

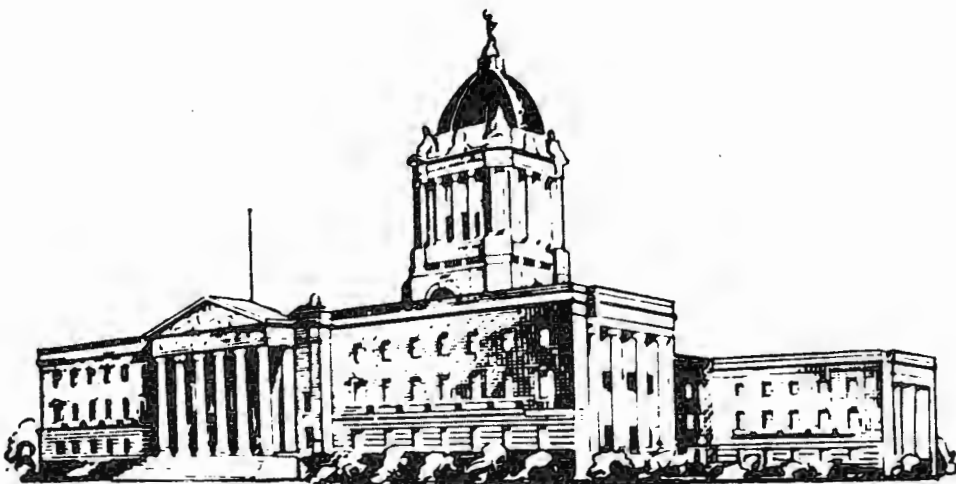


Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, May 14, 1979

Time: 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY — CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee come to order. Page 19, Resolution 27, 2.(a)(1)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, we were discussing this problem just before 4:30 about some difficulties experienced by Manitoba tourists when travelling in foreign countries, in regard to the status of their medical capability; and also some problems encountered by people who had had friends and relatives die, and then had had extreme difficulty and exorbitant costs in attempting to bring the deceased back to Manitoba. And so I just wanted to say to the Minister that if I can't persuade him to do something positive in the sense of meet with people from the travel industry, or attempt to provide information to the citizens of Manitoba, I would hope that the least that he would undertake, and the least that he would attempt, would be to perhaps discuss these problems with people in the industry; and perhaps on occasion speak on this question when he has an opportunity to address public meetings to simply make Manitobans aware of the fact that these difficulties have been experienced, and that they should be extremely cautious in moving to take vacations in certain countries because of some of the problems, encountered there.

I don't mean to blacklist countries, but I mean to simply inform people of some previous experiences, because I see some value in public information, and public education; and I think that's one of the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, that he should acquaint people with these problems and take this into the public forum, as we are today.

My concern is that the Minister really is the person who is supposed to be the champion of the consumers, and historically, I suppose, his party is more the champion of the businessman. And I think it's all very well to say that people should beware, and that people are on their own. As the Minister of Fitness said, this is up to the individual, and we're all aware of that, but sometimes I guess, first of all, some people aren't too bright, and we can't protect everybody but some people, I think, are just simply not aware of some of the complications which don't exist in ordinary travel. So that if a person is used to travelling, say, in the United States, or in other parts of Canada, and they've never had any problems, it just may not occur to them that if they go to another country in Europe or Latin America, that they will suddenly encounter problems in regard to medicine and in regard to more serious difficulties, including death. So that the apparent response of the Minister, I mean the action that he took, we can't gauge whether he's concerned in his own mind, but we know what action he took, and when I read that his response was a letter to Mexico, it just struck me as an inadequate response and I would urge him to be more aggressive and more vigilant in protecting the interests of the consumer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)(1)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, another area that was raised by one of my colleagues and I believe that there is something in the Throne Speech and I don't recall whether there's been any legislation introduced yet — but there was concern expressed in the last year or two about bankrupt travel companies; people taking summer vacations, etc. and suddenly discovering that the company they were dealing with had gone bankrupt and I suppose there are various reactions here. I suppose in one instance people may have lost some money. In other instances, I suppose people discovered that maybe they were in a foreign country when they discovered that they were going to have to hitchhike their way home because the company they were dealing with was out of business. Now that was the problem and we know that there was some determined individuals protesting this and picketing travel agencies and so on. None of this is unique to Manitoba. This has been happening in other provinces and in the United States in particular.

Now I think, if I recall that there was a hint of something in the Throne Speech, because I believe that one of our MLAs was going to introduce a resolution or a bill to the effect of protecting people by perhaps requiring travel companies to post bonds or show some greater amount of financial

capability to cover people dealing with them. Maybe this comes under the — I don't know about the Securities Commission, but it's something about insuring that the companies that are operating in Manitoba can meet and fulfill certain obligations.

So I'm saying to the Minister was there not some hint of this in the Throne Speech and what is the follow-through? What is the Minister intending to do about this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the matter is being developed. We've had a draft version of an Act that has not been quite satisfactory as far as I am concerned. And so we are continuing to try and bring forth a bill that I think will meet the circumstances. There are some, as my honourable friend may appreciate, some difficulties in connection with providing the kind of security that my honourable friend speaks of and incorporating them into legislation that is effective. And until I feel that we have the kind of legislation that can do the task and provide the protection we believe we would like to see, then we'll continue to try and work out a piece of legislation that is effective, but until then, I hate to bring in a piece of legislation that is something less than what the public would want and what my honourable friends would want. So we are continuing to work on that, and hopefully we can still produce something.

MR. DOERN: Is there such legislation in other provinces or is there American legislation that we may take as an example?

MR. JORGENSEN: I don't know of any American legislation, I know that there is a bill, I believe, in Ontario and B.C., but upon examination I'm not too sure that the bill, although it is there, provides the effective kind of protection that I think the consumers would want. And until I have that kind of legislation ready, I'm hesitant to introduce something that will be less than effective.

MR. DOERN: Then, Mr. Chairman, I take it that since the Minister is also the House Leader and since the session is probably slowly moving toward a conclusion in the next 30 days —(Interjection)— rapidly moving to a conclusion in the next 30 days, then I assume that we will not see that legislation this session, even though it was indicated in the Throne Speech?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, it's still possible, Mr. Chairman, but I'm not going to make a commitment that it can be introduced, and as I said, I want to be sure that that legislation is the kind of legislation that I believe will be effective.

MR. DOERN: Could I also ask the Minister again, whether assuming he misses the deadline and we have to wait another year, I assume that it can only be done through legislation and are there any interim measures, again, in terms of public education or moral suasion or any other techniques available to the Minister whereby he might ensure that we don't have repeated occurrences of this in the next twelve months.

MR. JORGENSEN: As a matter of fact, the travel industry itself is concerned about this problem and are attempting to work with the department in providing assurance that the travelling public will be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)(1)—pass — The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I wonder if the general public, who have experienced some difficulty with being able to get the Manitoba Bar Association and the Law Society of Manitoba to establish a schedule of fees which are understandable by the layman — and I notice under the Consumers' Bureau you control the fees that are charged by other sections of the private sector rather than leaving the fee structure to the marketplace — and I wondered if, in fairness to the general public who are dealing with the lawyers, who have been trying to get lawyers' fees printed in the newspaper, and recently some have been successful, but under very extremely rigid guidelines.

I would like to see the day when the consumer would be able to shop around for legal advice in the marketplace like they can shop around for a General Electric toaster, or they can shop around for, for instance, now with the new men's hair salons they can shop around for a body wave or whatever or a perm — whatever they call them. It would seem to me that the day is fast approaching when an industry that can't police itself has to have some arm of government to be able to suggest to them, by means of the written word or whatever, that they do not enjoy the complete privilege to be completely self-policing, that at some point in time they have to print something that is

I have the Manitoba Bar Association Guideline to Solicitor's Fees in front of me and it is extremely vague and does not deal with civil suits or anything along that nature. It simply says, "an agreed hourly rate may be charged" and so on and so forth. So I'll just leave it at that. I just wanted to touch upon it briefly so that those members of the Bar Association who take the time to read Hansard will realize that somebody is trying to get a window into what's going on and a word to the wise sometimes is sufficient.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)(1)—pass; (a)(2)—pass; (a)—pass; (b)(1) — the Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: The point made from the Member for Wolseley, I'd be interested in knowing what the Minister's position is with respect to that matter, whether the Minister concurs that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I got that passed. I believe I was looking up and watching for the reaction from members of committee. It is not my intention to cut off debate on it; I'll leave it up to the honourable minister.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, I have no comment to make. The member has made his presentation; I have listened to it and we have noted it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)(1) — the Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: I'd just be interested in knowing whether that point of view was shared.

MR. JORGENSON: We are now on (b)(1)The Insurance Branch.

MR. CORRIN: How convenient. Well, let's not discuss it. I've been through that before these Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)(1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Wellington. My apologies — the Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Would the Minister or somebody be able to explain to myself or the general public, what Miss Emily Stamp does, I believe her title is, Superintendent of Insurance? It seemed to me that during the May 25th hail and wind damage storm, that a number of citizens ran into difficulties attempting to get insurance companies to cover the wind and hail damages that was envisioned by the general public and it seemed that upon examination by myself, that under this Branch, Insurance Branch, which I assume that the Superintendent of Insurance comes under; I don't know. Well, it seemed to be it was the licencing of insurance companies, agents and adjustors, but there didn't seem to be anything to deal with matters of problems within the industry other than suggesting that the people hire a lawyer. It would seem to me that whenever you licence a particular branch of the business sector, and certainly my business is licenced and we're subject to licence and control, I wonder why the Insurance Branch wouldn't have licencing and some measure of control? Is there some form of control?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, the office of the Superintendent of Insurance responsibility is the supervision of the three major Acts in connection with the insurance industry: The Insurance Act; The Insurance Corporation Tax Act; and The Fire Protection Tax Act. The office of the Superintendent of Insurance does not involve itself in the claims. That is a matter of contract between the insured and the insurer.

MR. WILSON: The letter I have in front of me says that her role is to make sure that insurance agents and adjustors — and I assume this means Autopac agents — are reasonably knowledgable in insurance matters. By that I mean would the consumer be able to phone up any particular insurance agency and be able to get complete details as to what type of insurance is best for them?

In other words, maybe what I am suggesting is there be a review of the insurance agents that exist in the City of Winnipeg with the idea of an upgrading or a re-education, because so many people do not carry enough insurance and I'd like to use the analogy "buy or beware" because there is very little difference in a basic policy from one insurance company to the other. And it is my opinion that to the general public, especially the homeowner, that for very few more dollars they can get adequate coverage; such as \$4 or \$10 a year they can get glass coverage, which the general policy does not cover. So when you go away for a holiday and come back and some vandals have broken every window in your house, for \$4 a year that seems to me to be pretty good coverage. But the average citizen does not realize that and their basic policy doesn't cover it, so it's my own personal opinion, but I would like to see the insurance agents be given a re-education and an upgrading so that they can properly deal with the general public pertaining to their needs and desires pertaining to their homeowner's policy. And I wonder, now that the government is in the insurance business, do our particular staff people take some sort of training course?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows on a Point of Order.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes. I believe the Honourable Member for Wolseley was quoting from a letter, as he had indicated, and I believe that our rules also require one to table a copy of a letter from which one is quoting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding that if quotations taken from a letter or printed material that it is supposed to be tabled. The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Well, I did not, Mr. Chairman, read the contents of a letter into the record. I simply said that it was suggested to me in a letter from the Superintendent of Insurance that insurance agents and adjustors are required or suggested to have reasonable knowledge in insurance matters within the Province of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows does not have a point of order.

MR. HANUSCHAK: That's fine, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Honourable Member for Wolseley made his position quite clear that he was not quoting from a letter. It was a fabrication from whatever source.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, if the honourable member says that he has a letter and refers to it in debate, then he is supposed to table that letter. It's not necessary to table it if he reads it into the record. If you read it all, then we know what it says, but if you are referring to a letter as part of your argument, then with the greatest of respect, that we've discussed that this year, then you are supposed to table the letter.

MR. WILSON: I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee take note, the letter is tabled. (b)(1)— pass — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, under the explanatory note under Section 2., it says that it advises on policy for regulation and control of the insurance industry I'm not entirely clear from that who is advising whom. Perhaps the minister can so advise me.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, the Insurance Branch provides for examination of the insurance agents, who are acting, the licensing of the insurance companies and the general supervision of the insurance industry in the province of Manitoba.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I really wasn't referring to the Insurance Branch; I was referring to the explanatory notes under Consumers' Bureau, where it says, "Advises on policy for the regulation and control of the Insurance Industry." Now, is it the Insurance Branch that is advising the Minister on policy, is it the Consumers' Bureau that is advising the Minister on policy?

MR. JORGENSEN: It is the Insurance Branch that is advising the Minister.

MR. WALDING: Could the Minister outline to the Committee what is the present policy on the regulation and control of the Insurance Industry?

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Member for St. Vital please repeat.

MR. WALDING: Could the Minister, Mr. Chairman, advise the committee on what is the present government or Minister's policy on the regulation and control of the insurance industry.

MR. JORGENSEN: It's provided for in the legislation governing the insurance industry; there are three specific Acts regulating the insurance industry.

MR. WALDING: Is the Minister indicating then that the government has no policy on this matter, other than what is contained within the respective Acts?

MR. JORGENSEN: The policy is provided in the legislation and if policy directions are to change, then it simply means that the legislation will have to be changed.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, the House has been advised that the government is investigating or looking into or studying or reviewing MPIC's coverage of car insurance and considering in what way it can be broadened to involve the private insurance industry. I would like to ask the Minister whether that review is being done within this department or elsewhere within the government and if elsewhere, where?

MR. JORGENSEN: No, Mr. Chairman, the Insurance Branch has nothing to do with the government insurance; it regulates only the private insurance industry.

MR. WALDING: I'll ask the question again, Mr. Chairman. Is this review of MPIC and the possible broadening of it to include the private insurance industry being done in this particular department under this Minister or is it being done elsewhere within the government and, if so, where in the government?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not being done by this department or this branch of the government. Now, I can't tell my honourable friend, he'll have to ask somebody else as to where that examination is taking place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)(1)—pass — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Just one small question, Mr. Chairman, and that's the reference here to the The Insurance Corporation Tax Act, and I'm wondering why it is that this department is administering The Tax Act and why it doesn't come under the Department of Finance?

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm informed that it's a tax on the premiums written on the insurance and all that information is filed with the office of the Department of Insurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—pass; (b)—pass. Resolution 27: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$938,700 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Resolution 28, 3.(a)—pass; 3.(b)—pass; 3—pass. Resolution 28: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$118,800 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs—pass.

Resolution 29, 4.(a)—pass — the Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I mentioned this earlier and I wanted to discuss it with the Minister now and that is a problem encountered by dozens of Manitobans who apparently have been paying developers up to \$18,000 for property in the Lake of the Woods and some of them now discover that they may not be able to build anything on this property. The reason I raise this to the Minister is that we are dealing essentially with Manitobans purchasing; we are dealing with lawyers who are apparently Manitoba lawyers who don't know the Ontario law and we are dealing with developers who, if they are not Manitobans, have what is described here on March 2nd in the Tribune as having Manitoba affiliations. So, I just wanted to review this with the Minister. A spokesman in the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Kenora says he is getting swamped by people, some of whom can lose their entire life's savings. These people are angry, frustrated, they have been duped by developers with questionable scruples and apparently the basic mechanism and problem for them is what is called a tenant-in-common basis, that is a device in which up to 20 people will join to buy a parcel of land that hasn't been subdivided and that is the crux of the problem. to

As a result of complaints, the Ontario Government has to apparently put a halt to development in the area until the parcels are properly subdivided under requirements laid down in the Provincial Planning Act. So, to continue here in this article, to it said: "Many of the people who are completing deals to buy pieces of land without consulting lawyers well versed in Ontario law end up with contracts that may not be legally binding. Some are under the misconception the land is subdivided," and this fellow says, from the Ontario Government, that buying property on a tenant-in-common basis just doesn't work. You don't really own anything because you don't have solid title.

He says of course again it is a case of caveat emptor, buyer beware, and he recommends that purchasers contact lawyers qualified to practise law in Ontario.

So I'm saying there was a flurry of these cases. Now, I don't know whether the department had any complaints in this regard but I say to the Minister that you have here again people who are Manitoba citizens buying property just over the border; you have Manitoba lawyers apparently unfamiliar with Ontario law processing these deals, or advising people with disastrous results, and you have developers who are either Manitoba developers or developers with Manitoba affiliations. Now, the Ontario government has cracked the whip here and halted further development. That's there action, but in view of other people involved, I'm thinking particularly of citizens who are buying property. Is there any protection that the Minister can provide so that people won't be preyed on by unscrupulous developers in this regard?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the matter has been brought to the attention of the Securities Commission and an investigation has been conducted. We're now awaiting transcripts of that investigation.

