information so that they will see in each case where the changes were made which resulted in the changes in the figures that are in this book and how they relate to the ones from last year.

MR. LYON: I want to thank the Minister for that sort of a cameo explanation on one vote. I think he can begin to see now more readily than perhaps he could last night, why we are asking for the information, not to discredit him or his department or anything else, but merely to bring the rest of us who are not chartered accountants and not privy to the same information that he has in his Estimates book, up-to-date so that we can begin to argue on somewhat of a similar plane hopefully again I stress, in the public interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the question I had in mind has been answered by the Minister and the questions that were posed by the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 104(c)(5)(b)—pass; 5—pass. Resolution 104(c)—pass. Resolution 104(d) Wildlife Management (1) Program Development and Management (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: As I indicated in my opening remarks, I was being brief with the intention of providing a bit more explanation for each section as we arrive at it and with the committee's concurrence, I would just give a brief overview of this section and it may help to guide members of the committee in their questioning of the spending Estimates before us.

Mr. Chairman, as all members of the committee are probably aware, Manitoba's wildlife resource makes a significant contribution to our economy while providing income and recreation for many of our residents. In 1975, the last year for which there are complete figures, 53,998 hunters purchased licenses, providing a total of \$476,204.80 in license revenue to the province.

To provide more effective program development and management all head office wildlife staff, except those in research and planning, were consolidated under the Wildlife Section of the newly-created Fisheries and Wildlife Branch which I outlined in my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman.

The 1976-77 fur year commenced October 1st, 1976 and all indicators point to a record return for Manitoba's trappers. Production for the '75-'76 fur year, for which there are complete records, was \$4.25 million, which is the first time since 1946 that it surpassed the \$4 million mark. Contributing to this is an estimated \$100,000 which trappers will receive from a fall salvage muskrat harvest initiated by the department due to low water conditions.

Our whitetail deer populations have made a good recovery according to the information which is available now from the department, and barring excessive kill in the final days of our winter, we should be able to provide a recreational hunting opportunity in 1977.

The moose herd remains stable while contributing significantly to the wild food provisions of Manitobans, in addition to providing economic and recreational pursuit of residents of Manitoba.

The game bird resource provided exceptionally fine use opportunity this past year, with grouse and geese being in the greatest supply. Duck numbers remained high in Manitoba despite a shortage of nesting cover and diminishing water supplies. This was due to an influx of birds from the drought-stricken Dakotas and is not expected to contribute materially to the long-term maintenance of Manitoba's duck population.

Departmental efforts towards the upgrading of guides, through our Guide-Training Program, is exhibiting positive results with qualified guides available to the users of the wildlife resource as well as providing opportunities for many Manitobans to have an income from this line of occupation.

For those who are concerned with polar bears, and I know my honourable friend from Roblin is always concerned about our polar bear population, I can assure him that our estimates show us that the polar bear population remains strong. Problem bears in and around Churchill were very carefully and skilfully controlled by the departmental staff who had that responsibility in that area. Due to the very dry conditions which favoured an early and complete grain harvest, waterfowl damage to

agricultural crops was the lowest in the last five years with only 54 claims totalling some \$28,509.10 being made for compensation.

The availability of wildlife habitat continues to be a major concern of my department. Initiatives are under way to maintain and restore undeveloped road allowances and other such lands for the wildlife resources of our province. Efforts are being made by my department to intensify wildlife production on existing habitat as well as to maintain our land acquisition and development programs into the acquiring and enhancing wildlife habitat.

This past year seven new wildlife management areas involving 12,239 acres were created. In addition, 2,552 acres were added to five existing wildlife management areas. Our Community Resource Development initiatives related to our more aggressive thrust within the department to assist communities to make a more full use of their wildlife resources. Based on the statistics we do have on wildlife resources in the far north, to the Saskatchewan River, Delta and the Skownan area, Brochet, Lac Brochet, Tadoule Lake, in all these areas people are working with the department towards a better utilization of their wildlife resources.

In the far north areas, in Brochet, Lac Brochet and Tadoule Lake the department is working with the people there towards a better utilization of the barren-ground caribou. As I mentioned in my opening statements the other day, the people around the Moose Lake settlement in northern Manitoba are looking at the feasibility or the concept of moose ranching. The Skownan Indian Band are working with the department to work out a organization for outfitting and guiding moose and waterfowl hunters, to provide employment for themselves in that area.

In the coming year we expect to have vigorous efforts by the department toward developing our wildlife resources for the needs of Manitobans, to attempt to maintain and enhance habitat, and to get therefore greater use opportunity from our wildlife resource.

With those general statements, Mr. Chairman, I would be open for any questions the members may have on the items before us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I don't know if this is the area starting with the Wildlife Management (1) Program Development and Management. I would like your, actually, guidance where I should ask the questions in matters relating to the buying of game bird licenses and also the migratory bird licenses, the practice that is being carried out now.

You know, it seems to me that it is rather a very inconvenient manner in which it is carried out today and I would like to see the Minister use his office to try to get the Federal Government to agree that the issuing of the migratory bird licenses should be in the same area as were the provincial hunting licenses for game birds and ducks being issued.

I am aware of a number of people who have been caught in the situation where they can't get their provincial game bird license and find, if it is a Saturday, in some cases the post office is closed and so they are taking a chance. They say, "Well, we are going hunting for geese or other migratory birds such as ducks", and find that because it is not available to them, they set out on the basis that they have never been caught before and therefore they are taking a chance and they are going to buy their migratory bird license on the following Monday, only to be caught that particular day. I don't think that this is a type of system that we should allow to continue. I can say that I am one of those people who have been caught in that type of situation, so I have a personal experience, a vested interest in this situation.

It is a matter of fact that some years the price of hunting licenses went up provincially and at the same time the migratory bird license went up. In my personal case I bought the provincial hunting license, the game bird certificate, and I had inquired from the person in the shopping centre if this was all I required. He said yes, that is all I need, so I started talking to him about the Grassy Lake hunting area, where it is, and you know he knew for a fact that I was going to go and hunt geese, but there was never an indication to me when I asked him, Mr. Minister, is this all I required. He said, "Yes". So on that basis I went out hunting, to find myself on the first day of hunting stopped by one of your officers and asked if I had a migratory bird license. I showed him the certificate and he said, "You haven't got one." So it was rather an embarrassing situation. I went back and bought one that same day. But I don't think that the penalties that are imposed in this situation are very right and I would like to first of all see that you would use your offices with the federal department to make sure that that type of situation should not continue, that the migratory bird license should be sold in the same place as the provincial license.

I can tell you that I have had the experience of talking to other people who stated they came to the post office only to find that the people who are working there are not familiar with the migratory bird license, what it looks like. There is one person who said he went to three post offices and they said they didn't have one, only to have to come back to the original one and ask the person who was attending to bring out all of the material and he pointed out what was the migratory bird license. Then he purchased one.