In addition to that, the registrars in the Province of Ontario are working very closely with our people in an attempt to try and get to the root of this particular problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass — the Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Under the Securities Commission, I wonder if Mr. Peden or others could explain, in the review of the Manitoba mineral resources an attempt was made to check out with different brokerage houses some of the people that the government was in business with and none of them seemed to be listed anywhere. I wonder, what is the general practice as to companies? Do they come to the Securities Commission to be listed in Manitoba, or generally not? In other words, could you possibly, through you to the Minister, describe what the Winnipeg Stock Exchange is and why the purpose of its existence?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, it appears as though there is some difficulty in attempting to determine just precisely what my honourable friend is after. The Stock Exchange is somewhat apart from these companies that appear before the Securities Commission for registration, and I wonder if my honourable friend could . . .

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, it's sometimes very difficult to — I'm wondering if some of these new companies that are going to come forward because of the sort of small bush fire in oil leases that is taking place in the Virden area. Would somebody like New Scope Resources come before the Manitoba Securities Commission?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, they would, it's conceivable, but we have not had an application as yet from them.

MR. WILSON: My concern is why do these people and/or companies have to go to Toronto, Calgary, or Vancouver, to put together their corporation or their package when we have a Securities Commission here?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, I wonder if my honourable friend could — I'm not quite clear in just precisely what he's attempting to get at yet. It's very difficult for me to answer until I know.

MR. WILSON: Then maybe I'll possibly correspond with the department, except I did want to put it on the record that there seems to be an indication from the private sector that it is far too cumbersome and too much red tape to deal with the Manitoba Securities Commission vis-a-vis the Ontario Securities Commission, so the result is companies, such as Shelter Corporation and others, go down east to become incorporated and then they come back here and sell MURBs in Calgary and MURBs here and wherever, but it just seems to me that when you ask them how come they didn't incorporate or whatever it was in Manitoba, they say there's too much red tape here and I must confess I haven't got my file with me so I can't be more specific, but I will attempt to correspond with the Minister if there's any interest to be shown in these seemingly off-handed remarks by people who I have wondered why they didn't have their base of operations here in Manitoba right from the start.

MR. JORGENSEN: Of course, Mr. Chairman, we are concerned if people prefer to register in another province other than Manitoba, and more particularly concerned if what my honourable friend says is true, that it's more difficult, but I find that rather difficult to believe because we're operating under almost exactly the same type of legislation as they're operating under in Ontario. If my honourable friend wants to pursue it a little further by correspondence, I would be happy to look into it a little further.

MR. WILSON: Then in dealing with these, I guess the matters that I'm going to raise would probably be too far removed that the Minister would be able to objectively comment on them, so I will correspond. It's just that I was moved to interest because of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited Report in which they listed companies, such as Copperhead Oil, Great Northern Oil, Berry Petroleum, and CDC Oil and Gas, and I attempted to find out from stockbrokers who these people were that the government was in partnerships with, and they didn't seem to be listed anywhere. So I wondered if at some point in time, if they were oil exploration companies within the Province of Manitoba, do they have to go to the Manitoba Securities Commission, and any of those that are selling — maybe my question is, are any of these companies that are based in the Virden area that sell a new issue, do they come before the Manitoba Securities Commission? In other words, if, for instance — I'll use New Scope Resources, if it turns out to be, if I can use the common man's jargon, a moose pasture, has the public had the protection that the Manitoba Securities Commission looked at what they were offering to the public in their initial offering?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The public do have protection under The Securities Act, and that protection has been afforded for a number of years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b)—pass; 4.—pass; Resolution 29: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$428,700 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs—pass; Resolution 30: 5.(a)—pass — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister what services are provided to members of the Legislature by the Public Information Services.

JORGENSEN: Well, I'm sure that my honourable friend is aware of the kind of services that Public Information Services provide, but what he is asking is what benefit do the members get from the Public Information Services? The Public Information Services are intended to provide information to the public in general but my honourable friend gets copies of news releases and other material that is put out by the Information Service Bureau and is kept advised on government programs in that fashion.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the services that this branch performs for the government and for members of the Treasury Bench. I'd like to ask what services it provides for other members of the Legislature.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, the role is not changed. I presume it would be the same kind of services provided for the previous administration and for the previous members of the Legislature whatever role that they occupy. Is my honourable friend suggesting that the role now should change?

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I was never sure under the previous administration, what services this Branch provided for members other than the Cabinet Ministers. Perhaps the Minister would be good enough to advise the Committee just what they are.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, an essential part of the operation of this Legislature is the provision to the public of information which originates within the departments of government or within the Legislature. It's part and parcel of the entire democratic process, providing news in addition to the news media who provide information on a daily basis, the specific items of interest are distributed to the weekly or to the newspapers across this province. In many cases newspapers in some of the outlying areas of the province where there are no daily newspapers, this is the only contact that they have with government since they simply can't all afford to have representatives here in the press gallery. So it does provide a service that is widely used by newspapers throughout the province, through weekly newspapers throughout the province.

MR. WALDING: . . . may be a little more specific, Mr. Chairman, if the government should announce a new policy the Information Services Branch produces a number of press releases and mails them out to its mailing list of these rural newspapers that the Minister has mentioned. In the event that the Leader of the Opposition would wish to make a statement on that same policy and produced a press release, would the Information Services perform that same service for him by mailing that news release out to the same rural newspapers?

MR. JORGENSEN: Not any more than they did under the previous administration. —(Interjection)— Or the administration before that. My honourable friend can ask these questions and I know that he is doing so because he has a particular point that he wants to make but I want to remind him that the Information Services has been in existence for a number of years and there hasn't been that much of a change in the kind of service that they're providing. If my honourable friend now is suggesting because they are on the left of Mr. Speaker, that there should be a change in that policy, that's one matter and I wish he would make that clear if that's what he is suggesting.

MR. WALDING: I was prompted to ask the last question, Mr. Chairman, when the Minister said what a fine service this is and a contribution to the democratic process and the Parliamentary system in disseminating this information. I am sure that he would not like that to be entirely one-sided that other members of the Legislature would not have the same opportunity to get out their particular points of view. If he says that there is no change from the previous policy I will accept that. Can he tell me whether that policy or that refusal to send out news releases from the Opposition also applies to the other media too?

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm not sure that I follow my honourable friend correctly. Whether it applies to radio and television is that what my honourable friend is suggesting? The policy is the same.

MR. WALDING: . . . to recognize the member at the end of the table who seems to have something to say, I will yield to him, Mr. Chairman, since . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I recognized the Member for St. Vital.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I might just add in connection with the point my honourable friend has been making, that just in the last few weeks, if my honourable friends have some doubt about the value, and I know that that feeling does exist among some members about the value of the Information Services from my point of view at least, that doubt was dispelled during the recent crisis in the Red River Valley. The ability to be able to provide accurate information was so essential during the course of the flood in the Red River Valley, to be sure that the public were informed precisely as to the nature of the catastrophe that was going to be visited upon them, to take the steps that were necessary, and to advise on what the government policies were, and there had to be government policies because it was the government that was responsible for the evacuation and for the maintenance of the flood control measures that were in existence in the Valley, without the Public Information Services, in this one instance — I'm not saying that that is the only instance in which it has more than demonstrated its value as a service within the government,

but that is certainly one instance where it has more than justified its existence.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I never questioned or doubted the existence or the benefits of this particular branch. In fact I recall it's the members of the Minister's Party when they were in Opposition that they questioned the expenditures under this particular appropriation. In fact I can recall them referring to this particular Branch as a propaganda services rather than information services, so I'm not suggesting it be done away with. I recognize the value of it.

All that I was suggesting to the Minister is that the mechanism, the expertise within the department of disseminating this information really ought to be available to other members of the House. I'm not asking that this particular Branch should write news releases for the Opposition, or tell the public how brilliant and praiseworthy the Opposition is, all I was suggesting to the Minister is that if the Opposition should provide its own news release, why is it not possible for that department to make that particular news release as available to the rural newspapers, starved as they are for news . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Could we have one speaker at a time. The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSON: Perhaps it's an obvious point, but there is one point that I think I should make to my honourable friend, is that the Information Services Branch comes under the Department of Government; it does not come under the Legislature. If it was a branch of the Legislature, then my honourable friend would have a valid point.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows very well that members of the Legislature make use of many government departments for a number of different reasons. There are many people within all departments whom MLAs can contact for information and advice, and a number of different things, none of which come under the Legislative Branch as such. This, as he rightly points out, is a branch that comes under the Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but he still hasn't answered the question as to why this particular rather minor service could not be made available to the Leader of the Opposition or other Opposition members, simply as a mechanical service of getting this other point of view out to — particularly to rural newspapers.

MR. JORGENSON: My honourable friend makes a point that other branches of government are available to members of the Legislature, and that is a fact. They are available to members of the Legislature who wish to secure information. That same service is available to my honourable friends through the Public Information Service. He can secure information from the Service.

MR. WALDING: The Minister still has not answered the point that I made or the question that I put to him as to why the mechanism of this department could not be made available to members of the Legislature, other than members of the government.

If I could just make one little point. The Minister said, "Well, it was not done before", and I have heard that argument from a number of other Ministers on other topics but does that mean that it was right because we did it before. I mean, it's quite possible that the New Democratic Party, not being perfect, has possibly made a few errors or mistakes in the past.

MR. JORGENSON: Then I am going to leave this particular change in the policy to my honourable friends in the unlikely event that they ever get back in power.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley. Order, please. The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I wondered, the Public Information Services, has any thought been given in the last few years to having politically active people subscribe to the Information Services news releases that come out. By that I mean several of my constituents get a daily flow of stuff coming in from Hansard from both here and from the Ottawa people, and I wondered, since this particular information comes out prior to Hansard it seems, would the public . . . It says here "provide information to the public." Is there any or has there been any indication that the public could buy this service? Is there any charge to anyone that gets this information, or is it entirely free?

MR. JORGENSON: Well, my honourable friend asks if it's possible for the public, in general, to subscribe to the Information Services bulletins. There was a rather substantial mailing list that had been growing over the years, and we discovered a good many of the people who were getting these bulletins were really not wanting them and it was costing the taxpayer a considerable amount

of money to mail them out, so we cut that list down as a money-saving measure and limited it to the newspapers and the media, so that they are now the only ones that are receiving it. edia, so that they are

Now, my honourable friend makes a suggestion that the public in general can subscribe to it, and I am not completely adverse to entertaining that suggestion. I see some difficulties in the process but we've had a look at it and would be quite happy to examine it again to see if, first of all, if there is a sufficient user demand to warrant that sort of policy and, if there is, we will be happy to entertain it in practice.

MR. WILSON: Then this information goes to the media and members of the Legislature. Can you tell me how many copies go out each, if I could use the term, issue? I mean, how many envelopes go out?

MR. JORGENSEN: I am advised that there are about 840 that go out on each mailing at the present time.

MR. WILSON: Well, then, in dealing with this very subject, I have been less than happy at this. When I was examining the former government I had the feeling that they used this as sort of a semi-propaganda arm to talk about their achievements, whether they were clouded or not. And while the writing seemed to be reasonably fair, it seemed to be written by someone that was almost a newspaper person, because invariably, because of reasons or whatever, sometimes these news releases appeared verbatim in the newspaper, which indicated that the editorial staff of the newspapers or the reporters simply attached this to their material they turned in to the newspaper when they went back. —(Interjection)— Well, the Member for Minnedosa is going to suggest something, but I was going to suggest that I would like to see the Public Information Services talk about government achievements because I think all of us are concerned about the slogan "Come to Manitoba." We're trying to improve the economy, and I don't think any members opposite would want to stand in our way of improving the economy. But I have seen nothing in the Information Services to indicate that the government had rang up the till to the tune of \$500,000 in recent oil leases in the Virden area. To me that was a significant achievement. The new interest in oil leases and the oil activity in southwestern Manitoba to me is an achievement. It would seem to me that Manitoba's discovery with Ganges in the Trout Lake area of some 7 million tons, at the present price of world nickel, copper and what have you, would be a significant achievement. How many people know there is a new mine being built and how many people know that Noranda is drilling in Manitoba? All these secrets that are going on that nobody seems to want to tell anybody about.

And the newspaper reporters aren't going to tell you, because they're going by the government Information Services. So when are we going to be able to create a Public Information Services that is truly an achievement arm of the government, and that's what I would like to see; a new thrust in the next couple of years of this service becoming an achievement arm for a government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to receive some indication from the Minister as to the terms of reference under which the Public Information Services operates.

I share some sympathy with the Member for St. Vital in his questioning as to whether or not this particular branch is useful or not. I think that some means is necessary to distribute material that is strictly pertinent to decisions by government in a way that Manitobans can receive that material, but I think there is a very, very fine line as to when that dissemination of material becomes of a nature that is sheer propaganda and aimed at attaining certain political purposes or glorifying members of Cabinet, the First Minister, etc. I had hoped to have the releases in front of me, but I do know that it is a fact that during the past year there have been numerous occasions in which photographs have been included within the material, highlighting the presence of the First Minister or members of Cabinet at various public functions in which they have participated.

It seems to me that to request public moneys for the dissemination of material of a strictly informational nature is one item, but when that material is accompanied by photographs with the expectation that the weekly will publish that material. I must say, and I wish I had the photographs in front of me; some of them appeared to me to be rather assinine and I will be getting examples and will forward them on to the Minister, of the type of use of Public Information Services.

I was trying to recall, as debate ranged back and forth between the Member for St. Vital and the Minister, whether or not, since he does establish his operations of the Service so much on

the basis of what took place in previous years during the New Democratic period of government, whether or not such a wide, wide dissemination of photographs and etc. was utilized. I do not recall, personally, such but that certainly appears to be the case now and I would like some comment, some discussion from the Minister, as when information ceases and when the use of Public Information Services commences to take on a political or partisan orientation or simply a matter of propagandizing the activities of certain Ministers at certain functions.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the view is entirely subjective. When you're in the Opposition, anything that is printed by the Information Services appears to be propaganda; when you're on the government side, then it is information. And over the years that has always been the position that has been taken by successive governments and successive oppositions.

Now, in respect to my honourable friend's criticism regarding photographs, that policy began several years ago at the specific requests of the Weekly Newspaper Association and has been carried on because they feel it is of benefit to them.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, whether or not it was commenced at the initiative — and I have no way of personally being aware of the use background of this — whether it was requested at the request of the weekly newspapers or the Winnipeg Tribune, or the television media, or whatever it be, the fact is that you are requesting members of the Legislature to approve funds, part of those funds which are used for that purpose, and I do not believe that that sort of service is the type of service that was at all intended in respect to this service.

And here I try to present a line between what the Member for St. Vital was saying in that I think there is a need for some dissemination of information, but I believe that this has gone beyond the limits of purely information provision.

I will not accept from the Minister any excuse that it started — if it did in fact start — in 1976 or 1977. I believe that if it had come to my attention I would have said something about it then. If in fact it did start back in 1976 or 1977, as the Member for St. Vital said, things happened in the past that now ought to be corrected if in fact, it did start during that period of time. I have certainly noticed, and maybe because, as the minister says, one notices things more from opposition than from government, but I've certainly noticed the use of public information service for this purpose more now, and in a more frequent way, than I've ever observed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5. (a) — the Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, I'd be interested to know how many new people have come on the staff, or how many people have been replaced on the staff for any purpose or any reason, since October, 1977.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: There have been no additional personnel coming on staff. There has been one replacement when Lee Sage resigned. There has been one replacement.

MR. CORRIN: Is it then the case that all the members of the staff are as was in October, 1977 with the exception of one individual who replaced Mr. Sage.

MR. JORGENSEN: That is right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CORRIN: That would include the position of the director, would it, Mr. Chairman?

MR. JORGENSEN: There has been no change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, in the publicity surrounding the flood fighting and the tours of Southern Manitoba and so on, I'm just curious as to the . . . Were helicopters provided for the media, and were they ordered by Information Services?

MR. JORGENSEN: No. The only people, outside of private people, the only people who had the authority to operate in that area and to rent helicopters were EMO themselves.

MR. DOERN: Just for information, did EMO provide helicopters for the media?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, when a helicopter is rented to move out to the area, if there is space available and almost invariably there was, then the media were permitted to accompany the party that went out.

MR. DOERN: Were any of these arrangements made again? Are you saying that whereas ordinarily arrangements of this kind would be made by the Information Services, that they were totally under the aegis of EMO or was there some kind of co-operation or dual effort?

MR. JORGENSEN: It was essentially co-operation between the Information Services and EMO. The information that was published by the Information Services was provided by EMO.

MR. DOERN: I assume in some instances there were groups of three helicopters flying around, and is the minister saying that there were no allocations for press — it was just a case of one helicopter had one or two people, and if they could take six or eight press they could then climb aboard?

MR. JORGENSEN: In response to my honourable friend's question — when helicopters were rented to move into any one of the disaster areas, space was provided for the Information Services, because it became a very important part of the whole flood-fighting operation in providing the information that we felt was necessary in order to effectively inform people of what was necessary for them to do in order to co-operate with the government in minimizing the amount of damage that was done by the flood.

MR. DOERN: I'm just trying to get clear what the minister is saying here. He said in the first instance, if there was room available members of the media could go along. He just said that there was definitely space provided for members of Information Services. Did he mean, that's what he said, did he mean that there was space available for members of Information Services and the media, in the broad sense? I take it for granted that Information Services would ordinarily go along, as an arm of government. I'm asking whether there is also six, eight, ten, twelve spaces allocated to the media?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes. There were occasions when space was provided for the press, not only by EMO but by the Army as well. On several occasions when Army helicopters were used, for example, when the Governor-General went out, it was an Army helicopter that provided space.

MR. DOERN: Does the minister have any information about the arrangements made for the Leader of the Opposition, Joseph Clark? Is he familiar with those arrangements?

MR. JORGENSEN: I have no idea how they made their arrangements. They didn't make them through EMO. If that particular party made arrangements for renting of helicopters they did it themselves, and paid for it themselves.

MR. DOERN: They weren't EMO helicopters as such.

MR. JORGENSEN: EMO has no helicopters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)—pass; 5.(b)—pass; 5.—pass. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: It seems to me that the Member for Minnedosa has been wanting your attention for some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. 5.—pass. Resolution 30: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$456,200 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs—pass.

Resolution 31, Item 6.(a)—pass; 6.(b)—pass; 6.—pass.

Resolution 31: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$484,000 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs—pass.

Resolution 32, Item 7.(a)(1)—pass; (a)(2)—pass; (a)—pass; (b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—pass; (b)—pass; pardon me, apologies of committee; (b)(3)—pass; (b)—pass; (c)—pass; (d)(1) — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Could we have an explanation of this item, what the \$14,000 was for last year

and why there is nothing for this year?

MR. JORGENSEN: The reason for that is that there was a deficit in the past year which we do not anticipate this year. We anticipate that the sale of the Revised Statutes and Consolidation will pay for itself this year. My honourable friend was asking if there was any plans for changes in

MR. WALDING: Does this item have any connection with a request from a r changes in certain Mr. Forest for some statutes in French? h a request from a r changes in

MR. JORGENSEN: Not whatsoever. What it has to do is that there was very hanges in little legislation that had to be consolidated in the past Session, and hanges in so therefore the expenses were not as great. n the past Session, and hanges in

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)—pass; (d)(1)—pass; (d)(2) — the Member for St. hanges in Johns.
AN: (c)—pass; (d)(1)—pass; (d)(2) — the Member for St. hanges in

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm interested in having the minister explain the nahanges in ture of this item, and the plans of the government in respect thereto. hanges in

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns is referring to Item (d). o. hanges in

MR. CHERNIACK: 'D' for dog, that's the one that . . . Is that right? hanges in

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. t's the one that . . . Is that right? hanges in

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes. Well, that's what I meant, Sir. that right? hanges in

MR. JORGENSEN: My honourable friend was asking if there was any plans for changes in y the advertising office?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I asked for elaboration on the nature of this section beside him, and whether there are any plans for change.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, the role of the Advertising Audit Office has not changed. It's established primarily to provide placement service for the government, and to provide internal control mechanism over total government advertising cost.

MR. CHERNIACK: The minister spelled out. There was a two-part question. The other was, what are the government's plans in that connection? He didn't answer that.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, the government's plan is not to change the function of the Advertising Audit Office. It will carry on the way it has in the past.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I recall it, back in 1969-1970, we found that there were certain account agencies, which were given the opportunity to look after advertising for various different departments of government. And there was then an effort made, and I think a successful one, to co-ordinate all of the advertising in such a way, firstly, to distribute or redistribute equitably, the agencies and the accounts they were to handle; and secondly, to make an effort to reduce costs by reducing the expenditure in relation to the commission that was formerly paid to the agencies. The reason I ask the minister is that I would like elaboration on what is the system now, which they do not intend to change?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, the member has described the system, and the Advertising Audit Office will carry on its function as it has in past years. There's no change contemplated in the method in which it's carrying out its function.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not familiar with the present system to the extent that I can just accept that there's no change. I do not fully know the present system. I want to know, what are the economies? What are the advantages of this operation, recognizing as I think the minister would, that this was not in place, this kind of a system was not in place under the previous Conservative government; and although I know changes took place, I am not up to date

on the present method of operation or justification.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, I might, if I may be permitted, the 1978 Annual Report gives an account on how the Advertising Audit Office operates; and if I may just quote from that: "In addition to buying and paying for space and time in the media, the Advertising Audit Office permits departments to call upon the expertise of the staff for assistance in media planning and costing. This assistance at no charge is invaluable to those officers responsible for providing tentative promotions for ministerial approval. The office also offers advice on how to prepare copy for print and broadcast. The Advertising Audit Office liaises with the departments, advertising agencies and media. The office negotiates rates, arranges schedules of advertising dates, best possible positions and times, makes copy changes, make goods and credits. It reduces the cost of advertising for the departments through volume buying, cash discounts for prompt payments and by rebating earned commissions to the departments."

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that description read to us by the minister. Does he then confirm that there are savings on the basis that the advantages that were formerly available to the private advertising agencies, as their compensation for the work is now being benefited to this department of Advertising Audit?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Does that then mean that when a certain agency, and I don't know the name of it but I assume that one of the major agencies used by government would be in the Department of Tourism — there may be others but that would be one large one — that that agency is on a fee-for-service basis?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes. Fee-for-service for creative development.

MR. CHERNIACK: Does that then mean that they bill this department and are paid under (d)(3)?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes. We pay for the placement of the advertising. The department pays for the professional fees.

MR. CHERNIACK: Just clarification, Mr. Chairman, does the Minister mean that when an advertisement is placed in some magazine or the other by the Department of Tourism that that expenditure comes under (d)(3)?

MR. JORGENSEN: Only for the space, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Then that means that the agency puts in its art — well, the agency does the writing, the prose if you call it that, and the photography or whatever drawing and colour is involved — that it does that on a fee-for-service which means that they then charge their cost, I suppose we could say of labour with some kind of a markup, to government and, if so, who pays that, under which department is it paid?

MR. JORGENSEN: The department pays for it, the department that is using it, the department as involved.

MR. CHERNIACK: Again using my example of the Department of Tourism and let us say Time Magazine, as I understand it then, the cost of the space is charged to (d)(3), here, but the cost of preparing the nature and appearance of the material is charged to the department.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, that's right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: I find that odd because I should think that Tourism, which I suspect is one of the big users of advertising, should be showing in its budget the cost of advertising tourism for Manitoba, and that's why I'm rather surprised that the cost of preparation of the advertising, the appearance of it, is charged to the department but not the space. Why shouldn't the space be charged that way?

MR. JORGENSEN: It is in the example that my honourable friend quoted; it is in the Tourism budget.

If my honourable friend looks at (d)(3), you will notice there is a sum of \$2,060,000 and indicates that it is recoverable from the departments and agencies, that same amount.

MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate that. I now see that under Tourism, Item 2.(b) provides well over a million, a million and a third dollars for Other Expenditures in the Tourism Branch and I imagine that a substantial part of that would be credited or charged under this item (d)(4) and that therefore the net \$96,000 would be and is the salaries, the \$96,200, which means to me that not only is the artwork, if we can call it that, charged to the department but so is the space charged to the department but is purchased through this department.

Could one say generally then that there must be about, taking the gross commission of 15 percent and deducting the artwork from that, that there must be at least a 10 percent saving on this \$2 million of expenditure.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm not able to precisely determine the saving but I wouldn't be surprised if my honourable friend may be reasonably close to being correct.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for drawing to my attention his own report. It does give for last year, to the dollar, an estimate of net savings of being \$185,392, plus, I think, another \$67,000, so that on that basis, government activity is saving substantial money as compared with the old Conservative approach which was to turn over all the work and the profits to private advertising agencies. I think that is a fair conclusion which the Minister may want to accept or reject, happily or otherwise.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm quite prepared to concede to my honourable friend that the operations of the Advertising Audit office has been of benefit to not only the departments that use its facilities for advertising purposes but also to the taxpayers because there has been a substantial saving.

MR. CHERNIACK: I have to carry that a bit further and suggest that after deducting this net of, I think, \$96,200, which is the straightforward expense of the department, that the difference is probably the profit that would have been paid otherwise to the advertising agencies and also that the advertising agencies no doubt, on the fee-for-service basis, had a profit on the services supplied to government. Is that a fair assumption?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, partly, but there is another factor that is involved here. The fact that we do bulk buying in material also effects some sort of a saving and that will be reflected in that total amount.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, it is not before us, but I am suggesting an analogy that when the previous government changed the Conservative policy of having outside auditors do audits for government agencies, that there was a saving there which is now being set aside by the present Conservative government's decision to farm out or parcel out audits to private agencies and I'm wondering whether this Minister would care to respond, if he has any responsibility for any of the agencies of government, to tell us whether he is aware of the cost paid to private auditors. This may not be on point; it may have to wait for his salary, but I would appreciate if he would just indicate what private auditors are now being used for boards that come under his jurisdiction, and then we could leave that for the Salary.

MR. JORGENSEN: I don't believe we have any.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just commenting that it is unfortunate from our point of view that we have come near the end of the Estimates where we have come to one of the last Ministers who apparently doesn't have any Crown agencies reporting to him and therefore is not accountable for the fees payable to private auditors and we'll have to look for another opportunity to go into that feature of government expenditures and program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d) (1) — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I wonder, could the Minister advise the committee what positions were covered under this line last year and this year?

MR. JORGENSEN: What positions . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Member for St. Vital please repeat.

MR. WALDING: I would like the Minister to tell the committee what positions were covered by this item, (d)(1) last year and this year.

MR. JORGENSEN: There is a director of the Advertising Audit Office, a Clerk 5, a second Clerk 5, an accounting clerk, a second accounting clerk, and one contingency term clerical, part-time.

MR. WALDING: Was that list for last year?

MR. JORGENSEN: It's the same as last year; this year's complement is the same.

MR. WALDING: My next question is, Mr. Chairman, why is there a . reduction in the salaries if it's the same number of persons?

MR. JORGENSEN: I am informed that one of the media buyers resigned the early part of the year and has been replaced but at a lower salary.

MR. WALDING: So there were five people employed in this particular section last year and five will continue to be hired for the coming year, is that correct?

MR. JORGENSEN: Six with the term employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOE: I move your next item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)(1)—pass; (d)(2)—pass; (d)(3)—pass — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would give us a breakdown either o (3) or (4) as to which departments and how much did it get back from other departments.

MR. JORGENSEN: We don't have that information at the moment; I'll see that my honourable friend gets it. We don't have a breakdown here by department, if that's what he's asking for.

MR. WALDING: That's what I was asking for, Mr. Chairman, and an estimate of the same figures for the coming year.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'll see that that information is provided to my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you. I wonder if the Minister, at the same time, would inform us of the name of the advertising agent for each of those accounts he is giving the Member for St. Vital, and the amount — well, we will know the amount paid then because he'll give us that information anyway.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, I'm advised that that can be done and we'll endeavour to provide that information.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, if we can also clarify the nature of these cases with each of these items, that the money is all on fee-for-service and does not include any advertising space.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, we can do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)(3)—pass; (d)(4)—pass; (d)—pass. Resolution 32: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$218,400 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs—pass.

Resolution 33, Item 8.(a) — the Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, this, I think, is one of the most significant parts of the Minister's portfolio, the whole question of Rent Stabilization and the whole decontrol period for rent controls. I understand that we are now, I guess, about midway through the decontrol period which the government announced back in early 1978 and that the decontrol period or control period, whatever you like to call it, will extend until June of 1980 and monitoring will continue beyond that.

I was just wondering if the Minister had any particular comments about the phase that we are in now and whether there are either any problems that have been encountered by him, or whether there have been any modifications to the announcement made back in May of 1978 about what would happen. Could the Minister comment on the present phase of control or decontrol, as it may more properly be described?

MR. JORGENSON: I'm not sure what my honourable friend wants in the way of a comment. I can only tell him that the process is, as he indicated, about mid-way through the decontrol period, and as to problems, I wouldn't want to suggest that there were unsurmountable problems. There were some difficulties that were taken in stride, were dealt with by the staff of the Rent Stabilization Board, and I feel that the decontrol process is proceeding, I hate to use the term "as planned" — it sounds like an army term — but it's certainly proceeding satisfactorily, not only from the point of view of the Stabilization Board itself but the point of view of the tenants, and I think to a large extent from the point of view of the landlords. One of the things that is helping us a great deal, of course, is the adequate supply of housing which acts as a buffer between the tenant and the landlord, and I think cautions moderation in rent increases. It has served as a means of ensuring that the decontrol program functions smoothly.

MR. DOERN: There was an interesting report released by the government by then Minister McGill back in April of '78 on the impact of rent controls in the Province of Manitoba, and I want to refer to some of the remarks made in that report indicating that decontrol may lead to very substantial increases in rent, and create considerable hardship for the lower income group, and that it may therefore be prudent to decontrol over a period of several years, so that appears to be the problem succinctly put, and what I wanted to ask the Minister to begin with is, if he could make some comment, specific or general, about decontrol in the other provinces because this report was basically updated in terms of 1977 and projections to '78, and all the provinces seem to be moving — well, for instance, in B.C. it was pointed out when this report came out that B.C. had no immediate plans to remove rent controls, no termination date; in Saskatchewan there would be decontrol over three years; Ontario extending its rent control program, and so on and so on. I'm just wondering if the Minister could make some general comment about what is happening in other provinces. Are we in step with them, or are we out of step with them and so on and so on?

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, I hate to try to make that kind of a comparison because circumstances may vary from one province to the other which would of necessity require a different approach to a decontrol program. We find, as I said earlier, in this province that our process has been assisted materially by the fact that there is a substantial supply of rental accommodation. That may not be true in some of the other provinces, and it may be more true in other provinces. I have no way of knowing precisely just how that situation affects other provinces, but we do meet from time to time with our counterparts in other provinces, who attempt to compare notes and to determine the success, or otherwise, of the measures that we're taking here.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, that raises one immediate question, and that is the vacancy rate. Can the Minister indicate what the vacancy rate is in the City of Winnipeg and if it's possible throughout the province because I guess the general figures that are accepted are that, when you have a vacancy rate of 3 to 5 percent you're in a good competitive market, but certainly a year or two ago the vacancy rate in Winnipeg was under 2 percent and, if I can recall, I think not too long ago it was mentioned that in Winnipeg in many apartments it was down to 1 percent, which would mean that there'd be quite a demand and therefore little housing available in the sense of apartments.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, the latest figures — and I might add that determining what a vacancy rate is is somewhat hazardous. There seems to be no firm criteria that can be established to determine precisely what is the effective vacancy rate. The best indication that we have, of course, is the figures that were released last fall indicated something in excess of a 3 percent vacancy rate. I think that — 3, almost 4, 3.9 — I would think in the light of the number of advertisements that you see for dwellings, apartments, etc., that at the present time that rate might be somewhat

more than that at the present time, but we do not have the latest figures. It does seem to me that in the monitoring of a rate the fact that the rates, even in a decontrolled apartment, or a decontrolled premise, are not being substantially increased would indicate that landlords and owners of these apartments are very cautious about raising rates because of the competition that does exist in this field, so I conclude from that that there is a substantial amount of competition and that the vacancy rate must be reasonably good in order to create that kind of situation.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is giving us figures that are about eight months old. He's talking about last fall now, and I was just wondering who does, in fact, calculate the vacancy rate? Is it some Real Estate organization? Is it his own department? Who provides that information and could we get a current update in terms of this spring?

MR. JORGENSEN: It's CMHC that provides the vacancy rates. The latest report is not out, and just as soon as that report is out we'll be able to advise my honourable friend.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, one of the key factors in the vacancy rate is the amount of public housing constructed, and my impression is that MHRC is reducing its output and is certainly not providing the kind of accommodation that the previous administration did.