So I think this is a matter that I'd like to see the Minister look into very seriously and to bring about

those type of changes that would ensure that the hunters, the people who do go out, don't feel that they have been put into a situation of entrapment.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is pointing out one of the reasons why, besides being too busy, that I have not taken the opportunity of hunting over the past couple of years. What would be even more embarrassing than the MLA for Radisson being caught hunting illegally is to have the Minister caught hunting illegally.

So the case that he is expressing is the kind of thing that can happen if someone makes an innocent error in interpreting the regulations or in not perhaps checking the regulations carefully.. In the case that he is mentioning, we do print in our Manitoba Gamebird and Big Game Seasons booklet quite clearly that persons hunting waterfowl must purchase a Canada migratory game bird hunting permit and that this permit may be obtained at most post offices. The department informs me that they have been having discussions with the federal authorities with a view to doing the very thing that the honourable member is suggesting, that is, making these permits available at the locations where the other part of the license really is sold, and to date the Federal Government has refused to do this. They have said that they will be making them available at post offices and post offices only. However, I believe that the honourable member is making a good suggestion and I certainly will follow it up and see if we cannot persuade the Federal Government to change their mind in this case.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that since it is the Provincial Conservation Officers who are upholding, making sure that these laws of the Federal Government are being carried out, surely the province can then quite clearly emphatically state that we don't wish to have our people put into a situation of finding themselves without the migratory bird license and being caught by the Conservation Officers and eventually having to face whatever the consequences are. In my case I can tell you that I had pleaded not guilty and because I well that's another matter. — (Interjection)— Because I didn't feel guilty. I went the same day and I bought the migratory bird license, but, of course, it didn't matter, it was a little too late. But I think that if it's the Provincial Conservation Officers which are carrying out the law, then you should be able to state to the Federal Government that you want to have the migratory bird license sold at the same place as the license which is issued by the province.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure the honourable member is correct that we can persuade the Federal Government that easily, but as I said I will take his question into consideration and see if we can't persuade them to have these licenses available at other distribution points.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the department on the program that they have started in establishing these managed hunting areas. I think that they have become very useful ways to develop the type of population of migratory bird sanctuaries as Oak Hammock, for instance. But, is the one thing I was just wondering it not possible in that area to establish the pumping system because that whole area seems to be drying up. Is it not possible to establish artesian wells so that there would be constant inflow of water? It seems to be presently based on just the run-off water in what is sort of a swampy area, because the water levels all through that area were certainly down. And I just wonder if there is any comment the Minister can make in this regard. — (Interjection)— Oak Hammock is east of Stonewall.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's a rather technical question. Just in brief comment to it, brought to my attention by the Associate Deputy Minister, is that the management of the water levels there is in accordance with the plans to manage the populations of wildlife in that area. There are some artesian wells in the area just mentioned to me which can be utilized to bring water levels up, where they are necessary to bring them up.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Chairman, I noticed last summer that the water throughout the whole area was very very low in comparison to a year ago and it certainly would be, especially in a time like last year - we had a drought here — that that would be a fairly good move to make. **MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Gladstone. **MR. FERGUSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the Estimates we find that the last year, I guess, we had our deer license issued in the province that the income from revenue was \$632,000. 1975-76, this is to do with big game and varying number of licenses, it is down to \$190,000, basically a difference of \$440,000, a revenue lost to the province because we don't have a deer season.

I would like to ask the Minister, what is the present size of the deer herd?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the final count has not been reported to my office. I understand from the Game Management people that have been doing the count that the calculations are almost ready, and I will be making a statement on it as soon as that information is available.

I might point out, just in response to the first part of the question, that our criteria for establishing deer hunting seasons is not influenced one bit by the need for revenue for the government. That would not be a criteria on which any wildlife resource would be managed by this government. The main criteria is that the populations must be protected of any wildlife species and where there is any doubt about the size of the population and its ability to survive, then we give the benefit of that doubt

to the wildlife population in question.

As far as the deer resource is concerned, Mr. Chairman, we have maintained a closed season on this species until such time as the population is back up to the levels at which we believe there is a possibility of taking a harvest of the biological surplus of this species.

MR. FERGUSON: I am very interested to hear that the Minister is so interested in protecting the species. This is something that will through the be coming along line of questioning. I am certainly glad that he stressed that point.

The second question that I would like to ask: Could I have then the size of the deer population last year and some indication of what it is this year? You've got to have at least some kind of a figure.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, you know, as sort of a "ballpark" figure and I emphasize "ballpark" because it's not final in any sense of the word, but first indications are that the herd is probably around 90,000 this year.

MR. FERGUSON: Then could I get the figure for last year?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe that is an increase of about 20,000 over last year.

MR. FERGUSON: Then could I have some indication from the Minister how many deer have been poached or taken, legally or outside of the law, by the Indian population of Manitoba?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I would have to take the question as notice and request the department to try to estimate that number because there is no statistics on that. They are not required to report how many are killed and at best we could only give a "ballpark" estimate.

MR. FERGUSON: Then if we can't have the figure for this year, could we have one for last year, if you have an estimate as of last year's take?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, as I maintain, Mr. Chairman, this is not an area where accurate statistics are possible and even the figure for last year would be a "ballpark" estimate. And I believe that last year in our reports we have estimated somewhere in the neighbourhood of 5,000 to be a reasonable figure that would have been harvested by the Indian population.

MR. FERGUSON: And did you give me a figure for last year? If you did, I'm sorry I didn't write it down — of the total population.

MR. BOSTROM: About 70,000 for last year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I find this hard to — I'm not arguing with the Minister, he obviously has the figures at hand, but the figures that I have from Wildlife Federation and the rest are an awful lot closer to 50 to 55 thousand. And the figures I also have are

MR. BOSTROM: Fifty-five thousand of what?

MR. FERGUSON: That is a total population. And the figures that I have of the native population taking deer last year is between 8 and 10 thousand. To me that looks like about a 20 percent harvest without a season. than this department, Wildlife Federation included in that, that they would not have anywhere near the accurate predictions and accurate estimates this department has. So that if I'm quoting him estimates which are compiled by the department officials, those are the most accurate estimates available.

MR. FERGUSON: Then could I ask the Minister what the estimate of the department was the last year that we had a deer season in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that detailed information here and really I think the honourable member started out this line of questioning by asking me to more or less give guesstimate of what the population this year is which I have made, and if we are going to get into debate about whether we are out 2,000 or 5,000 or 3,000 or whatever, I think that that is a debate that will arrive at no satisfactory conclusion.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I am quite willing to accept the Minister's figures' but I ask him again what was the figure that the department had, as of the last year that there was a deer season, we don't need the rest of it.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will have to take that question as notice because we do not have the information readily available here. That would have been, I believe, the last year there was a deer season in Manitoba I believe was 1973 if I am not mistaken, so we do not have the information readily available at the Committee here today, but I will take the question as notice and provide that information.