I was wondering whether the Minister could comment on his government's policy in that regard, and in so doing, provide any information on comparative figures, because a large construction program undertaken by the government would increase the vacancy rate and presumably keep rents in line.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, the details with respect to the government Housing Program I think would be more appropriately acquired from the Minister of Housing, but our effort is directed towards ensuring the vacancy rate is such that undue pressures would not be placed on a tendency to raise rents in excess of what would be increases necessitated by increases in costs.

MR. DOERN: I'm afraid I was checking something else. I would ask the Minister if he could repeat that last statement.

MR. JORGENSEN: What I said was that our policy with respect to housing is directed towards ensuring that sufficient housing is available, so that there wouldn't be undue pressure towards increasing rental rates in excess of what was necessary, simply to provide for the increases in cost.

MR. DOERN: I'm not sure I fully understand the Minister's statement, but I would say to him that the Opposition has charged that the government is winding down MHRC, and that this will have an adverse effect on the market in that there will be less accommodation available, and this will fall particularly heavily on people who can least afford to pay.

So I'm saying to the Minister, if he can focus on the question of whether or not the government is winding down MHRC and winding down the output that it previously had, or is the Minister saying that, when required, the vacancy rate gets very low, that his government will immediately step in and start to construct, because that's the way I interpreted his first statement.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'll have to take a position somewhat halfway between my honourable friend and that of the Landlords' Association, who have called for the resignation of the Minister of Housing because he is putting up too many buildings.

MR. DOERN: Well, I would again say to the Minister that when we deal with people in the lower income brackets there are only a few ways in which these people can be assisted in regard to accommodation. One is, of course, to give them or increase the income of the poor. A second method suggested is to provide shelter vouchers, which is, I guess, rental subsidies. And a third is to provide subsidized rental units.

So I say specifically in regard to the poor, and in particular the working poor, which is my concern here, how will the Minister protect them at the point when controls come off? Will they be left to the fortunes of the market or will they be assisted in some direct way by the government?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I can only refer to my honourable friend to the statement made by the Minister of Housing in introducing his Estimates, and I think he made a fairly comprehensive statement with respect to the government's policy in regard to housing and the number of housing starts that will be completed, and what their plans are for the future. If my honourable friend wants

to refer to the Minister's statement, he will be able to get that information.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, the Rent Stabilization Board, which has been a 12-member Board, and so on, can the Minister indicate, say in the past year or whatever, how frequently does the Board meet and do we have any idea of their workload, in quantitative terms?

MR. JORGENSEN: They meet every Thursday, and sometimes twice a week, depending on the kind of workload that they have. But they meet on a regular basis. It's one of the, I would say, one of the more active Boards in government.

MR. DOERN: Has their workload been tapering off? I mean, they are meeting regularly, as the Minister has indicated. I'm just wondering if they're dealing with fewer cases or whether it has been constant in the past 18 months.

MR. JORGENSEN: To answer my honourable friend's specific question, there is a declining workload at the present time. It was quite heavy for awhile.

MR. DOERN: Just to conclude here, Mr. Chairman, at present we're taking things to 1980. The government's intention is to extend this decontrol program to June 30th, 1980, and then it says they will be monitoring beyond that. Can he comment on what this monitoring will consist of? Will the Board continue to operate? Will the Minister be accumulating statistics? If the picture darkens, is the government prepared to continue or reinstitute rent controls or is this the end of rent controls in Manitoba under this administration? We assume, all the time . . . Well, let me just ask those questions.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to project what policy will be, depending on what the circumstances are. At the present time, it is our plan to provide for the end of the decontrol program at the time that it is now specified.

With respect to how the program will operate following that, there are several courses that are open to us and no decision has been made as to what may occur. One of the possibilities is incorporating into the Landlord and Tenant Act some kind of a monitoring process that will enable us to effectively exercise some control over the question of landlord and tenant relationship, which of course include rents.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, again, are there any provinces now where controls are at an end and, if so, which ones?

MR. JORGENSEN: I am advised that they have been totally discontinued in Saskatchewan with the exception of the two larger cities, Saskatoon and Regina.

MR. DOERN: My other question here, Mr. Chairman, is, does the Minister work with his colleague in MHRC, in terms of an unit, or in close co-operation to tackle this whole question of housing and vacancy rates and rents, and rent stabilization decontrols?

I assume that they are on the same wave-length and are not at odds but actually co-ordinate and work together. They are not at odds.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we endeavour to keep in not at constant communication with the Department of not at Housing to ensure — you will forgive me if I use this term — that the left arm knows what the right arm is doing. is term — that g

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition. . is term — that g

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire from the Minister. g Last year his predecessor, holding the present portfolio that g the Minister now holds, the Member for Brandon West committed himself g when the controls were lifted, pertaining to urban centres outside of g the City of Winnipeg and Brandon, that they would be monitoring to g ascertain whether or not there had been excessive or unreasonable g hikes in the rents during the period of time subsequent to the lifting g of the controls. I would like information from the Minister as to what g message that monitoring can convey to us. m the Minister as to what g

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, in a word, Mr. Chairman, the message does seem g to indicate that, notwithstanding the fact that rent controls are not g effective in many of the areas outside of the

City of Winnipeg and g Brandon, the tendency to increase rents beyond what ges in y would normally have been the case with controls has not been evident. In other words, there has been a tendency to exercise a considerable amount of moderation in increasing of rents.

I should add that there have been a few cases where there have been excessive increases in rent and we have then intervened and mediated the dispute between the landlord and the tenant and, in most cases, effectively reached an agreeable settlement.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the Minister indicate how many complaints were received by his offices pertaining to the number of excessive rent increases, which later had to be investigated?

MR. JORGENSEN: The complaints that were referred to the Rent Review Officer to date have involved 36 buildings. Of those, 24 have been resolved and there remains 12 that are still active.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the Minister indicate whether or not those colaints relate to any one particular centre? Of course, here we're talking about centres like Dauphin and The Pas, Selkirk, Thompson.

MR. JORGENSEN: They cover about 10 different centres. They're not located in one particular area.

MR. PAWLEY: Now, what I am concerned about, Mr. Chairman — and I'd like the Minister's comment — is that though he may be only receiving 30-some letters of complaint to be investigated, that in fact he may only be witnessing the tip of the iceberg and in fact there may be some very significant increases that are not coming to his attention due to the fact that the Rent Control Program was in fact decontrolled insofar as all centres outside of Winnipeg and Brandon. Can the Minister assure us that he is not seeing only the tip of the iceberg insofar as the rental situation is concerned outside major centres?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, our surveys seem to indicate, our monitoring seems to indicate that that is not the case. We are seeking out landlords in the various centres and getting information from them with respect to their proposals, with regard to increases, and, on that basis, in the information that we're getting from the landlords, it would appear that my earlier statement could be substantiated when I said that there appears to be a great deal of moderation being exercised in raising rents.

If my honourable friend seems to have some information, he appears to be fearful that we're not seeing the entire picture, then I would certainly invite him to draw to our attention any instances where he feels that there may be problems, and we'll certainly be happy to look into them.

MR. PAWLEY: I may very well do that, because I have received some letters of complaint recently. What is concerning me, Mr. Chairman, is whether or not in some centres we really witness a problem of absolutely no vacancy rate at all and, speaking close to home, I know that that is the situation in the Town of Selkirk. There is no vacancy rate to any extent at all. Rental accommodation is very difficult to obtain, whereas I suspect in a centre like Thompson you would have a very high vacancy rate and then in between you would have centres of varying degrees of vacancy rate. And yet all the urban centres are more or less grouped in together, and I'm not sure if, in the process, we do not witness some hardship in some communities simply because they fell into a particular population ratio or fell outside Brandon and Winnipeg.

Those are the concerns that I can't help but feel insofar as complaints that I have received by letter and by verbal means.

MR. JORGENSEN: In the Town of Selkirk itself, we have been in touch with something like 40 landlords, and, of that group, 10 of them are not seeking any rent increases at all. 12 buildings are seeking increase which would average around 11 percent. —(Interjection)—

MR. JORGENSEN: Oh, yes.

MR. PAWLEY: I think I could name them.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, they do range from about 5 percent to about 25 percent.

MR. PAWLEY: Just for further information, and I will leave it at this point, does the Minister within

his area . . . I suppose this should await another department, dealing with the entire question of condominiums, sale of condominiums and problems relating thereto, whether the Rentalsman is involved in connection therewith. Condominiums — does that fall within the jurisdiction of the Rentalsman Office?

MR. JORGENSON: No, Mr. Chairman, that does not fall within the jurisdiction of this department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a)—pass — the Member for Wolseley. .

MR. WILSON: Under this section, I wanted to put on the record some thoughts I had pertaining to the Rentalsman Office. So long as they continue to be there and cannot be dismantled, I would suggest that, in my opinion, they should not become, as I have suggested, a forwarding agency for . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the honourable member has passed that subject, in my interpretation of the Estimates, where Rent Stabilization is, 8.(a).

MR. WILSON: It is passed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. WILSON: What are you on now? ly ten years of age are getting

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a), Resolution 33. ten years of age are getting

MR. JORGENSON: That's Rent Stabilization; it's not the Rentalsman's Office. SON: That's Rent Stabilization; it's not the Rentalsman's

MR. WILSON: Okay, that's all right, I'll leave it to the salary. The ges in y area I wanted to talk about is there is a big problem in the The ges in y City of Winnipeg in that there seems to be a very high vacancy rate ges in y in the modern type of apartment block, whereas in the older blocks ges in y where the senior citizens live there seems to be a very locks ges in y low vacancy rate. The result is that there's the phenomena of s ges in y finding apartment blocks that are only ten years of age are getting ges in y the same rents as some of those that are 70 and 80 years of age. So it would seem that the market at a certain level has got a fairly high vacancy rate whereas a market at another level is somewhat presenting a hardship to some people because they cannot move into the particular category they like.

Under this section, I wanted to point out to the members opposite that I had a case, one of my tenants asked me for a new fridge and asked for her kitchen to be painted and I said, fine, I'll do that but your rent is going to go up \$8.00 a month and she more than happily agreed to that but then she was talking to one of her relatives and she said that theh had told her that she was breaking the law by agreeing to pay the \$8.00 increase. So she phoned the Rentalsman's Office and they said that you had to give a tenant 90-days notice, so I wanted to put on the record that there is a provision that if a landlord wants to co-operate and be more than accommodating, he may find himself having to deal with the provision of the 90-day notice pertaining to any type of increase regardless if agreements have been made between people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a)—pass; 8.(b)—pass. Resolution 33: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$571,300 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Rent Stabilization—pass.

We turn back to 1.(a), Resolution 26, the Minister's Salary. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enquire from the Minister if this would be — I think it would be the area to discuss another responsibility of the Minister and I only want to deal with it briefly — and that is in his capacity as the Chairman of the Provincial Land Use Planning Committee. Would this be the appropriate section?

MR. JORGENSON: I'm afraid, Mr. Chairman, that that particular subject was dealt with under the Department of Municipal Affairs. But if my honourable friend has a question, I don't mind answering it.

MR. PAWLEY: I believe last year we dealt with it under the Minister's Salary.

MR. JORGENSON: But it was under the Executive Council that you dealt with it because my salary then was paid under that particular branch. I have no objection to answering my honourable friend's question but it will have to be understood that it has nothing to do with this particular department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: On a point of order, I don't think it has to be understood at all. It has to be understood that this Minister wants his salary paid as a Member of the Government and that we have a right to discuss his activities and his actions in government that justify his salary. You know, I think we are all agreed to let it go, but he is putting in a sort of a proviso for the future and I really feel that that is not acceptable. I don't think he meant it that seriously but if he did, I just feel I have to go along with raising it.

MR. JORGENSON: If my honourable friend wishes to proceed I have no objections to answering.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to discover from the Minister is where, insofar as the Provincial Land Use Committee and the policies that have developed therefrom, whether or not the decision at the local level by the District Planning Boards that have been established under the Provincial Planning Legislation, whether they have the final say insofar as approvals or disapprovals of lot splits?

MR. JORGENSON: They do, once a Planning Statement has been approved. A municipality or a group of municipalities intending to enter into an agreement in a planning district, before that planning district is approved, have to submit a planning statement which is a statement of intention of the use of land in their particular municipalities.

MR. PAWLEY: Does the Minister then, by reference to statements, mean basic planning statement?

MR. JORGENSON: Yes, a planning statement is a statement of intent which is developed and submitted before the Minister of Municipal Affairs prior to the approval by Order-in-Council of the formation of that planning district.

MR. PAWLEY: So the Minister in fact is advising me that the District Planning Board, if such a basic planning statement has been approved, that the District Planning Board has the final say insofar as its decision pertaining to any lot split?

MR. JORGENSON: That's the intention of the formation of the planning districts in the first place, to provide to the municipalities within a planning district, the opportunity of exercising whatever authority or whatever priority, if you want to use that term, they may want to exercise in the approval of applications. As my honourable friend knows, in some areas a greater degree of priority may be given to land use; other areas may have greater concern over shore lines; another area may have a greater concern with respect to wildlife preservation, etc., etc. The formation of the planning districts is intended to decentralize that decision-making process. Essentially it's the same thing because they follow the guidelines, and the guidelines are, to a large extent as my honourable friend knows, the same guidelines that are used by the Planning Board, the difference being, of course, that a greater emphasis, or less emphasis can be given to one policy statement as opposed to another one by a district Board than there could be on the part of the Municipal Planning Board itself, and they make those decisions based on their knowledge of their particular area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

M. PAWLEY: I thank the Minister for his information, and that's the way that I had understood the Minister was operating from our discussions of last year, and certainly I do say that the approving authority ought to advise the District Planning Board if it's of the view that a certain subdivision ought not to be approved and the reasons should be set forth, presented to the District Planning

Board or to municipalities why those approvals are not proceeded with. But I want to say to the Minister, there are some instances that have come to my attention that really fly in the face of what he is just informing us, and I'm not going to get involved now with names but I will provide him privately with the particular file where that appears not to be the case, and I'm wondering if the Minister could explain why that would not be the case.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I would have no knowledge of that at the moment. As my honourable friend is aware, I'm simply the Chairman of a committee that was set up to develop the guidelines. That work has not been completed as yet. Following the meetings that were held last fall — as my honourable friend knows, there was a series of meetings held within the municipalities in the various areas across the province — we invited the municipalities at that time to submit to us, after having had some experience with the guidelines, to submit to us recommendations in which they believed some changes might be advisable. We have received a number of such recommendations. They are now in the process of being analyzed and recommendations will be placed before the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet for the purpose of finalizing those guidelines along with those recommendations. That, I hope, can take place reasonably soon, and once the guidelines have been finalized and approved, then they become the operative guidelines for the planning districts.

MR. PAWLEY: Is the Minister able to provide us with any indication as when the guidelines will in effect become law?

MR. JORGENSEN: I would hope that that process could be completed within — I hate to set deadlines — but I would hope that that process could be completed within a couple of months.

MR. PAWLEY: As the Minister's aware, there is considerable uncertainty now insofar as various areas of development and I would like to simply comment that at the same time there appears to be a growing recognition in some municipalities in particular that the sprawl which has occurred in residential development is getting some municipalities into difficulty — the tax rate rising sharply, not able to contend with the assessment which has been brought about as a result of the high price of lands in the areas in question. So that I would hope that the Minister could take some fairly quick action in this regard because I do believe from the information that I'm sure he is receiving as well, that there's increasing concern insofar as some of the taxation and assessment and other social problems that occurring insofar as some of the unplanned sprawl which has taken place in the past.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, I might simply say that the concern is in direct proportion to the municipality's proximity to the city of Winnipeg or to the larger urban centres. The closer the municipality is located to an urban centre, the more keenly they become aware of the necessity of relatively strict adherence to the guidelines that have been set out, which incidentally, as my honourable friend knows, has been essentially developed by those municipalities themselves to meet the problems and the needs that they felt existed, perhaps long before in y other municipalities were aware of them. I find that the further one gets away from the city of Winnipeg the less concern there seems to be for the need to exercise proper planning practices. However in spite of that there still are some municipalities that are exhibiting a considerable amount of interest in the formation of planning districts, areas that are somewhat removed from the city of Winnipeg, which leads me to believe that there is a growing concern amongst all municipal people, and I think that I can perhaps give a great deal of credit to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities themselves who have promoted the idea of planning districts all across this entire province and I think have done a reasonably good job of convincing a large percentage of their membership of the need for that kind of planning.

MR. PAWLEY: Well I would simply concur, I can't avoid the opportunity of reminding the Minister that when the Legislation was first introduced, his Party while in opposition was sharply critical of the Legislation. But even at that point the municipal people in general were supportive through the union of municipalities and I'm pleased to see that the Legislation is not being undone or destroyed, but I do want to add one reservation, Mr. Chairman, and that is that a careful check is maintained by the decision makers, and that's why I asked the earlier question. The Legislation if it's to succeed must ensure that municipalities and district planning boards representing the local people, do have a certain orbit of discretion within the general laws or guidelines that are established. I find there's a tendency sometimes on the part of planners, bureaucrats — if that's what one might

wish to call them — to, in fact, use their position to override sometimes local decision makers in this area, sometimes in a way which is not at all necessary. And I'm wondering and as I offered to the minister, I will provide him with this information, although I believe he was aware of it personally, as to why in fact, there are instances coming to the fore when in fact, district planning board decisions are being overridden by the provincial planning authority.

MR. JORGENSEN: Why?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. James. A point of order.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think now we're getting into a municipal affairs discussion when we start talking about planning in other areas, and I really think we're out of order on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think committee . . . The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: With all respect, the Leader of the Opposition was questioning with respect to my responsibilities as Chairman of the Planning and Land Use Committee of Cabinet, and I agreed to submit to questioning on that particular subject. So that is the purpose of the discussion right now. I have no objections to answering those questions.

MR. PAWLEY: I'll be providing the minister with the particulars in respect to the issue again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to use this opportunity to put a couple of minor things first on the record, and then maybe get into something which I think is probably worthwhile. I'd like to see — and his department is Consumer and Corporate Affairs — I'd like to see the registration of corporations. Many individuals are holding themselves out to be corporations when, in fact, they're not. My investigations seem to indicate that the department responded on a complaint basis only, and I realize that we're in a restraint program, but it seems to me that if the Attorney-General has six or seven lawyers that have time to moonlight, that if there is any type of slack season, if I can call it that, whether it's in any area of your department, that it might be well to pick up the phone book some time and check out some of these particular companies, especially the new ones that appear in the phone books because it is against the law to hold yourself out to be a corporation when in fact you're not. I ran across no less than half a dozen of them in the collection of business tax for the City of Winnipeg.

My other concern is with the towing companies. It seems to be a municipal problem in that they're trying to cope with it through the by-laws. It seems if you take your house trailer to Leisureland or any company like that, they'll charge you \$10.00 a month to store your recreational vehicle, but if it is picked up by some bank or credit union, the towing company seems to have an open-ended cheque and can charge \$90.00 to \$150.00 a month. I think that 9 and 15 times what is the going rate in the marketplace. In fact, you will probably find that these compounds are not level like many of the recreational vehicle suppliers. They are probably not as secure and I think that if the abuses continue, I think that there should be some guideline set as to the maximum towing companies can charge for storage.

Now, I think it was the great Clarence Darrow who said laws should be made to fit people they are meant to serve, and while it may appear that this might be under the Attorney-General's Department, I submit that the consumer is not being well served by government who, because of the very heavy lobby of the lawyers of this province, seem to want to create new laws to feed their graduating classes. It would seem to me that the Consumer's Department should sit down with the Attorney-General's Department and repeal some of the ridiculous laws which are sitting on the books, which serve only to confuse, serve only to get very large retainers for the ignorant consumer or the unknowledgeable consumer, or the consumer who is involved for various reasons in some form of entrapment through some law that is sitting on the book which does not serve him at all, because it is often said that in death we've got to beware of hell, but in life we've got to beware of bad laws and the law courts. It seems certain things are happening that are not protecting the consumer. I remember that in County Court they used to have a blue form attached which was a statement of defence and that statement of defence has mysteriously disappeared and why, because it meant that the person served with his court action would be able to read that he could, for \$2.00, file his own defence. Now, by removing that blue form, the consumer must now consult a solicitor and I submit that that blue form should be returned to allow the people

to do it themselves and I would submit there's a good business for some young man to get into to, or some young lawyer, to tell people how to do it themselves kit, because it seems that the Public Information Services under your department does not want to explain government programs and laws to the people as in depth as possibly they should do.

I refer it again to the Rentalsman's Office and I had written to you, Mr. Minister, on April 3, where I felt that Demand Notices are so simply worded and Orders for Possession are so simply worded that they could be mass-produced by Willson Stationery or something so that the small landlady in Wolseley who has two or three tenants, if somebody is staying out all night or partying all night and she wants to get rid of him, she isn't compelled to go to a lawyer to get rid of the tenant, the government would supply the Demand Notices or they could go and pick them up from Willson Stationery and they could do these things themselves by paying a registered letter.

It seems too many times, and I say this from a personal experience, when I phoned the Rentalsman's Office, they told me to get a lawyer. I really feel that with retainers of \$200.00 to \$500.00 minimum by most solicitors in this province, that small landlords and landladies should be able to have the opportunity, be given advice, as to how they can get rid of undesirable tenants without having to go to this expensive trough. You know, sometimes I think government is a henhouse, and the Law Society is the fox, and the fox is turned loose in the henhouse by the government, and I think the time is fast arriving when there's going to be some consumer advocate that is going to see that these types of things are corrected, and I realize there's a very strong lobby from the Law Society and its members, and I think in the Nixon Administration about 85 percent of the politicians were graduates, so I say that as a consumer advocate I would hope that somebody reads Hansard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a) — the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is waiting for the Committee to vote his salary, I had one or two questions that I would like to ask him in his capacity House Leader. I note that just about a year ago, I believe it was the middle of May, I filed with the government an Order for Return asking simply to know what bids they had received on the Lord Selkirk II and associated assets. I am still waiting to hear from the government that rather simple information. I did ask the Minister for it in the House and he replied to me during Question Period without giving me too much satisfaction, so I'd like to ask him again where I can repeat the question. When can I expect Order for Return No. 55 to be tabled?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, I'll have to check with the Minister who is responsible for providing that Order for Return. I do not provide them. It's perfectly in order for my honourable friend to ask me that question but the Minister who is responsible for providing that Order for Return is going to have to answer to my honourable friend, but I just repeat again what I said in the House, that sometimes Orders for Return seem to take a great deal of time before they are returned. I recall waiting as long as two years for Orders for Return.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I recall the first time that I inquired of the government on this. I inquired of the Minister of Finance, who I understand was the appropriate Minister, and who would have received — no, I'll make a correction to that — I asked the previous Minister of Industry and Commerce if he could tell me now who was the appropriate Minister and he referred me to the Minister of Finance. On referring the question to him, he referred me to the Government House Leader, who now tells me that I should have addressed the question to the appropriate Minister. Now, I know there's a certain amount of buck passing that goes on within the government but can the Minister now tell me definitively to whom the question should be addressed?

MR. JORGENSEN: No, I was intending to pass the buck. I simply said I will take the responsibility as House Leader, but I will have to make my inquiries from the appropriate Minister before I can respond to my honourable friend.

MR. WALDING: The Minister also told me when I asked him why it should take so long, replied to me in the House that he had often wondered that when he was in opposition.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, I had.

MR. WALDING: Now that he is in government and has the opportunity to find out why, perhaps he could inform me and the Committee as to why this has taken a year to produce. Looking at it, it would seem that the answer to the order would be on one sheet or a few sheets of paper

filed away in a filing cabinet in a particular department, and all that is required is for someone to take them out and duplicate them and pass them over to me. Now, if there is some other reason, perhaps the Minister would be good enough to advise me.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, if there's some other reason I'm not aware of it. I am just beginning to recognize some of the deep complexities of providing Orders for Return, and I'm beginning now to be appreciative of the reasons why, when I asked for Orders for Return, or we asked for Orders for Return, that sometimes it took two years to get answers. I have yet to be able to figure it out completely.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I count five such Addresses for Papers and Orders for Return that were accepted by the government in the Session a year ago that have not yet been produced, and I can understand in the case of some of them that it might take a little while to get the information together.

One of them, for example, by the Member for Kildonan, asked for details of trips by Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Assistant Deputy Ministers, on government business over a certain amount of time, and I can well understand that it might take all the departments some little time to gather that material together and to produce it, but when it comes to an Order for Return by the Honourable Member for Wolseley, who I think — oh, who is still here — as to the cost to taxpayers of the Woodsworth Building booklet, that is presumably one entry on one sheet of paper filed away in some mysterious place. Now why the government has not accommodated its favorite backbencher with this rather simple piece of information really puzzles me.

MR. JORGENSEN: I believe that would come under the Minister of Government Services and I will have to check with him to find out if that Order for Return can be filed.

MR. WALDING: If that is a matter of embarrassment to the previous government, Mr. Chairman, I would have thought that this government would have produced it with alacrity and made a copy of it, not only for my friend, the Member for Wolseley, but perhaps for every member of the House, and also would have . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: We might have even put it in the Information Services book. r Services Branch. I don't have any details as to what

MR. WALDING: That was the next point. But when it comes to my particular Order for Return, Mr. Chairman, No. 55, it does make me wonder why , the government has been so slow to produce this, whether it's a matter , of some embarrassment to the government as to what the bids were for , this rather valuable government asset, that I see is now begin, ning to sail again. able government asset, that I see is now begin,

MR. JORGENSEN: I wish we could have got that boat down , into the Red River Valley for the last few weeks; we could , have used it to a good advantage. t few weeks; we could ,

MR. WALDING: I believe two reasons for that: First of all, it's draft , was excessive, and secondly, the Federal Government wouldn't open the , gates at Lockport to allow it through. The Honourable Member for , Lac du Bonnet has a question having to do with ble Member for , the operations of the Rural Water Services Branch. It's one more that's , outstanding. f the Rural Water Services Branch. It's one more that's ,

MR. JORGENSEN: The what? Oh, the question? ch. It's one more that's , ENSON: The what? Oh, the question? ch. It's one more that's ,

MR. WALDING: The Order for Return having to do with the operations , of the Rural Water Services Branch. I don't have any details as to what that is about. er Services Branch. I don't have any details as to what

My colleague from St. Johns wants to know the cost of separation payments in 1977-78 fiscal year re the termination of employment. Now, the fiscal year, 1977-78, has been over for 12 months, and I recall it was a source of some pride to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Chairman, with the speed with which he was able to get out the Public Accounts for the year, that no longer was it going to take a year to produce that financial information; he was going to produce it in six months or in nine months or so, and here we have a year end that has been closed for thirteen and a half months and we are still awaiting this information.

No. 53 from the Honourable Member for Wolseley I've already mentioned, and that's a source of amazement to me that the government has not yet produced that.

The one by the Member for Kildonan, having to do with trips by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers, I would not have thought that that would be a source of embarrassment to the government since they made a policy statement shortly after coming into power that they intended to introduce restraints in the matter of government travel, and they were going to cut down at least on the amount of air travel. So had they carried out that particular policy decision, I would not expect that to be a source of embarrassment whatsoever to the government. But it does raise questions, Mr. Chairman, as to why the government has not yet produced that information, and I would urge this Minister to contact his colleagues and put whatever pressure on them he is able to do, so as to give us this information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: I have no response.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to add a comment in this regard. The beauty of the Question Period is, you ask the question but the Minister can answer as he pleases, or not at all, and this Minister has answered in a very nice way to these questions asked about these Orders For Return that he would look into it, and that he experienced difficulty when he was in Opposition and that he was not aware that the length of time it took for him to get his answers was justifiably as great as it was.

So, Mr. Chairman, you and I, who have been here since 1962-63, continuously — and we have long memories — will well remember that the style which the Honourable Minister credits the NDP government was one which it learned well from the Roblin administration, and there we learned the rules were that an Order For Return might or might not be accepted by government. If it were not accepted it would be debated at length. As a matter of fact, in those days it was a debatable question at all times, and then once it passed, if it passed, there was no rule that said it had to be filed. As a matter of fact, the rules said that at the end of the Session all Orders For Return died wherever they were, not on the Order Paper but in the records, and weren't even expected to be responded to, and I'm sure the Minister remembers that.

So that this technique that the Minister attributes to the NDP is one which it learned, and learned well, I think, from the Conservative government in our time, Mr. Chairman, of 1962-69. That doesn't justify it, nor does it justify this Minister in giving an answer in all good humour which refers back to that. But, there is one difference: This Minister, as House Leader, accepted openly, accepted the responsibility for getting those returns filed, and indeed we should say that when we started this Session, as I recall, there were 31 or 32 outstanding orders from the previous year and now it has been whittled down to five, which isn't bad. It's not good enough, Mr. Chairman. Again, historically . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: We're not all perfect.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, I would like to see some reaching out for perfection, inadequate as it may be on the part of this Minister, who does have a great respect for the parliamentary system. You know, I have got him on that, Mr. Chairman. There is nobody that I know of in the House, on both sides of the House, who appears to have the greatest respect for the parliamentary system, and he helped change it in this respect. Because I'm quite sure that he was very much involved in the change which was made during the NDP administration, which provided that an Order For Return didn't die at the end of the Session but was continued on to the next Session and the obligation was imposed on the government to file that order, regardless of how long it took. And, as I say, I think it was only within a year or two prior to the change of the administration but I know the Minister will remember it better than I do.

Let me just tell the Minister that when I assumed the portfolio of Minister of Finance I found that there was lying, not on my desk because my desk was clear of everything except, I think, an old ashtray, but somewhere around the office there was an almost completed Return to An Order, which had been accepted by the previous government, on — it was either one of trips of Ministers and Deputies, such as the one that has been outstanding now, or I think more than likely it was the cost of renovation of Ministerial offices. And it was there; I don't know how long it had been there, but it was there, and I don't think I filed it because at that time there was no provision for filing Orders For Return.

So, regardless of the fact that we treat this with some amusement, I do think that it is contrary to our parliamentary system, the principles, and I think is sort of a slap to the parliamentary system and the Opposition, and the Legislature. Let's not forget the Member for Wolseley is one of the five people still waiting. So, although we treat it lightly and we haven't made a big deal about it, nevertheless, in all seriousness, I don't think it's right. I don't think the Minister thinks it's right. I don't think it's his fault except in one important respect; he took responsibility and they have sloughed off responsibility on him. And when I say that, I know that one of the Ministers said, "Well, I don't know about that; it's up to the House Leader." So I think he can't shirk it, although I think it's really not his fault, but it is his responsibility and therefore in all seriousness I suggest that there is no excuse that I can imagine that there is for withholding this, unless one is prepared to credit the government, which I am often prone to do, of a kind of arrogance, like, you know, I don't care. But I don't attribute that to this Minister, that's why I'm glad that this Minister is in the position of being on the spot and I don't think we should let him off the spot, Mr. Chairman.

I don't suggest that we prolong this debate or that we try to reduce his salary; I think he earns his salary, but I think we ought to remember long enough so that we can harp on it if we don't get these responses.

Now, does the Minister honestly visualize any reasons for the delay, without knowing the reasons? Are there any of those that would be so difficult? There are some lengthy ones, I admit, but it's over a year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, although we have treated this, as my honourable friend says, in a light-hearted way, I can assure him that I take his admonition and the admonition of my honourable friend for St. Vital very seriously, and I will do whatever I can to ensure that those Orders For Return are tabled as . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: And do you resign if you fail?

MR. JORGENSEN: That might be an invitation to some of my colleagues to get rid of me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)—pass; Resolution 26: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$702,900 for Consumer and Corporate Affairs General Administration—pass — the Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: May I thank the Committee for their courtesy and for the expeditious manner in which they have processed these Estimates; I appreciate it very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

SUPPLY — LABOUR AND MANPOWER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to Page 59 of the Main Estimates, Labour and Manpower, Resolution No. 78, Item 2. Labour Division. We are on item (a)(2)(a) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, could I just get this over to the Member for Logan, he wanted a sample of some of the materials that we give out. I think that's a fair cross-section — there's others, we could dig forever, I suppose, but I think that gives you some idea. I have some other answers here as soon as my staff gets their papers out. Here's three or four more of them. Maybe the members have a question, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to get some of this material together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister whether this would be the appropriate section to bring up the matter of noise pollution, and noise-induced hearing loss and if not, which section would be appropriate?

MR. MACMASTER: Industrial Hygiene is where we prefer to have it — the next section I believe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Over the dinner hour, I had opportunity to discuss the staff allocation with the Member for Logan, and I'm not trying to be obtrusive or cantankerous about this, but we together still do not fully understand the terminology that the Minister is using, and again, would ask for clarification, just so that we know that when the Minister is saying that there were 26 funded positions and 4 unfunded positions, which would total 30, and if this year there are 30 funded positions, just so we understand what the difference is because I don't think, and perhaps the fault lies within ourselves — I don't know, but I don't think that we fully understand that terminology yet.