MR. FERGUSON: Getting back again to the Minister's statement that they are out to protect the deer population of the Province of Manitoba, and what I am basically interested in and thoroughly interested in is the preservation of the fact that on private land the deer be preserved. I would like to know just what the Minister's thoughts are along this line.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am informed by those who are knowledgeable in this area that the deer population in Manitoba is primarily located on private land, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 70 percent of our deer population is located on private lands. So that the preservation of deer and the preservation of it on private land go hand in hand because that is where the deer are.

MR. FERGUSON: Then could I ask the Minister why when deer are being taken by the Indian

population on private land they are not being prosecuted?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Indian population in Manitoba, as far as I know from the federal laws that I have read and the interpretations of them that I have seen, are entitled to hunt wildlife, including deer, at any time during the year and on any land to which they have right of access. My honourable friend and I have had discussions on this in the past and I believe — at least my comments were at that time — that where deer are located on private land the landowner is not compelled to give permission, he can deny permission to people to hunt on his land, so that if in fact permission is denied then this is land to which people would not have right of access regardless of their ethnic origin.

MR. FERGUSON: Then do I take it from the Minister's statement that if an Indian is hunting on private land he is subject to prosecution the same as I or anyone else in the Province of Manitoba, if he is hunting on private land without granted permission?

MR. BOSTROM: That is my understanding of the law, yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FERGUSON: Could I then ask why this law is not being enforced in the province?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the prosecution of charges that are laid are the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department and these are followed up after charges are laid by people within the Department of the Attorney-General. They make the recommendations whether or not a charge should go to the courts and once it goes to the courts the determination of the charge is the responsibility of the court.

MR. FERGUSON: Then for the information of the Minister I had a form drawn up last year and I will explain for the committee the reasons for drawing it up. It is an authorization or a prohibition and I'll read the form into the record. "I, being the owner or lessee of the following described land, Section, Township, and Range, am agreeable or not agreeable to persons hunting white-tailed deer on the above mentioned land. This authorization or prohibition shall remain in full force and effect until the same is withdrawn by me." It is dated and signed by the owner of the land. The idea of drawing up this form, and this was done through petitions and through requests, was that in many cases when the Indian people were apprehended on private land they said, "Well the owner gave us permission to hunt on this particular piece of land." The individual involved had to go to court, formally lay charges, and not one of them has ever stuck, they have all been thrown out. Now the idea of drawing up this form was that it would be filed with the RCMP and with the Conservation Officers, there was no reason at all for the person having to go to court because the description was here and there was either an authorization or prohibition. I sent several copies of this to the Minister of Renewable Resources, also to the Attorney-General's office. Up to this point I have had a verbal inquiry from the Attorney-General and I have had absolutely no word at all from the Minister of Renewable Resources.

I would like to read something further into the record, Mr. Chairman, and this is the reply that I received from the Attorney-General, it is not from the Attorney-General it is from a specialist and it is the same thing. It says, "I am writing to advise that the Department of the Attorney-General is unable to make a ruling in regard to the legality of this form. I have forwarded a copy of this form to the Department of Renewable Resources which is responsible for wildlife in Manitoba. This department is in a better position to assess this form and its usefulness. I trust this course of action meets with your approval." I would like to read the date, it is August 10 of 1976. And to me this seems a hell of a long time to get a reply, or at least an acknowledgement from a Minister that says he is out to protect the deer population of Manitoba. He has also made the statement that most of the deer population was on private land and I would like to have his answer.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the information which I have, and I am speaking from memory here, but my understanding of the law regarding access to private land that the honourable member is speaking about, and I am surprised that he received a letter that the Attorney-General's Department is requesting my department for a legal opinion because my department's not exactly the department responsible for advising people on legal matters.

The fact is though, as I understand it, that if someone is charged with hunting, and if the charge is related to their right to be on a particular piece of land, that the courts require the landowner to come to court, to testify that he has not given the permission. I believe the honourable member and I discussed this verbally during the last session and I was in fact suggesting to him that perhaps such a form which he has drawn up might be the answer to that, that if the Attorney-General's office and if the courts would accept such a written document that perhaps it wouldn't be necessary for the landowner to go to court, but I advised the honourable member at that time that I did not know, I was certainly not in a position to be able to interpret whether that form was legal or not, nor is there anyone in my department who can give you an opinion as to the legality of that form and whether or not it will stand up in court. It would have to be tested by the courts, unless the Attorney-General's department can give you an accurate opinion on it. Obviously from the letter that they have sent you they are not able to really assess it either.

MR. FERGUSON: I find this hard to comprehend, Mr. Chairman? Where do you go in this Province

of Manitoba to get a legal opinion? If you can't get it from the Attorney-General's office, you can't get it from the Minister of Renewable Resources who it was referred to, where do you go? I'll tell you, we had an instance in our area this year where a moose was caught somewhere between the Spruce Woods and the Riding Mountain, of course there was no season. A couple of the young fellows from our area went out and shot the moose, it was reported. There was no problem making a decision there. Why does it seem that there's such a big problem here? It wouldn't be that there is a little bit of a political influence on some of the seats, that maybe an Indian vote might swing it. I'm sure you fellows wouldn't stoop to that level but it is possible.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member can certainly look in the yellow pages in the telephone book and find probably hundreds of lawyers that he can go to to get legal opinions if such is his desire. In this case, Mr. Chairman, the document that he referred to was referred to the Attorney-General by himself, the Attorney-General's office were not able to give him a satisfactory or at least the answer that he desired as to the legality of this form, and I would submit that it is probably because — and I don't have all the information so I am speaking partly from common sense and logic — that it is probably because the courts will not accept such a document as evidence and that the landowner in question will still have to go to the courts and testify. The problem has been, in many of these cases where charges have been laid, that the landowner for whatever reason is reluctant to go to court to testify and the honourable member knows this full well.

MR. FERGUSON: Now getting back to the reluctance on the part of the landowner, maybe we should bring that to light once too. Now supposing you have — and it has happened in my area, where there have been bullets gone through tires, there have been fences cut, there have been various instances go on and a match in a balestack or something. There is quite a little bit of onus on the part of a landowner, and basically the principle of law in the Province of Manitoba has been that someone somewhere along the line would make a decision as to whether someone is guilty or not. This wasn't drawn up by myself, it was drawn up with quite good legal responsibility and the people who drew it up certainly should know. But apparently it seems that neither department will accept any responsibility for the law.

Do I take it from the Minister then that I can go back home and say, "Well now look the deer season starts in our area for everyone else, the Indian population on the first of September or all year round. We'll forget about the whole thing and just go out and start shooting." And it is going to happen, you don't need to sit there and think that if you are not going to back up the people of the Province of Manitoba that own this land that they are going to have any respect for your law and order or any of the rest of what you are doing. They are going to take the law into their own hands and they are going to have their deer season. We'll take this thing to the Supreme Court if we have to, and don't think that I will have any problem getting funds because I won't. We've had an instance at La Riviere already where a man became involved . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is perfectly free to follow whichever course of action he desires, however, if he is to follow a course of action which is against the written laws of this province and this country I can only say to him that we would probably see him in court.

MR. FERGUSON: I'm sorry, my colleague was talking, would the Minister repeat what he said I missed it.

MR. BOSTROM: I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member is free to follow whichever course of action he desires within the law, if he is making the threat to me it's no threat to me, it's a threat to our legal system if he says that he and other people are going to take the law into their own hands. I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that we would probably see him in court. As far as the deer hunting situation in southern Manitoba and southwestern Manitoba, I believe my department has worked very hard over the last couple of years, at my instructions, to attempt through a system of moral suasion to discuss with the Indian population of those areas to refrain and desist from their practice of nightlighting, even though they are legally able to do it under the law.

A MEMBER: Only on unoccupied Crown land.

MR. BOSTROM: On lands to which they have the right of access, they have the right to do it under the Canadian law . . .

A MEMBER: . . . Crown land though.

MR. BOSTROM: Pardon me?

MR. HENDERSON: Only on unoccupied Crown land.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, they have the right to go on lands to which they have the right of access, and that is written into the law. I am saying that my department on my instruction have visited virtually every Indian Reserve in southwestern Manitoba and taken along maps with them and showed them, on maps, where the unoccupied Crown lands are located, and suggested to them that these are the areas where they would have the right to hunt, and that they did not have the right to hunt on lands to which they did not have the right-of-access, and that included private land where they did not have the permission of the owner. I am told, Mr. Chairman, by staff in the department, that the nightlighting activity in many of those areas of the province has decreased since we've taken

that kind of action, and that people who live in those areas, treaty Indian people who live on those Reserves, are respecting the approach that we have taken towards this problem. As far as the law is concerned, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is free, and he has representation in the Federal Parliament, Members of Parliament from Manitoba can petition if they desire the federal authorities to change the laws of Canada as they relate to treaty Indians if that is his desire.

But I am telling him, Mr. Chairman, that these laws are Canadian laws, they are not Manitoba laws, but the Manitoba Government is honour bound to respect the laws of Canada as I would suggest my honour bound honourable friend is also to respect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I have given the honourable member a certain amount of latitude, I would ask him to keep his remarks to the part of the Estimates under this Minister's jurisdiction and not to stray into another department.

MR. BOSTROM: Very well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Sir. I would welcome the opportunity at any time to take any members of your staff out on any Saturday night in my area and they could have the opportunity of observing firsthand what goes on.

Getting back to the smokescreen that the Minister is throwing up, I am quite aware of what is in the Natural Resources Transfer Act of 1930 whereby the Indians were granted right to hunt on unoccupied Crown land or land to which they had been granted access, at any time and under any circumstances. But they were not granted the right to hunt on private land unless they had the written permission or verbal permission or whatever the case may be. Now the Minister didn't have to go through that long speech, we've talked that over several times. All I am asking for is support from either the Department of Renewable Resources, it should come from the Attorney-General's office, I realize that, they are shirking their responsibilities, but what does the individual do that has this land. The idea of this form should have taken care of it, but somewhere along the line your government hasn't got guts enough to make a decision and this is what I want to know, who is going to make it and when and where?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the staff members of my department are honour bound to carry out the law and I have confidence that they are doing that, and where there are charges laid the courts determine what the outcome of those charges is not my job to determine what the outcome of the charges are, I suggest it is not the honourable member's job to determine that nor is it the Attorney-General, but I would tell the honourable member that when these cases have come before the courts, it is my information that the courts demand that the owner in question, of the land to which it is alleged the person did not have the right-of-access, is called before the court to give that witness, and if he is not there it is probably the reason that the case is thrown out of court, if the honourable member is suggesting that many of these are thrown out of court. I can't bring in a form such as the honourable member is suggesting unless it is a form which the Courts will honour. You can have all the forms in the world but if the courts will not accept that as evidence, they're not worth the paper they're written on.

MR. FERGUSON: Obviously, the rights of the individual, to this government, isn't worth the paper it's written on in any event. But the Minister has asked and I will give a couple of cases that have happened in my area, and I'll make them as brief as I possibly can.

One was a neighbour that has made a practice of being very friendly to the deer; the deer, as a matter of fact, were even up eating on their lawn. Of course, they make a very good point of, whenever the Indians are coming around to shoot them, they get them out of there as quickly as they possibly can. One particular instance this fall, on their driveway which is along No. 4 Highway, there were six, the dressings of six deer piled on their driveway and just a very short time after that, north of their house, in the middle of the afternoon, four Indians shot a deer. They went out, the Indians were armed, they weren't so they just said, well, you know, just get out of the field.

They went and phoned the Mounted Police. They couldn't raise the detachment at Neepawa or at Gladstone so they phoned Zenith 50000 which is the Zenith number. About two hours later the RCMP came along and said, well, you know, by this time the Indians and the deer were gone, "We don't want to get involved in this any more because all it will do is cause a mess."

Another instance is at Carberry where a load of Indians through a half-mile of wheat, shot deer. The police were notified and they picked them up when they came back onto the road. It was taken to court. One of my constituents spent two days in court and it was thrown out. Now, the Minister can check this through and he will find that I am right in every detail.

This is the kind of thing that I am talking about when I bring this form out here and this is the kind of thing I am asking for when I asked for a ruling from the Attorney-General, and I would like to know why we can't get one.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member probably has his ruling from the Attorney-General and that is that the form is not one which is acceptable in the courts. What the

honourable member is saying is that he does not like the laws of Canada in this respect and where this law of Canada relates to the rights of Treaty Indian people, then he has a right, as any citizen, to make that application to the Federal Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: You also have access to Members of Parliament, some of whom represent your party in parliament; they can make their representation to the Federal Government to make the necessary changes in this law.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, the other thing, and I want to point this out very clearly, is that this law was in effect, this same law was in effect over the eight or ten-year period that the Progressive Conservative Party was the government of Manitoba and they never changed this law one bit. So, Mr. Chairman, if you're saying that it is within the power of the New Democratic government to change this law, then why didn't the party which you represent when they were in power, change the law to make it as the honourable member . . .

MR CHAIRMAN: Order please. Again I will remind honourable members that the administration of justice is not within this Minister's responsibility. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, to try and stop the cop-outs in the presence of the Minister here, there has been no suggestion at any time that there be any change to the Treaty Rights of the Indian. I never said that at any time this afternoon. I'm talking about the rights of the individual, the landowner. That's the only thing I have talked about; I haven't talked about doing away with the Treaty Rights of the Indian at all. Under the existing treaties, they can do what they like, but let them stay within the law, not me and the rest of the people.

And just for his department's information, a few of our people in my area went to Saskatchewan this year and they hunted deer; we came back with five or six deer hides. I took them down to one of the local tanneries here the other day and I happened to get talking to the receiver and the fellow upstairs in the plant and he said, "Are you aware of the fact that one Indian from the Sandilands Reserve has brought in 80 deer hides since the 1st of October?"