Just to explain our problem to the Minister, maybe he can then address his remarks directly to that problem, as we had asked how many staff were there last year, and the Minister told us that there were 26 funded staff and 4 unfunded staff. And then we asked how many staff were there this year under this item, and the Minister said there were 30 funded staff, of which 3 were vacant. Now so much we understand. So far we understand that. Now the problem is, when we go back to the Estimates for last year, we don't see the difference in allocations; in other words we see \$450,000, and that's a rough figure because I don't have the books before me right now, and this year we see a much larger amount which would tend to indicate that staff had been added. Yet 30 and 30 equal the same, so we're not understanding where the money's coming from and we're still not certain on the Minister's terminology of funded and unfunded. And so I would just ask him to clarify that because I know he has tried in the past and that perhaps the fault lies within ourselves, that we haven't understood it.

But the fact is, we still don't understand whether staff is being added to this division or this particular item or not.

MR. MacMASTER: I don't know what the difficulty is. I don't know how I can say it any simpler than I said it last time, that there are 30 positions and 26 of them were funded last year. This year there are 30 positions and all 30 of them are being funded. I don't know how else I can say it. I've said it three times, the same answer.

MR. COWAN: Yes, I would ask the Minister to have patience on this, because as I say, the intent of this conversation is not to embarrass him or not to even question him in any sort of negative manner. It's to clarify our understanding, which we're having some problem understanding it. The four non-funded positions — can we then ask the Minister if those positions in essence did not exist, is that correct? —(Interjection)— They weren't filled, but they were allowed for in the Estimates? —(Interjection)— Without money.

MR. MacMASTER: That's what I've said.

MR. COWAN: Okay. Then the Minister is filling us in for the record, the Minister is filling us in as we ask the questions. So there were 26 positions that were allowed for with money. There were four positions that were allowed for but had no money, so the total staff component was 30 positions. Is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. COWAN: And the total staff component this year is 30 positions also. So that there has been no increase in staff in essence, but an increase in money — see this is where the problem comes in. The Minister says — and he's shaking his head. The Minister says there were 30 last year and there are 30 this year, which means that they were equal, to my mind at least. There were 26 last year, the Member for Kildonan says, there were four non-funded and I asked the Minister very specifically if that meant that the component was 30 staff. The Minister said yes. He says it's 30 staff this time, so I ask if then the component is the same as far as staffing is concerned, and he tells me it's not, that four of those positions last year were non-funded, but they were still positions that were available to the department. Maybe the Member for Logan understands it more completely now than he did previous, but I'm not certain that I do.

I'd ask the Minister then if he can indicate what positions come under this particular item, the title of the different positions. I understand there were 17 Safety and Health inspectors last year. Will there be more this year? And where will the other 13 staff positions be coming in?

MR. MacMASTER: There's your director, senior construction consultant; safety and health officer, construction, there's seven of them; senior industrial consultant, safety and health officer, industrial, that's nine; senior training consultant, two training officers, safety and health officer in The Pas, two for Brandon, an environment officer, two administration secretaries, and two clerks — that's

30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, perhaps the Minister can indicate which of those three are now vacant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: The head of this group — and again I'm repeating myself because I went over this this afternoon — the head of this group, the safety and health officer in Brandon, and the title we have at the moment is environmental officer, that may somewhat change, we're looking for a proper specific requirement in that particular area; that's the three that are vacant. The one in The Pas has already been filled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I thought I had it clear this afternoon, but now the Minister and the Member for Churchill have got me a bit confused. I thought the Minister this afternoon, when I asked him last year — and I have it marked here in my book — 30 funded positions and four unfunded, last year. This year, I understood the Minister to say that he had 30 funded positions, no unfunded positions, with three vacancies, one he's hoping to fill within a week, and two positions which he told me that he was going to advertise in the very near future.

Now, is it 30 funded last year with four unfunded, or is it 26 funded and four unfunded last year?

MR. MacMASTER: That's right.

MR. JENKINS: Oh, well, then I must have misunderstood the Minister this afternoon, because it was my impression, and I remember marking it down here — 30 funded and four unfunded for '78, and 30 funded with no unfunded for '79, supervisor of inspectors to be hired in the very near future, one more inspector, and one, I believe that you said was going to be appointed shortly. So then we have that finally. I have that straight now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, well then according to some quick calculations, and I feel I must have missed something, I have a total of nine safety and health inspectors throughout the province. Can the Minister correct me, because I'm certain my figures are wrong on that, that there are more than nine people doing safety and health investigations now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, again, for the second time, Mr. Chairman, I very specifically said that there were seven in the construction field, and there were nine in the industrial field .

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: That makes a total of 16. Does that include all the Safety and Health inspectors? And my apologies to the Minister for not having been able to copy down all his remarks quite quickly enough in order to make the accurate computations that are necessary obviously, but does that include all the Safety and Health inspectors who are currently in the field doing inspections? just having some problems in getting it straightened out, and I would

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I don't know how often we have to keep over ke the this material, Mr. Chairman. I specifically said there was one at The ke the Pas, twice I said that. —(Interjection)— And I said there are two ke the in Brandon, one to be filled; and of course the training officers will ke the be working around, not specifically in, but they will certainly be out ke the doing work. nd, not specifically in, but they will certainly be out ke the

MR. COWAN: You know, Mr. Chairperson, that spirit of co-operation in ke the consultation that the Minister speaks so eloquently about from time-toke the -time seems to be lacking in the House this evening, and I have assured ke the him on a number of occasions that I'm not trying to be

obtrusive, ke the nor am I trying to prolong this, because there are too many important ke the things to be said to prolong it on these sort of items. But obviously ke the we're having some problems and I'm not assessing any blame, I don't ke the think any blame is necessary or there is any fault involved, we're ke the just having some problems in getting it straightened out, and I would ask the Minister to show some of that co-operation and show some of that patience rather than be so quick to count the number of times that he has to give the same answer.

If the figures I have now are correct, there are 19 Safety and Health officers. Now I'm not including in that particular calculation the Training and Education officers, because I don't think they have been included in the past in that calculation.

Can the Minister confirm that this shows an increase over two of last year?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, I wonder if the Minister could explain the fact that we have four more funded positions, that the Salary item has increased from \$440,800 to \$534,100, which is a difference of \$93,300.00. That, plus the fact that the built-in salary increases for what these positions would call for and perhaps the negotiated settlement — would that be the difference that we're looking at in the total of \$93,300.00?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There's four new salaries for four new people, plus what we think will be the increased cost.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, while I have the opportunity, I want to thank the Minister for sending the information over. He has sent me a bunch here that are all duplicates of the same item, if he wishes he can have them back.

MR. MacMASTER: We've got lots of them.

MR. JENKINS: Well, then, I can pass them around. I know he answered some of the questions that I asked this afternoon, efore the hearing — I understand right in the hallway, right 1 efore the hearing — I understand right in the hallway, right but I thought there was one or two that he had the hallway, right taken to give me a reply on this evening, and I'm just looking to see which ones they were. this evening, and I'm just looking to

One was — I know, and I'm sure I didn't get a reply this afternoon — there were requests for information from the public, and I asked the Minister if this request for information was from the general public or whether it was from the workplace and safety health portion of the public and how many enquiries did the division receive in 1978. I don't think I got an answer to that this afternoon. I think the Minister said he was going to try and get me a reply over the supper hour. said he was going to try

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister. said he was going to try.

MR. MacMASTER: It's an extremely difficult question to answer, because our people answer a large number of questions, some by phone, and some in communications, and they're not all specifically recorded.

Another question was asked this afternoon which I have an answer for — refusal to work, how many in the previous year, and if we had any pending. There was one case last year of three employees who refused to work. The situation went to the Labour Board, and es moments before the hearing — I understand right in the hallway, right outside the door — the employer and the employees came to a satisfactory conclusion. The employees were reinstated, and things apparently worked out well.

Our position, of course, I think the member would appreciate the fact that we endeavour to investigate as quickly as possible incidents before they develop into that particular stage.

MR. JENKINS: I thank the Honourable Minister for that information, and I'm glad that the case seems to have been satisfactorily solved; that the employees in this case have been reinstated. Was there any loss of pay involved, or does the Minister know? Because, if the workplace is going to be a safe place, I mean, and I use, think that we have tried in The Workplace and Safety Health Act to instil the same spirit that we had, I think, in The y Mining Act, with people being ordered into what think, in The y workers considered was an unsafe condition. And then, if an accident

took place, that foreman would be suspended from acting in that capacity, I believe it was for a . . . ting in that t

A MEMBER: Six months. was for a . . . ting in that t

MR. JENKINS: . . . six month period. I think something similar t was legislated into The Workplace Safety and Health Act. I just don't recall, because I know it's two or three years since that Act was passed. But I do want to thank the Minister for the reply that there was one case of a refusal to work involving three employees, and the case has been satisfactorily solved, and it does prove that it can work. And I quite agree that it might be very difficult for the Minister to record the types of requests for information, but was this information from the pullic in general or was it just tied to industry or was it a basic interest in safe working conditions, even though they might be in the home and things like that. I see that some of the papers that the Minister has sent over this evening are equally applicable at home, and I think safety at home is as much to be desired as it is in the workplace. And I think if people develop good habits of working safely at home, whether it be around the home or in the kitchen, you know, using things like that, that that same good working habit will carry over into the workplace and I would commend the Minister that perhaps his program should maybe even — I know we've passed the item — but maybe through the Women's Bureau there should be something on safety in the home. I think that it's a good program and I think the big thing that we all strive for is the fact that we want people to work safely, because when people are working safely they are not being injured, they're not suffering mental and physical pain and they're able to enjoy themselves and the fact is that no one, unless he's a very stupid employer, doesn't want his people to become injured.

And I think it's simply a case of good education and I agree, sometimes the education is not all one-sided. It is a fact that sometimes eloyees have to be very well educated on being safe and working with good, safe, working habits and if we develop those in the home and at work, it carries on through all our personal lives.

I wish the Minister well with that type of program, and I would suggest to him that if not his department, then maybe some other department should be carrying out a program of safety and working safely in and around the home or cottage or wherever people are, because there's no doubt that many accidents do take place that are not in the workplace, but they take place elsewhere. And so I realize that it will be difficult to actually pinpoint where all these requests come from but again it's something that the Minister can consider this year and maybe next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well, according to the annual report, there were 9,104 inspections carried out this year over last year. My question to the Minister is can he break that down into general areas such as inspections for toxic substances, inspections for first aid kids, inspections for unsafe conditions, all which are the different types of inspections that the department does. I want a general breakdown so that we can understand better what kind of inspections are being done in what proportion. those down, not into construction and industry, but into a

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I can't break it down the way the member s has asked because most of our inspections do a wide variety of things. For some assistance for the member, I would try to break it down in construction and in industry. r, I would try to break it down in

Inspections in industry: Initial inspections 2,909; initial inspections in Construction 3,851; Re-inspections in industry, if you go back to that 29, is 1,133; and re-inspections in industry, construction is 1,211. is 1,133; and re-inspections in industry,

Now, they are for an awful lot of things and I appreciate the individual points that the member was making but the fact is they go in and make a general inspection of the whole area, which they includes a multitude of things. of the whole area, which they

MR. COWAN: Yes, I appreciate the difficulty, Mr. Chairperson, that the Minister would have in that sort of a breakdown. Perhaps a better way to phrase the question would be to ask him, on the number of Improvement Orders issued and the number of Stop Work Orders issued and the number of Stop Work Warnings issued, if he can give us some indication of what general areas those are falling into, because it is really not so important as to how many inspections are being done, but what the results of those inspections area. So perhaps he can break those down, not into construction and industry, but into a little bit more specific detail.

MR. MacMASTER: The number of recommendations that were issued in industry were 4,359; in

construction it was 1,675.

MR. COWAN: I was waiting, Mr. Chairperson. I thought perhaps the Minister had some more information. Can he break that down as to recommendations? First I would just clarify and make sure that that would include Stop Work Orders, Stop Work Warnings, and Improvement Orders, is that correct, that's the three categories that would be included in the terminology "recommendation"?

MR. MacMASTER: There is a difference between recommendations and the Stop Work Orders. The number of Stop Work Orders in industry was 38 and the number of Stop Work Warnings in industry was 53; the number of Stop Work Orders in construction was 41 and the number of Stop Work Warnings in construction was 72. Now, it doesn't always follow, but recommendations may lead to Stop Work Warnings and from there to Stop Work Orders. The Division tells me that when you get to the point of a Stop Work Warning, it is so close to your job being shut down that the companies are very much aware that the next step is that the situation goes down and they are having a great deal of success with the Stop Work Warnings. Recommendations are what they are and we hope that they are taken seriously. When a Stop Work Warning is given, it is telling you, fix up or the next thing is to shut you down, and it seems to be meeting with a fair amount of success.

MR. COWAN: That would leave rise to the question as to how many Stop Work Orders emanated from the original Stop Work Warnings and in how many cases was it necessary to go back in and issue orders for work to cease and desist until the unsafe or unhealthy work condition had been repaired?

MR. MacMASTER: The division tells me that in a lot of cases, it is not even related areas. Some areas are so bad that you just have to stop them, just put a stop to the operation. They haven't followed this in a sequence and it's going to be an interesting exercise. I don't want to tie people down to desks to do this type of analyzing but it's an interesting concept because we discussed just exactly what's coming out here in the questioning, if there is a pattern of an inspection, then a recommendation and a Stop Work Warning and then you have to stop the job. It would take a fair amount of time of somebody to follow that pattern through, you know, when you look at the thousands of number of recommendations we make, to see whether it flows from there into something greater and eventually you have a company that wasn't interested in talking, wasn't interested in accepting our recommendation, wasn't interested in the Stop Work Warning, and you had to shut the operation down.

I don't have those kind of statistics. I'm curious about it. I don't know — in all honesty, I'm going to have to talk to our staff and just see what type of tie-up of manpower it would take to really follow these patterns through and see if there is a pattern during the forthcoming year. But certainly if there are glaring instances during the course of the year, I think they can bring that to our attention.

But to answer the specific question, I don't have that. We haven't analyzed or exactly followed that pattern right through.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I think that would be a fairly important process and I'm happy to see the Minister is planning on initiating it because there are some similarities here, especially in the construction area where you have 42 warnings given and 41 Stop Work Orders given. I don't think it would be too difficult to run through those 83 particular situations and correlate the two of them because the Minister has said previously that it was his opinion that the policy of going in and giving a warning first was working and working very well, I think were his words. Yet, if they don't know how many times they have to go back and issue orders in that respect, then they don't really know how well it is working because it could be, from these statistics, it could be, and I'm not suggesting it is, but it could be that in 41 out of 42 cases it didn't work in the construction industry and in 38 out of 53, it didn't work in the industry section of the department.

So I think, before the Minister can come in here and say that that policy is working, I think it's important that they figure out statistically whether it is working or not, and it would take a certain amount of research, I'm certain, but it would be well within the capabilities of a well-functioning research department.

There's another figure that I would just like to talk to the Minister about because it disturbs me. It shows in 1977, and again these are from the Annual Report, it shows that in 1977 there were 2,400 Safety and Health Committee sessions and related activities, and in 1978 it shows

a very substantial decrease to es , 1,600, yet we see increases in other areas, you know, going into the schools and in other areas of activity. you know, going into the

My question to the Minister then is, was this original influx of safety and health committee sessions due to the fact that the program was starting up, that there were a lot of new safety and health committees coming onstream? The Minister indicates yes. Well, that would explain that particular figure then. y It also shows that, and I've got my figures just positioned here for that . . . Okay, I guess we'll go under the analysis of air, serum, urine, blood and other media during the Industrial Hygiene Branch, is that correct? We'll be discussing that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of questions to the Minister. One — it's dealing with Stop Work Warnings when a Stop Work Warning is issued by the depart— ment or be the division, is there a time limit given for this correction, and I know that there will be a variance if we're looking at the construction industry and we're looking at industry, but we'll say for argument's sake that we have an industry where there is an unsafe working condition or some violation of the Workplace Safety and Health Act? Is there a time limit given for rectifying this and when the notification comes back that it has been made, is there a further inspection by the inspectoral staff to make sure that this meets the requirements of the Stop Work Warning? And also in amongst the papers that he gave me, the one here is dealing with trench shoring, before we leave this and it's a problem that's been with us for many many years and in fact we just had a fatality here I believe early this year.

Is the Minister and his staff, especially in the Workplace Safety and Health Act, are they intending to reinforce their arguments and their safety courses that they are running on trenching because it seems to be — the usual case when there is cavein of an entrenchment that usually it is a fatality and it's one that we all deplore? And I'm not too up on what happened on this last case, whether there was a violation there or not and it may be something that may eventually go into the courts or something, I don't know, so I'm not going to ask in that in particular but what I'm asking the Minister for is an assurance that his inspection staff and the educational staff of his department will be emphasizing this part of the program because it seems that every year we seem to have one or two of these tragedies and in some cases it's just sloppy work on the part of both management and the people that are involved in the trenching, because I see that the two-page item that the Minister sent over is good, and there is some very good suggestions there for people working in that, but I just want an assurance from the Minister that they will emphasize this and emphasize it very strongly, especially to the people who are involved in excavation? And if you could just give us the procedure on Stop Work Warnings as it applies to industry and I realize on the construction site it might be something different than just how they operate under those circumstances.