Now, your department ever run a check on who is delivering hides to the . . . of course, there is no reason why you should because I don't think you really give a damn. But you sit and you talk so sanctimoniously about protecting the deer population of Manitoba —(Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. FERGUSON: Both your department and the Department of the Attorney-General are not owning up to their responsibilities to the people of Manitoba and you're going to have trouble if you keep this thing up the way you are going. You're going to have another shoot-out and I can guarantee that it will happen. And that is all I have to say at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I would submit to you and to members of this committee that my department upholds the law as it is written, to the best of their ability, and if there are cases such as the honourable member is mentioning where there appears to be a misuse of the law, then I suggest that he should have brought that to the department's attention at the time that he heard it, and not bring it up six months later in this committee.

If there was an opportunity for the honourable member to bring something to the game warden, the conservation officer's attention at the time, he could bring the person's name to the department's attention if he had such name and such information as may lead to their arrest and conviction of somebody who is breaking the law, then he should have done that and not bring it up at this time as though the department is not carrying out its responsibility.

MR. FERGUSON: How much more can you bring to the attention than the fact that it was in both instances that I quoted to you, it was reported. And in both instances nothing was done. And in both instances it could easily have been followed through. Certainly I could give you names, but for what reason? They were given to the officers at the scene and they did nothing about it and obviously they were working under instructions of the Attorney-General's office too or they would have laid charges.

And to get back a little bit further to the fact that our government should have changed the plan, my God, our government wasn't giving out welfare like you people are. They weren't driving brand new station wagons; they weren't able to purchase the spotlights that they have now and the rifles that they have now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the last comments by the honourable member simply reveals his ignorance of who is responsible for Treaty Indian people within the Province of Manitoba. The social assistance that is paid to Treaty Indian people is paid by the Federal Government. The law under which they hunt whitetail deer or any other wildlife within the Province of Manitoba is a Federal Government law and the honourable member is trying to bring this up as though it's a responsibility and something that the Provincial Government is doing. He knows full well it is not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I'll defer. The Member for Pembina has a question on the same matter, now I can add my question if it's related to the same subject, if you'll permit me I'll ask mine later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Radisson. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye. The Chair has been keeping a list of those members indicating a wish to speak. The Honourable Member for Pembina. The Honourable Member for Pembina is on that list. The Chair recognizes the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. The Chair recognized the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: I'll defer to the member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I'll not refuse the challenge or the suggestion by the Chair to speak. I just have one question, a simple question that has been referred to by the Member for Gladstone and this goes back to before we got into the more heated subject that we just dealt with. In terms of the department's capability of gathering reasonably accurate estimates with respect to the deer population . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, could you get these unruly committee members to some form of attention so that I can bring my attention to the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that in the gathering of statistics, there is a great deal of guesstimates and estimates involved, but I would suggest to the Honourable Minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, that certainly one of the sources that has been revealed by the Member for Gladstone should be considered by the department in gathering a more accurate estimate of the harvest of deer, namely the checking with the fur dealers, the hide dealers in the province, as to the number of pelts and hides that have been turned in. The Member for Gladstone indicated that an individual turned in 80 pelts in a relatively short period of time. Now that seems to me it takes it away from the area of guesstimates and estimates — that's an awful lot of deer for one person to turn in.

I ask the question, through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, does the department routinely check with the fur dealers in the Province of Manitoba when they are gathering their estimates, as to how many deer are in fact harvested in this province, in the gathering of information of statistics on this matter?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, a brief word, yes in fact we check with taxidermists, tanners. We check with reports of road kills, railway kills, we make surveys from time-to-time with local people where there are reports of kills or there are people who can give us information on kills, whether it's the Indian band in question or local reports, as the honourable member indicates some people make from time-to-time.

So that all of these sources are checked and all of them are taken into consideration when arriving at the estimates of kills and the net population of deer in the province.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the obvious supplementary question to that answer is that, for instance, if I should have turned in 80 or 70 deer pelts out of season, does the department consider following through and perhaps prosecuting such persons that turn in these pelts? In other words, the question is, if in fact the department is doing this, then the department obviously is aware of individuals or groups of individuals that are turning in a large number of deer pelts . . .

A MEMBER: Hides.

MR. ENNS: Hides I think is the word. I defer to my Leader, the former Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, in the proper . . . the old fur trapper from Souris-Killarney. When persons turn in, if in fact these records are checked, then surely it puts the department in a reasonably good position to apprehend, in some instances, persons who are in fact flouting the conservation laws of this province and of your department, Sir.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am confident that the departmental officials check every lead that is given to them and I'm sure in this case of 80 pelts, if this was reported to departmental officials they would have checked it, followed it back to its source and determined if, in fact, there was a law broken which could result in a charge being laid.

MR. ENNS: A final supplementary. Can the department give me any one instance where in fact a charge has been laid as a result of this information coming to them through their routine checks of the fur buyers in the Province of Manitoba, tanneries.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will take the question as notice and rather than give the honourable member a single example, I will give him a series of examples where charges are laid by this department. In fact, Mr. Chairman, we have been attacked from the other side as well, from the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Indian people of Manitoba, for laying charges when they believe that our officers are harassing them, in the pursuit of their rights.

Mr. Chairman, it works both ways. It's a matter of opinion as to how diligently the law is being carried out and I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that this department —(Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I will complete my point in saying that this department has a good complement of professional, dedicated people who do their best to carry out the laws as they are laid down in the Province of Manitoba and those which they have to enforce which are laws of the Federal Government for which they are sworn in, Mr. Chairman, and I resent the Honourable Member for Gladstone, or anybody else, saying that the conservation officers of this department are not carrying out their responsibility. They are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, there has been so much said now, I just don't know if there's much I can add to it except that I don't believe that you are carrying out your responsibility. I know that the former minister before you wasn't, in any case, because I can remember when the trouble was going on in my district, in particular the town of La Rivière, where they were contacting his office occasionally, and this was the area where it ended up that an Indian individual was shot, and I did phone the Minister at that time because I knew what was going on. I told him about this particular individual that said, "We can't get no results; we can't get anything going from in here," and he said "If something doesn't happen, I'm going to shoot some bullets around their cars." — (Interjection)— I didn't take it in my hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order Please.

MR. HENDERSON: I phoned the Minister at that time and told him what the individual had said to me, that he was going to start shooting at some of the cars, trying to shoot the tires off them and this. There was nothing done; there was nothing done until an Indian was shot. I go right along with what the Minister says, you people haven't lived up to your obligation to the private owners of land as far as this night-lighting of deer is concerned. It's well known, you just haven't done it, that's all. We've said a lot about that and I know you've come along with their Treaty Rights and all the rest of it, but you really know that they are being abused.