MR. MacMASTER: As far as construction and industry goes, I think you will apprecaate, Mr. Chairman, that there's such a wide variety of circumstances, and I suppose none are too identical in relationship to issuing a Stop Work Order. It's a very serious situation putting aside the fact that the building may not get built or the plant may not run, the fact that there is an awful lot of people involved and it's a pretty serious situation. The circumstances surrounding Stop Work Orders are so varied that you can't precisely . . .

MR. JENKINS: . . . the Minister, I wasn't asking about Stop Work Orders I was asking about Stop Work Warnings.

MR. MacMASTER: Well then on your Stop Work Warnings again you have a variety of circumstances. There may be an area that has to be cleaned up and you give them a week to clean it up and you'll be back and if it isn't cleaned up then you may tell them that, you know, the plant is going to shut down. It may be cribbing around a construction site. It may be cranes that haven't got proper blocking and the warning may be that, you know, within four hours set it up properly or you're not to continue and you'll get the order that's going to stop the job. I've seen jobs stopped on a temporary basis when everybody scurried and got whatever it was in order and just the fact that the inspector was there. I don't think there was any real warning issued but that's the type of circumstances, and yes there is a time limit or satisfaction on behalf of the inspector that the company has taken it seriously and they're complying in a responsible manner with whatever request is made out or demand I suppose at that particular point is a better word.

On the excavations — no question — pretty high priority. I think the Member for Logan knows that there is an awful lot of ditches punched in around the ground around our particular city and our province and the excavation rules and regulations — the member has read them — I think they're just straight common sense. It's not that difficult to comply with the excavation rules and regulations that this province has prescribed to, and if in fact companies do follow them, there is very little chance, and there is always a chance of something going wrong, but there is very little chance that something is going to go wrong if in fact they follow those guidelines as they should.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, the Minister has just brought something to mind or it popped into my mind — this is something that I noticed today. I was driving down Logan Avenue, and it's right at the east end of my constituency right along side the west side of the Salter Street Bridge, there is a foundation there with steel reinforcing rods sticking up this high. I don't know; there is no markings around there whether it's a building that's being destroyed or has been destroyed, but there's a surface foundation there, big steel rods sticking up maybe 2-½ — 3 feet, nothing around it, and there's a danger, there's a school right across the road, and I wonder if his inspectoral staff would take a look at that site? Not only is it a safety hazard to anybody that might be working around that site, but it's a safety hazard to the people in the area, and especially with the Dufferin School right across the road. So if the Minister and his staff would take a look at that — as far as I could see there was no placard up saying there was a job construction there or anything. It's not a very big site. It's right on the west side of the Salter Street Bridge and if the Minister and his staff would look into it I would be very appreciative.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, we'll do that first thing in the morning. It's a city construction site, I understand and they're responsible for barricading it, but we'll be in touch with them in the morning and tell them that the site, in the opinion of the MLA from that particular area, that there's a question mark about the safety of the particular area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass; (b)—pass—the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I just wanted to clarify a couple of matters and then I'm certain we will be moving on very shortly to the next item. Is there any indication — I know we're having some problem in getting the full 313, I believe, designated workplaces to have functioning Safety Committees — is there any inclination on the part of the government to increase the number of work sites that are designated for Workplace Safety and Health Committees, and what work is being done internally in this matter?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is an inclination. There is an inclination — and it's more than that — on behalf of myself, as Minister in the department, to get those Safety Committees that are in place now working. I believe in sort of taking one step at a time, and we're not totally satisfied that they're all working and working well. I don't have the figures in front of me, but I think there are 109 or 115, or something, that are working reasonably well or very well. There are 105 that are functioning very satisfactorily. There are 149 that are functioning well but need additional attention. There are nine that have committees but we're not getting Minutes from. There are 11 that for one reason or another it is questionable whether it should even be a Safety Committee. And this is the kind of numbers, so I suppose there are 250 or 260 that are, if you wanted to say they are satisfactory I suppose you could, but we think about certainly 140 or 150 of them need additional work.

And we have asked the Advisory Committee to look at criteria, what should be the considerations of government in expanding on those particular numbers. The Committee, I'm sure, is concerned about the fact that even though we could quickly say, I suppose, that 255 are working reasonably well, we have broken it down, and I understand, just for the information of the members opposite, that it took an awful long time to put that kind of information together as to what is really satisfactory, what is sort of satisfactory, what needs a bit of help, and if in fact they have them in place and if they are why aren't we getting the Minutes regularly and this type of thing. But we're following up on that and we expect if not at the next meeting very shortly, that the Advisory Committee will have a good criteria for looking at expansion, expanding on these particular number of areas where there is Safety Committees in place.

So I guess I tried to answer two or three of the questions at once, but the answer is absolutely yes. 313 doesn't mean a thing to me except that, in all honesty, there are 30 or 40 of them that are sort of doubtful, for a variety of doubts. Some are not even sure that they should have a

and there are approximately a half of the remainder that aren't quite up to snuff. But that 313 doesn't mean to me that's that the end of everything. I hope very sincerely, in fact I intend very sincerely, to have these committees working well, as well as you can, and certainly to my satisfaction and I think to the satisfaction so I will be able to explain to anybody publicly. And this number, without question, is going to expand. There is no doubt in my mind that the Advisory Committee is going to come up with a criteria of whatever, that for industries, businesses, shops, whatever, that we should be considering for expansion. So the answer is absolutely yes. The numbers are going to expand and, at the same time we have to keep making sure that what's not necessarily behind us but certainly beside us is working well as we're keeping moving forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Well, again, Mr. Chairperson, it seems to follow the pattern of the Estimates and it's good news, indeed, that there is going to be more work done on this, I assume very shortly in the future, if the Advisory Council is working at it now. There is no reason to believe that they won't come up with some recommendations very quickly.

But why I say it seems to follow the pattern, I just have to comment briefly on the pattern because before we let this particular item pass I think it's noteworthy that there has been almost a year of little or no activity in this department. It's been a year where they have tried to stand pat. And when I say tried to stand pat, that's in respect to moving backwards. There have been, in many cases, fewer inspections and, in many cases, a drop-off in activity add in some, a few cases, there has been more activity. But for the most part, we've seen a drop-off in activity and we've also seen those Safety and Health Committees stand still for a year. We haven't seen much progress made there. And that's a year wasted. That's a year that could have been much more productively spent, and we could have been starting into these new committees.

And there is no doubt in my mind — and I hope it's something that the Minister will direct his Research Department to do — there is no doubt in my mind that the accident rate, the severity rate and the time lost due to illness will decrease in direct proportion to the number of committees we have, in direct proportion to the level of competence of those committees.

So it's in our best interests, as legislators who have to look at the total economy as a whole, it's in our best interests as legislators who have to look after the interests of the people that we represent, as a whole, to expedite this matter as quickly as possible.

I can only express a great deal of disappointment that it has taken this long to get it moving and that it's taken this long to get to the point where we're finally starting to move in a positive manner. That has been to the detriment of society, as a whole, and that has been to the detriment of the working people who have to work in workplaces that are not as safe and not as healthy as they should be.

So it's with a good deal of anticipation that I look forward to the Estimates next year, so that we can talk about the new committees that have been integrated into the workplace safety and health system, and we can talk about the generally increased levels of activity that the Minister assures us are going to take place, and we can talk about a safer and a healthier workplace, which is the bottom line of all the activities of this particular department.

While I was speaking, although I had intended to close on this, one question did come to mind and that is, in the case of the mining industry, I would ask the Minister, number one, are Workplace Safety and Health Inspectors going into the mines or into the smelters? In other words, are they inspecting mining operations and, if they are, if orders were issued, which would take precedence the orders of the mining inspectors or the orders of the Safety and Health inspector, if there was a conflict between the two? I understand the problems in integrating these two groups. I hope that they're resolved; I hope that we see an integration of the mining work force into the Safety and Health Program, because that was the whole intent. But the problem exists today, so I would ask the Minister to explain how that problem is being dealt with by his department. Which one is taking precedence in the areas of inspection and orders given?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, the mine's inspectors are the ones that do the inspecting in the mine and they have the authority to carry out the regulations of the Workplace Safety and Health Act.

MR. COWAN: Just for clarification then, Mr. Chairperson, is that included in the smelters in the surface operations also so that the Mining Inspection Branch is responsible for all of those inspections? Is there any inclination on the part of the Minister's government to integrate those two groups together, bring them together under the Workplace Safety and Health Act, to bring the mining inspectors in there so that all the industries in the province are operating under one

set of regulations in legislation?

MR. MacMASTER: That's a point that I think has been discussed. I think that if I look back to the days when I was involved with the unions myself I think we asked for that particular . . . And I forget where we wanted it to go at that time, but we didn't think it belonged under the Department of Mines. I can't remember whether we wanted it under the Department of Health or the Department of Labour. That's a point that has been discussed by an awful lot of people for a good many years. It may be a recommendation, and I don't know, but it may be a recommendation coming out of the Mines Enquiry — that might be one of their recommendations. There's been no conclusions reached, and I think that's really what the member wants to know — is there something solid that I have planned or the Minister of Mines has planned for 1979? No, there's nothing positive planned for amalgamating those particular groups, but that doesn't mean that it might not take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes. Then I'd ask the minister, are the Workplace Safety . . . and I assume there are, but I'm not certain because I've been out of the mining work force since this Act came into effect — are the Workplace Safety and Health Committees functioning in the mines, or are they committees that are functioning under the purview of the companies in the Mines Act?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, they work under the Mines Department, but the inspectors themselves, at the moment, have the authority to act under the Safety Act. I think you'll find that the committees are working; trying to relate the mining industry to something else is extremely difficult, but I think the general principles of the committees are very, very similar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass; (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: I wonder if the minister could give us a breakdown, I notice there's over a 50 percent increase in Other Expenditure, and let us know where and why.

MR. MacMASTER: On the way down through, as I look at it, there are general increases to basically all the headings, and if the member wishes, it's a general other expenses sheet with professional fees and furnishings, printing, stationery, postage, equipment, computer, auto, advertising, publications, freight, etc.; but the major increase, the Grant for the St. John's Ambulance of \$25,000 is in this particular section. That's what's really cranked it up and made it appear to be, well, from \$87,000 up to \$133,000.00. So if you throw the \$25,000 on there you have \$112,000, so it's increased from \$112,000 to \$132,000, \$20,000, is the real increase, but the \$25,000 grant to the St. John's Ambulance is what's in there, that's what's really brought it up.

MR. FOX: Was there a grant to St. John's last year as well?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes. It was found during the course of the year last year, and the reason I say that is that I can't allocate where it was budgeted, but during the course of the year it was determined that that particular grant was to be made, and the department appropriated moneys from other funds to pay it. So the answer is yes, it was paid, and the answer this year is that we have it earmarked so we know where it is this year and we can talk about it and explain it.

MR. FOX: Well, that's interesting because — was it the same amount first of all — if it was it's interesting that the minister could find \$25,000.00. This year he's allocated it, but he's increased in every other area as well from what he just said to us, and does that mean that he can still have buried some \$25,000-\$30,000 that he had last year?

MR. MacMASTER: Certainly not what I've been told, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass; 2.—pass; (3)Industrial Hygiene (a)Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes. Could we have the normal breakdown in staffing, funded and non-funded positions for this year and last year, please and also could the minister include vacancies.

MR. MacMASTER: There were 4.23 last year funded, 4.23 this year funded. The Member for Logan,

I mentioned to him this afternoon that that Environmental Officer that we talked about, one of those positions — there's a possibility as we're trying to sort our exact needs that that particular person, or the qualifications or classifications for that particular person, may in the very near future be determined that that should be an industrial hygienist or somebody to do with industrial hygiene; more so than an environmental person under the other section. So that one position, and I didn't have to raise it, but I want to make it very clear to you that that one position that I referred to, that total need hasn't been exactly clarified yet, and there's a good possibility that that person may end up within this group during the next three or four weeks, and for the member's information so that they know going into the next year, the number may be 29 above and five here rather than 30 above and four here. That hasn't been quite determined.

MR. COWAN: Yes. I just asked the minister to indicate if there were any vacancies last year or this year in this — so everything is fully funded, and there are no vacancies.

In the minister's opening remarks, he said that they've taken some steps to expand the activities of the Industrial Hygiene Branch, and he's just mentioned one that might be considered to be a step to expand its activities, but the way it reads in the Hansard is that they have taken some steps, which would indicate that they have taken some in the past year, and I would just ask the minister to indicate what steps have been taken in order to expand the activities of the Industrial Hygiene Branch?

MR. MacMASTER: If the member has any further questions, he can go right ahead. I am trying to itemize some points here, which I can do and still . . .

MR. COWAN: Perhaps I'll take the opportunity then to make some general statements before we go into the detailed examination of these Estimates.

It seems according — again, we are using statistics that come out of the Minister's own annual report — the statistics that come out of the annual report from the branch. It shows that in the year 1978 over 1977 that there was a substantial increase in the number of requests received for technical information. We would probably attribute some of that to the publicity surrounding the lead poisoning crisis that currently exists in the province, but they increased from 135 requests in 1977 to 240 requests, which is a 77.8 percent increase. At the same time, we see the number of field surveys for lead, nickel, styrene, hydrogen sulfide, asbestos and silica, we see that decrease from a level of 171 field surveys in 1977 to a level of 74 field surveys in 1978. So what we see is more increase, less activity. So the only assumption that can be drawn from that is that the Industrial Hygiene Branch is being overworked and not able to respond effectively to the number of requests, not able to respond completely to the number of requests that are coming its way.

We see the number of lead-in-blood analyses, and this one sort of confuses me because I would have expected, with all the furor that was going on in the past year, I would have expected the number to increase substantially in 1978, yet we see a decrease down from 1,761 lead-in-blood analyses in 1977 to 1,501 in 1978. So that shows us that there was a time lag there, that the department was not responding to the problem. The problem had been brought up in June of 1978. It made quite an impact in June of 1978 and you would have expected that with the remaining six or seven months of the year, that that number would have increased, yet there was a decreased level of activity and that just doesn't make sense. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why we have such a substantial problem and such a substantial crisis with this at this time, is that the department didn't respond immediately to what was a problem, what was obviously a problem at the time and what in time has proven to be even a greater problem than we had anticipated on this side and I'm certain than they have anticipated on the other side.

Yet, in the same time, the number of analyses found to exceed the acceptable level has gone down. This is lead-in-blood analyses, excuse me, from 142 to 61 and that's something that we will have to dwell upon in some detail and I assume this and the next department would be the proper departments to carry out discussion on the lead poisoning crisis in the province.

We also see that the number of analyses carried out on air, serum, urine, blood and other media increased from 88 to 513, so a substantial increase, but the year previous, those figures don't correspond because the year previous didn't include all of the testing that was done so we'll have to discuss that in some further detail.

The number of analyses found to exceed acceptable level . when we're talking about air, serum, urine, blood and other media, increased from 31 to 100, so the problem was there and the problem was starting to show up, and yet we see the government dragging its heels for a full year on the lead poisoning crisis in the province. And then when we do see it act, we see it act on an ad hoc basis which is an ineffective and inefficient way to deal with a problem of this seriousness, a problem

of this complexity.

So in the past year we have seen what could have been a crisis that was averted a year earlier actually grow, and yet the government should have had full awareness that the crisis did exist, from the first report that came in from Canadian Bronze that showed lead-in-air levels to exceed the TLV, the threshold limit value, by 59 times. We should have had action from the government.

There was one of the plants in the city, and I'm not certain, I'll have to check my records to see which one it is exactly, but one of the plants here is part of a multinational called Rio Tinto Zinc, and Rio Tinto Zinc has an operation in Avonmouth, England — it's a lead smelter — and a number of years ago, in the early Seventies, it was found that the TLVs were being exceeded in that plant by a much lesser extent, and I can get the exact details for the Minister but I believe, you know, 10 and 20 percent, the maximum level, whereas here we had 59 percent, and that there were a number of people in there, a far lesser percentage of the work force than is happening here in an industry such as Northwest Smelter, but a number of people were suffering indeed clinical and symptomatic lead poisoning. The reaction of the British government was to immediately institute a Royal Commission, immediately, and that Royal Commission came forth with a serious of recommendations and those recommendations were put into effect and we saw the crisis averted, if not averted, we certainly saw it alleviated to a great degree by the recommendations that came from that Royal Commission.