But now I would like to come back to the other question. Now that the deer population really has gone up considerably, in fact this year, if it hadn't been a year without considerable snow I don't think there's any doubt in the world but what there would have been a lot of deer starve because in our particular area this year. I got several people phoning me about the deer that were in their yard and they were around where they had their strawberries and raspberries planted, they were pawing in there trying to get stuff to eat because this year it was so dry for so long that there was nothing for them to eat out in the bush like before. They were so thick they were around yards and haystacks and I'm sure your department probably had to do more this year in the way of alarming device and this here bloodmeal or whatever it is that they put out to keep them away. With the increase in deer population that there is, do you not see a deer shooting season this coming year?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is obviously such an expert on deer populations, I'm sure when he retires from the legislature the department will be seriously considering any application he makes for wildlife biologist. However, I will say that the department has accurate statistics, in my opinion, and as accurate as can be found anywhere in Manitoba, from anyone, and the department's assessment of the deer population last year was such that it was considered prudent to leave the season closed for one more year to allow the deer population to increase to a level which is consistent with the range in Manitoba, and we have done that. I believe we have acted responsibly in doing that and now that the deer population is at a level which it should have been before any season is called, I believe that there is a good possibility, a very strong possibility that we will have a deer season this year.

As I indicated earlier in my comments, the final result of the deer count is just being compiled and will be available shortly. I will be making a statement as soon as it is available; I will be making a statement regarding deer season as soon as it is possible to do so and I must comment further on the allegation the honourable member makes that this department's conservation officers are not carrying out their responsibility. I reject that emphatically. They are indeed carrying out their responsibilities. They are a very dedicated group of individuals who work very hard at their profession and they provide excellent service to the Province of Manitoba in carrying out the laws of this province as they relate to our wildlife resource.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, you might be talking about your present staff but I was referring to the incident that happened a number of years ago. There was another Minister in charge at that particular time but at that time, I don't really believe they were but possibly are now. I think, however, that you will find that the deer population is up considerably and that probably there could have been a deer-shooting season. I think what bothers an awful lot of people is that they know that the Indian population is shooting an awful lot of deer this year and turning in an awful lot of hides while they were prohibited from doing it. Some of the people that like the deer and they can just see by the amount of them that are around that there are a lot of extra deer, and so they would sooner see a deer-shooting season which was fair to everybody so that other people could take part in it, rather than just the Indian people.

Friday, March 18, 1977

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking from memory here but I think the statistics will bear out that the Indian hunting in this province is not depleting the deer population as the case has been made by members of the opposition and many of the honourable member's colleagues that somehow the Indian hunting in this province is depleting the deer population. If you look at the statistics, Mr. Chairman, the way in which the deer population has rebounded back from the low it was in in 1974, when I believe the population was as low as 25,000 deer, the following year, 1975, that population was up to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 37,000 to 40,000 deer. Last year, the summer of 1976, that population was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 70,000 deer. This year our initial figures are that we are somewhere in the neighbourhood of 90,000 deer. In all of these years, Mr. Chairman, from 1974 to 1977, the Indian population in Manitoba has continued to hunt and the Honourable Member for Gladstone makes the case that they are hunting even more vigorously than they were in the past. In spite of all this activity which the honourable member is claiming is taking place, the deer population is bounding back from 25,000 in 1974 to 90,000 in 1977, an increase of 65,000 deer.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Minister, I suggest that part of the reason for this is that you haven't had any season on them, like open season for everybody to shoot them. That doesn't say that the Indians haven't been shooting as much and maybe more because I have been talking to people that I phoned at different times and they were talking about finding half-ton trucks that were out at night and when they were caught, they had about fourteen carcasses in the back and so forth so there is no question but what the Indians have been moonlighting and what they have been doing with them, I don't know, but they have been killing an awful lot of the deer population off.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, granted the fact that we have not had a hunting season has helped to bring the population of deer back up and that is the very reason why we have not had a hunting season for three years, is to allow the deer population to build back up to a level which is consistent with the habitat in Manitoba. However, the case has been made by members of the opposition, yourself I believe included, that somehow the Indian hunting in Manitoba is a danger to the deer population. I submit to you that the analysis of the deer populations over the last few years do not bear this out. They do not bear it out because as I say, the deer population in 1974 was 25,000. In 1975, it was 37,000. In 1976, it was 70,000, and this year, first indications are that it is up to 90,000. This increase in the deer population has taken place in spite of the vigorous hunting which my honourable friend from Gladstone claims is taking place every day.

MR. HENDERSON: I will let it go at that because we are in agreement with the fact that the deer population is going up, but I still believe that the Indian population is taking as much or more than they were before and that they are abusing the privilege they have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister is as well aware of this axiomatic fact of game management as anyone sitting around this table. Game laws are passed not so much to manage wildlife as they are to manage people. The ducks and the geese and the whitetail and the moose and so on can't read the game law but people can. And what the Member for Gladstone and some of the other members are trying to impress upon the Minister is the fact there is a very serious human relations problem existing in Manitoba today and I am sure I am not telling him anything that he doesn't know, as between almost unlimited and unrestricted shooting of the whitetail population by one element of our Manitoba population when the bulk of the population are forbidden under law from doing the same thing.

Now you know he can shilly-shally, he can try to intimate that it doesn't exist, he can try to suggest that he hears of it only at this committee and so, but that is so much nonsense. We all know that. He has been in receipt ever since he has been Minister for at least the last two years, and his predecessor before him, of annual resolutions from the Manitoba Wildlife Federation on this same point. I don't have the resolutions in front of me although I daresay that they can be easily obtained from the library to indicate to him as forceably as the Wildlife Federation can, representing as it does a broad spectrum of the hunting population of Manitoba, that his department is facing a very, very serious human relations problem in Manitoba because of almost unrestricted hunting with respect to whitetail population in the last number of years.

Now it does no good to try to say to the Member Gladstone or the Member from Pembina or any of the other members around this table that they are taking a position which is racist or a position which is contrary to the biological facts and so on and so forth. That is no answer.

MR. BOSTROM: Permit a question?

MR. LYON: Yes, sure, go ahead.

MR. BOSTROM: I would just like to make sure that you are not attributing to me remarks which indicate that I am accusing anyone around the table of being racist. I did not make that statement.

MR. LYON: I am happy for the Minister to put that on the record because I know that those statements are not being made in that light. They are being made very honestly and very fervently by members of this Committee to the Minister to indicate to him the kind of situation that practically

every member representing a rural constituency faces where there is any deer population whatsoever.

The Minister has been long enough in the job, I know, and from his own background, has been familiar enough with the traditional habits of our native people and the traditional habits of the rural people of Manitoba with respect to the whitetail population, to know that deer hunting is part of the traditional hunting pattern of the people of this province. And what the complaint boils down to is what appears in the eyes of most people to be an uneven administration of justice. Now we sat here earlier this afternoon and heard the Honourable Member for Radisson talk about the situation in which he was caught, as the lawyers would say, without evil intent or without guilty intent whatsoever. And I am sure that the pristine purity of his pleading would make that situation clear to anyone who heard his agonized comments this afternoon, that he went out, unbeknownst to him he didn't have the proper migratory federal licence, and lo and behold he was picked up by one of your conservation officers or by the RCMP and had to face all the travails of a court appearance and so on for doing something for which, as the lawyers would say, he had no *mens rea*, no guilty intent.

But we have a situation with respect to the white-tail population where that element does not apply. No one that I have heard this afternoon, including the Minister, is trying to suggest that there should be any abrogation or watering down whatsoever of the traditional rights granted to the native population in Manitoba under the treaty obligations that were entered into between the various bands and the Government of Canada under the several treaties with whatever dates they bear. But there are clear restrictions within those treaties and the clear intent of the treaties was to ensure that the native population not be deprived of their traditional hunting areas and their traditional dependence upon these herds for food and so on and so forth. Well now, Mr. Chairman, times have changed. Times have changed very, very radically both with respect to the population of the wildlife in question and with respect to the habits of the native population and the habits indeed of the hunters of Manitoba.

I don't have the figures in front of me but I recall the statistics from earlier exposure to them that the white-tail population in Manitoba, certainly in the sixties and I daresay early into the seventies, was higher in that decade than it had been 60 or 70 years before. In other words, this was one of the reverse situations where the intrusion of man onto the prairies and the settlement and the growing of grain and so on actually, instead of destroying the habitat of the white-tail, resulted in the habitat of the white-tail being improved, and that is a reverse English situation I know. So that the actual counts of white-tail as they were reported back in the decade of the sixties were higher than the recorded counts, and heaven knows what method of counting they had back at the turn of the century, but the recorded counts were deemed to be higher in the sixties and in the early seventies than they had been, say, 50 or 60 years before. Regrettably, we can't say that about waterfowl or about the native grouse or about square-tail or the real prairie chickens and so on and so forth, but with respect to white-tail we can say it.

And arising out of these dynamics of changes in wildlife population and so on, you have had a change in the habits of people. What has remained constant, and I will say this to the Minister and he can check the records to ensure that I am accurate, is the fact that the treaty has remained there. What has remained inconstant is the fact that there has not been that degree of enforcement with respect to hunting outside of treaty rights. And this is what the Member for Gladstone is saying to the Committee this afternoon. There is an uneven administration of justice.

I don't think he anymore than I or anyone else blames the conservation officer in the field. You have got dedicated people in your department. They are working hard. I don't blame the RCMP particularly but there has been such a degree of frustration of these people and the carrying out of their normal duties as a result of cases being either improperly prepared or insufficient evidence being brought forward at the time of some of the prosecutions that have been laid for the hunting of white-tail on privately occupied lands and so on, that the Member for Gladstone is merely saying, "What can we collectively do without abrogating the treaty rights whatsoever, what can we collectively do to bring back into balance the administration of the wildlife law in Manitoba so that everyone feels they are getting a fair shake?" Now it is not a question of taking anything away from anybody else. It is a question, though, of making sure that there is even-handedness in the administration of law.

Now the Member for Gladstone has indicated to the Minister, indeed I think he said to him and to his colleague, the Attorney General, a form that had some exposure to the legal profession in Manitoba to indicate to private land-owners in Manitoba if they had this kind of form, if they were to sign this kind of form and if they were to notify the local conservation officer or the RCMP detachment in their district, that this might prevent them from being subjected to the kind of pretty wild and woolly western hunting that goes on in some areas. I have not personally been exposed to it but I have had enough mail from people all over Manitoba.

Indeed I had a letter as recently as a week ago from the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George indicating that he was at his wits' end to know what to do. A man with a farmhouse,

farm house, with a fenced yard and so on, strangers driving into his yard, and he didn't designate whether they were native people or whatever, and firing off high-powered rifles in the dark of night with jack lights and the whole thing. Now I daresay the Honourable the Minister wouldn't tolerate that on his front lawn any more than I would, and I daresay that the rights of the rural land-owner are no less than the rights of the urban land-owners.

So rather than trying to push the problem to one side and say that it doesn't exist or burying one's head in the sand about it, I think we have got to get to a situation in your department, sir, and in the Province of Manitoba, with proper discussions, with the native Indian bands and so on, where we realize the kind of human relations problem about which we have heard pretty fervent evidence or pretty fervant demonstration this afternoon is resolved, because what is at issue even more than the population of white-tail deer? What's at issue is the possibility of human lives being lost because of the flash-point that is building up because of the uneven administration of justice in the province.

Now I am trying to put it on a basis as I understand it and I have had the experience which the Minister I know is going through now in previous times, and I know that all of the enforcement that took place in the sixties wasn't 100 percent effective, but I do suggest to him that there was not in that decade the same recurrence of this type of incident throughout the length and breadth of Manitoba as we find today. You go into the sand-hill country south of Portage la Prairie and you will find that there is a real flash-point in terms of relations between native people and the farmers in those areas. And that is country that lies just to the north of the Honourable the Member for Pembina. A very very serious situation in respect to relationships between farmland owners in southern Manitoba and Indian bands ranging from the Sioux Band over to the west of Portage and the different Indian bands that lie in and around that area.

So we are suggesting to the Minister without trying to cast any aspersions on his staff, who I think are working very hard, that there has got to be some backup at the Ministerial level, both from the Minister of Resources and from the Attorney-General in order that we can bring this pendulum back into place so that all people in Manitoba can feel that the law with respect to the taking of these animals, particularly in non-hunting years, is brought back into balance. Otherwise you are facing a human relations situation that not only has reached the flash-point in certain areas of Manitoba, but can result in the future, and this is no exaggeration. I know the Minister will realize it is not, in further bodily injury occurring to other people in Manitoba, and that's not worth it. You know there isn't a white-tail deer in Manitoba that is worth the life of another human being.

So I suggest to him that rather than trying to pass it off as something that is not important, that he should try to come to grips with it, and that he should be sitting down with the Attorney-General and the law officers of the Crown. He should be looking at forms such as the Member for Gladstone produced out of his own concern and in consultation with Wildlife Federation people and with the legal concern, to see collectively what we can do to reduce this kind of impingement on human relations within our province because it is degenerating into that kind of a situation. Now I make that plea to the Minister because it is a serious serious matter.

Now enough generally on that subject, but I would like to ask the Minister because he commented on the fact that there had been, as we all know, no white-tail season last year. I recall reading a release from his own department in which it was indicated that the biological experts in the department did in fact recommend to the Minister last year that there be a restricted white-tail season. As I recall it I think it was a "bucks only" season. I'd like to know from the Minister who made the decision that that biological advice not be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Again I would remind the members that the administration of justice is not within the purview of this Minister. I ask members to restrict their remarks to matters that do come under the responsibility of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has covered many points and really shed very little light, in my opinion, on this problem.

MR. LYON: Well that's more the pity for you then.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the . . . —(Interjection)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister has the same right as every other Minister to make his statements without interruption.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, when I say that, I mean very little in what he said has given anything by way of a solution to this problem. When he says that the reason for the difference, as he calls it, in the problems in this area is an uneven application of justice, it is completely unfounded because I reject that there is uneven application of justice by my department or in fact by the provincial authorities in general. The Manitoba Government is bound to uphold the law as it is written and I'm sure the honourable member is aware of the laws which . . . —(Interjection)— I'm sure the honourable member should at least be aware of the law which applies in this case. There have been certain re-interpretations of that law, as the honourable member being, a member of the legal profession may have had the opportunity to look at or during that period when he was taking his holiday from the politics of Manitoba. But over the past few years, Mr. Chairman, there have been a

number of Supreme Court cases and decisions taken which have resulted in the kind of applications of the law as we see them today. And I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the issue of nightlighting has been before the Supreme Court at least once and the interpretation of the Supreme Court on this issue as I understand it, and I'm sure the honourable member will know this as well, is that the Indian people have the right to hunt at night with (Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, on unoccupied Crown lands or on lands which they have the right of access. I believe there has been a more recent decision of the Supreme Court which relates to a problem which the honourable member did allude to in part of his discussion, and that is the issue of people hunting at nights in situations where it could be of danger to others. I think the issue of danger here is even broad enough to be interpreted as people hunting so as to endanger livestock. Mr. Chairman, with instructions from myself, the department is, I believe, aggressively pursuing this last decision of the Supreme Court which allows us to lay charges where there has been dangerous hunting.

In fact a letter from myself to the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, and through them to all the bands of Manitoba, we told them that we would be pursuing laying charges of dangerous hunting in cases where people were hunting at night with lights in any areas where they would be endangering people or livestock. And we have also, by way of Conservation Officer, direct contact with the Indian bands in the areas that are most affected by this activity, informed the bands directly that is a policy that we are following.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, from the reports that I have been getting from the regions of our department that this contact, this kind of human relations that the honourable member says that we should be involved in is having its effect. I believe there is decreased activity of night-lighting in many areas of the province as a result of these direct contacts by my department.

And with respect to the law itself, Mr. Chairman — the honourable member was not a member of the Legislature then and I believe he may not have been following politics very closely, since he was on a holiday — we instituted a system of tri-level discussions between ourselves. We initiated these talks. At my instructions the department has initiated talks between the provincial government, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the federal government, Indian Affairs, and we are discussing the law as it applies. We are attempting to identify clearly those areas where Indian people have rights and where they do not have rights. And we have brought this issue of dangerous hunting to those discussions and outlined our position very clearly so that there's no misunderstanding. The fact that this department will prosecute people of any ethnic background who are hunting dangerously, and this applies to the Indian people who are hunting at night with lights in areas where they could be endangering people or livestock.

Mr. Chairman, just in closing, I would say that the honourable member has not suggested a solution to this most difficult problem and I emphasize the fact that it is difficult. The difficulty of it is that we are living in a country with laws — a comment has been by men of wisdom that the law is inept — in this case some people may think that that is the case. Mr. Chairman, the law in this case is very clear and the Province of Manitoba is honour to bound to honour the law, uphold the law and is doing it in an even way so that there is definitely not an uneven application of justice. I reject that allegation. It is just simply not true that there is an uneven application of justice.

As for the annual Wildlife resolutions of the Federation, which were directed at myself in the discussions that I have had with them and I notice the Executive Director is sitting here today, I certainly have made the case very clearly that the problem that they were bringing up with respect to Indian hunting was one which is largely and almost exclusively guided by the federal laws which we have to live by and if they want significant changes that they are recommending, then application must be made, the proposal must be made to the federal government who in this case must be the initiator of any change in this law. They are the ones who have signed treaties with Indian people, who have granted the Indian people certain rights under the laws of our country and therefore they are the only ones who can change that law.

Mr. Chairman, I must emphasize the fact that this is a federal law we're operating under, is the same law that the provincial government was operating under while the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of a department similar to this one and a member of the Cabinet and had the opportunity to make whatever recommendations he wished to federal authorities and to take whatever initiatives he wanted to take himself to change this law to better suit his desires or the desires of his party. And, Mr. Chairman, I submit to you that no such changes were made or attempted while the honourable member was a Minister in the previous government, no such change was suggested to the Manitoba Legislature while the honourable member was a cabinet minister in a government.

In closing I will refer to the last question which the honourable member put to me and that was the decision on the deer hunting and whatever decision is taken by this department is a decision that the Minister of the Department must take responsibility for. In this case I take full responsibility for the decision that was taken to maintain the deer season closed for one more year, last year, to allow the deer population to stabilize and improve. It was consistent with biological advice from the

department that this would in no way endanger the population but in fact would give the population an opportunity to stabilize at a level which was consistent with the maximum capability of the habitat to handle the deer population in this province.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll avail myself of the opportunity over the weekend if I can to dig out the press release but I think the Honourable Minister has perhaps misspoken himself because I was under the clear impression both from the release from his department and from other information that came to hand that the firm biological advice that he received from his department was that there could be without any fear of depleting the deer herd a bucks-only season last year and that that advice was turned down by the Minister.

What the Minister is trying to say I suppose is that we're now having game management decisions made not on a biological basis but on a political basis. I suggest to him that there is nothing more dangerous than that. We got into lots of problems by way of Manitoba Hydro without starting with Wildlife.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. That means particularly the Member for Radisson.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I reject that implication completely. The decision that was taken was clearly described and enunciated, clearly explained to all those groups who were interested in hearing my explanation for it. I attended the Wildlife Federation meeting in Brandon when they invited me to come down and explain the decision on the deer season. I have met with every member of a Wildlife group and/or interested citizen who is interested in hearing the reasons for the decision and I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, that most of the members of the Opposition that I talked to about this decision were satisfied with the decision and agreed with it. Mr. Chairman, in fact before the final decision was taken I made a personal canvass of all members of the Legislature that I could talk to to get advice on the course of action that had to be taken.

There were two options before me, Mr. Chairman, one was to have a limited bucks-only season which was indicated as a possibility by the biologist, but there was also a reasonable possibility of leaving the season closed for another year allowing the deer population to stabilize at a higher level more consistent with the upper levels of the habitat within the Province of Manitoba and I opted for the latter as a prudent measure to give the benefit of the doubt to the deer population and to allow them to stabilize at a level which is at the maximum level of the habitat. I believe that population counts of this year will bear out that that was the correct decision to take. — Interjection inaudible —

MR. PAULLEY: Yeah, and remember Hansard records what you said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, it's my intention as the Acting House Leader by agreement with the parties of the Assembly to not proceed with Private Member's Resolutions at 4:30. May I suggest to the committee that it might be an appropriate time for the committee to rise, go into the House and we'll have the adjournment of proceedings for today. I'm at the mercy of course, unfortunately, of the Member for Souris-Killarney but I make the suggestion to the committee that this is an agreed upon procedure. I'm prepared to look back in Hansard at the remarks of my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report? Committee rise.