There have been other instances of Royal Commissions in other areas, predicated in the most part on the same sort of example as happened in England. And yet, this government, when it found that there was a problem, that the problem was as extensive as it was, decided not to have that Royal Commission, as a matter of fact decided to do nothing for a very long time. There were improvement orders issued to Canadian Bronze, where we found the levels exceeded the lead-in-air TLV by 59 times, and those improvement orders which were tabled in this House and I have copies, some were fairly extensive, and yet in January and February of this year, in the first six weeks of this year, we find 14 people poisoned in that particular work site, that one work site alone, 14 people, after those improvement orders. That can only clearly indicate to us that the improvement orders weren't doing their job because the improvement orders were put in to clean up that work site, to make that work site a healthier work site for the people working there, and yet we see substantially greater numbers of people being booked off for lead poisoning than we have in the past.

So we see that the work improvement orders weren't working in that particular instance. And then we have 14 or 15 people booked off. That is a major catastrophe for that particular work site. Ten to 20 percent of that work site now have been booked off due to lead poisoning, some fairly high levels, some levels that were over the .80, probably some that were perhaps one or two-tenths of a microgram less, but nonetheless at what are considered worldwide to be very unsafe threshold limits. Worldwide, we are talking about 70. The World Health Organization in the United States is talking about 50 micrograms per hundred grams of whole blood as being the limit. And we have over 30 people who are over 80 being booked off in one particular work site — excuse me, we have 20-some people.

But that is not the complete problem. What happened then, Mr. Chairperson, is people who were booked off in January and February went back to work and were booked off again in April and May. They went back, they were booked off for lead poisoning, they went out and they had chelating done to them, which is in itself a process that can have side effects, complications, and then they went back into the work force and they got poisoned all over again, in the matter of a couple of months and they had to be booked off again.

So those improvement orders and that \$500,000 that Canadian Bronze says it spent, and I have no reason to doubt that they spent that much money on their total workplace, and that would include environmental, the bagging system on the roof which catches the dust coming out into the environment. I have no reason to doubt they spent that much. It wasn't doing the job. The Work Improvement Orders, 17 I believe — I could stand corrected — it might have been 13 or 15, but around that number of Work Improvement Orders, weren't doing their job. People were still being poisoned.

And you know what, Mr. Chairperson? People are still being poisoned. That's the sad, sad fact of this whole crisis is that people are still being poisoned. The work improvements at Northwest Smelting and Refining? We have no indication that they're working. We asked to see what Work Improvement Orders were issued; we haven't got that information yet. The Minister says, "very shortly" we'll have that information, but we asked for it a long time ago. We asked for that in a number of other areas. And I would hazard a guess that they haven't gone back into Northwest Smelting and Refining more than once in that period to check lead in the air, and I would also hazard a guess, and I am just guessing, that if they have gone back in they have found unacceptable

levels of lead in the air because I don't think that you can clean up a plant that fast, so the people that came in there are being poisoned also. People throughout this province are being poisoned, and the government's reaction to this has always been to downplay it. It's been typical. And I've gone through it so many times that I'm hesitant to go through it again, but very briefly: The reaction has been to first deny that there was a problem, and then when we pointed out to their satisfaction and I don't think that was the real crux of the issue, Mr. Chairperson, I think we pointed out to the public's satisfaction that there was a problem. Then something was done. Then, and only then, something was done. And then, as long as we let the matter rest, nothing was done. We brought it up again and something was done. And this has been the whole process. It's been, as I've said in my resolution, they stick their head in the sand and we come along and give them a swift kick in the butt every once in a while. They pick up their head, they look around, they have an ad hoc committee, an ad hoc something, they go in and issue Work Improvement Orders that seven months later don't seem to be having the effect that they were intended to have, and nothing gets done, nothing long term gets done.

The Minister says, "Well, we have a program. We finally have a program after years and years of nothing." Well, it wasn't years and years of nothing, and the Minister knows that as well as I know it, Mr. Chairperson. I'm reading from a 1976 Annual Report where it says, "In addition to medical surveillance," and this is from the Department of Health because at this time the Occupational Medicine Branch was under the Department of Health. It says, "In addition to medical surveillance, industrial hygiene special studies," — special studies — "were initiated in hazardous industries, such as foundries, in the Winnipeg area with technical support from the MERC," which is the Manitoba Environmental Research Committee, "and after participation of the occupational technologists and a new addition to the staff, special effort was made in the last quarter of the year in improving the medical surveillance of workers in industry where exposure to asbestos and lead were present."

From a 1974 Occupational Health Services section of the Department of Health Annual, it says, "Special effort was made in the last quarter of the year in improving biological lead monitoring in co-operation with industrial physicians in environmental protection laboratory staff." We were doing things. We were doing things. And perhaps we weren't proceeding as fast as I would have liked to have seen us proceed, and perhaps we weren't even proceeding as fast as the Minister would have liked to have seen us proceed, but the problem at that time, and it was a problem, was that we didn't have the benefit of the extensive two years of research that was done by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the United States which keyed in on the lead-using industry and keyed in on some of the problems that were occurring in that industry and gave us a bulk of information and a bulk of scientific and medical documentation that showed the problems existed at levels that we didn't previously believe it to have existed.

And the Minister commented that I had said that our government hadn't done anything in regard to the students at Weston and Lord Nelson because only three and four and five, or three or four or five students were over the limit and perhaps that was an inopportune statement I made; I'm certain that it was in a certain respect taken out of context that what I was saying at that time, and it didn't come out in the newspaper report and I can only blame myself for not being more specific because I don't want to blame the media; they're doing the best job they can and they've done the best job they can on this particular subject. They taken the time to acquaint themselves with the problem and they've taken the time to show a real interest in a solution, but what I had intended to say at that time, and if I can clear the record up now I will, was that we had not taken the sort of stringent action that perhaps was necessary because we did not understand the problem to be what we understand the problem to be today. Now, that's not a cop out. What we did do at that time, and the Minister of Mines since that time has, or the ex-Minister of Mines, excuse me, who was also responsible for the Environmental Services, informed me that there were all sorts of activities that were going on, that came about as a result of the Toronto lead crisis, and that they were working on a federal level and a provincial level to understand better the problem because they were doing these special studies, but also to understand better the solution.

And I'm certain that the Workplace Safety and Health Act came about partly, and I'm not even going to say primarily, but partly because of problems of this nature that we saw occurring and that we felt we should direct more energies to. So we were doing certain things in response to what we perceived the problem to be at that time, and we would have continued doing them. And I'm certain that if the members of the opposition had been as diligent in their duty as some of the members of this opposition have been that we would have been doing far more' and they agree, everyone agrees, that a good opposition makes a good government and there's a certain amount of truth in that. But what was happening was that it was occurring through the normal standard of procedures, at the normal levels of the department. Things were being done without major public awareness of what was being done because no one was taking the time to dig and no one was

taking the time to bring the matter to the public's attention. So we had a department that was functioning more or less as a department should function, and that was dealing with the problem at the level where the problem exists.

Now unfortunately we've had to bring this out into the political arena. Well, that's unfortunate in one respect and fortunate in another because it's been part of an educational process for the medical profession, for the work force, for the government, for the opposition. We have gotten a tremendous amount of information, a tremendous amount of information out into the public arena through the media and again I thank them for that because that has helped the workers in the workplace. It also has helped the doctors, I'm certain, to understand the problems better. But it's unfortunate that we had, not so much in the public arena, but did it in this arena because this is a political arena, so to speak, and politics influence a lot of decisions that are made in here, and politics can — well, at certain times — act to the betterment of a situation and again at certain times act to the detriment of a situation. And in this case I think that we got into postures that acted to the detriment of the situation. We got into postures on that side and we got into postures on this side also, and when we saw that happening then we twigged, then we said, "Let's get it out of here."

I'm no expert on lead. I know far more about lead this year than I did last year, but I'm no expert on lead. And the Minister's no expert on lead, although I'm certain he knows far more this year than he did last year. But we're not experts on it, and from some of the statements made from his support staff, there aren't many experts in that group either. So what we said was, let us get this out of the political arena and into the medical and scientific arena. Let us have a Royal Commission of medical and scientific people that can examine the problem on a different level than we are examining it here, and that didn't come about; that didn't come about.

The Minister says, "I don't want to take the time that's necessary for a Royal Commission", yet there is nothing to stop the Minister from implementing any sort of program he wants now and having the Royal Commission carry on its activities outside of that program, and there is nothing to stop the Minister from having the Royal Commission examine that program for its effectiveness. Because I think the so-called "lead control" program that they have implemented is not a good program. It's better than nothing; it's better than nothing. —(Interjection)— And the Member for Flin Flon says not much better than nothing; I disagree, a lot better than nothing but not nearly what it could be, not nearly what it could be, and it has some very serious weaknesses; it has some very serious faults. And yet, because of the type of posturing that has gone on, they became locked into that program before they had a chance to test it; they became locked into their old ad hoc sort of system dealing with this problem before they had a chance to really examine it. And that's why we wanted a Royal Commission. That's why we wanted the scientific and medical community to take charge of this problem and to come up with the answers, of course. And I think they can. I have great trust in them. And then it would be up to the government to implement the recommendations of that Royal Commission. But that hasn't happened, and so we have lost a year.

There is also another reason for that Royal Commission, Mr. Chairperson. There are some 13,000 toxic substances in the workplaces today. There are some 3,000 to 15,000 new chemicals coming into the work forces each year, and we don't have the type of data on them that we should have. We don't understand their ramifications, their contraindications. We don't understand their effects on human life as well as we should. Many of them have proven to be carcinogenic, and that's a very major problem in the Province of Manitoba.

You know Canadian Business — I believe it was Canadian Business — did a survey not too long ago of areas in the country where cancer was a major problem, and Winnipeg was one of those areas. They did by census charts, they did a survey of the census tracts and it showed that Winnipeg ranks in the top 20 percent of census tracts having a high level of cancer. So we do have a problem with carcinogenics in the Province of Manitoba.

To get back to the Royal Commission, the reason we wanted the Royal Commission was, first, to investigate lead, which is a very immediate problem, an extremely immediate problem, but I would like to see it a Standing Commission. I would like to see it go on and investigate some of the other toxic substances that currently exist and that are coming into the work force. I'd like to see it be a standing body that would compile scientific and medical information. I would like to see it be a Standing Committee that would make recommendations, and I would like to see the government heed that advice because right now, right now, we're just pumping the workplaces full of chemicals, pumping them full of chemicals literally and we have no safeguards for the workers, no safeguards for the workers. We don't know what's going to happen 20 years down the road.

Some of those chemicals are synergistic, Mr. Chairperson, which means that Chemical A and Chemical B are going to react and "kabam" we're going to have problems; we're going to have

a major industrial problem in any number of years. We're sitting on a chemical time-bomb.

So I wanted a Royal Commission for that reason, also; to start out with lead and to continue on and to investigate all the toxins, all the substances, to develop some process by which we can judge the danger levels, the hazard levels.

The Minister says that they've got to do some work on threshold limit values. He said that in his opening remarks. He said that the limit for lead has to come down. Well, he's right; he's absolutely correct, but how is he going to do it? He has got an overworked Workplace Safety and Health Division that, to their shame, they didn't fund properly. They can't handle that job. Where are the magic TLVs going to come from? Is 50 micrograms per whole blood a good level for adults in workplaces or is 80 a good level, a safe level? Is 20 a safe level for children or is 50 a safe level? You know, these are questions that face almost every industrial society today, and most industrial societies are taking hold of the issue and coming to grips with the issue and saying, "We need some help; we need some help." And that's all we wanted to do with a Royal Commission is provide the Minister with some help, because the problems are there. The problems are far more widespread and our knowledge is increasing in leaps and bounds and they don't even have the capacity to integrate the knowledge that is coming from everywhere else into their own system. They don't have that capacity. They are understaffed. They are understaffed, a blanket statement, no qualifications. They don't have the capacity even to integrate existing knowledge, because it is coming at such a fast clip; it is coming in leaps and bounds; it is coming in volumes upon volumes.

You know, I started looking at lead, and the information that has come out in the past year would probably fill this room, literally fill this room — and I'm not kidding — up to the dome, and it's a high ceiling here. It's a high ceiling here. That's how much information is coming out.

They could take every member of the Workplace Safety and Health Division and put them in a room and say, "Come up with some TLVs", and two years later they couldn't do it because they wouldn't have gone through the information. And yet the Minister admits that there is a need for new threshold limit values, new permissible exposure limits.

So I am asking him to take heed of what other jurisdictions have done. I want to see Manitoba in the forefront. I don't want to see them lagging behind. I want to see them in the forefront of protecting their workers, and they are not. They are not. And we were making some progress, and suddenly we have stopped and we have lost a full year. But it's not too late; it's not too late.

And I can only ask myself, why don't they want that Royal Commission? Surely it can't be because it would delay the process of cleaning up the workplaces. They have the Workplace Safety and Health Act. They have their Lead Control Program, which they can still use. That can't be the real reason. It can't be money. At least, I hope it's not money. I hope the restraint mentality hasn't sunk to that depth. I hope that we haven't suddenly said we can't have a Royal Commission to protect and safeguard not only the workers today but the workers' children tomorrow, because that's how far this problem reaches. I hope that's not the reason. And I, in credit, I give them sometimes more credit than they deserve but I don't think that is the reason. I can only ask why. You know, it keeps coming back and it doesn't make sense to me either. The only reason it keeps coming back is they're afraid of what a Royal Commission will say. They are afraid of what a Royal Commission could say, because, you know, a Royal Commission is going to come down hard. That's a fact. A Royal Commission is going to say, "The problem is a very serious problem." They are also going to say that the problem is a very immediate problem, and they are also going to say that, as a government, you have a responsibility to the workers and the workers' children and you are going to have to make changes. You are going to have to come down hard on the companies that are polluting.

Now, you will note that I did not say you were going to have to come down hard on the companies; I said, "You are going to have to come down hard on the companies that are polluting." And there are numbers of them, Mr. Chairperson.

Quite frankly, I think they are afraid of them. I think they're afraid that an august body, such as a Royal Commission, would come back, after reviewing the information and say, "You are going to have to implement many of the things that, say, OSHA has implemented." And the industries reaction, the lead-using industries, the LIA, I believe it is . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I will try to sum up.

The Lead Industries Association in the United States has fought tooth and nail the recommendations made by OSHA, and the government has had to stand firm. The government has had to decide between the workers and the companies that are polluting the workers. That's

a tough decision, not an easy decision. The morality of it is obvious. The morality of it is self-evident but the decision itself means that we are going to have some confrontation, that the government is going to have to put up or shut up because it will be out in black and white.

They can't rely on the co-operation. Co-operation has not worked in the 40-some years that Canadian Bronze has been around. They have had ample opportunity to co-operate and they have not. They have chosen not to co-operate. They have made a conscious decision not to co-operate. So, again, a blanket statement, no qualifications, voluntary co-operation with the lead-using industries, by and large, is not going to work. There is going to need to be regulations; there is going to need to be legislation, and I can only assume that the government is afraid of coming to that step where they have to impose upon the companies that are polluting for the good of the people of the province. But they will have to come to that step, because the people will force them to that position. The people will not stand idly back and let their husbands and their wives be polluted and let their children be polluted, as they have done in the past. There is too much awareness of the problem for that to occur very much longer.

So what I am asking them to do is get the help that they have coming to them, get the help that they obviously need and do something now about not only lead, Mr. Chairperson, but those 13,000 toxins, the 13,000 toxins that are out there in the work force, out there in the environment, and that are a chemical time-bomb, a chemical time-bomb, for the Province of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to dwell on the lead-in-blood but I did notice in a report under this item and, as I mentioned to the Member for Churchill, as he was speaking, that there were 513 analyses taken on air, serum, urine, blood and other media, and, of that, 100 sales were in excessive of accepted standards. Now, that's a ratio of one out of five.

I wonder if the Minister could give us a breakdown as to the kind of areas that these samples were taken in and whether they related to any particular industry or to any particular area.

MR. MacMASTER: I will attempt to get that breakdown for the member, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FOX: Yes, the other area, I believe I asked earlier in respect to noise pollution, as to the kind of thrust and approach the department was taking. I realize that some time back, through my own industry, that there was a program developed to start testing people in respect to noise pollution and, of course, to the ability that was taking place in respect to hearing. That is fine in the large areas where you have a good working Safety Committee with an ongoing program, and even there I find that it doesn't always come to grips with the particular problem, that there are just sporadic efforts made to cut the noise pollution down. There are some hearing aids given so that they would eliminate some of the pollution.

But, generally, what I would like to know — and I would suppose that in the construction industry this would probably be even worse — what kind of a program the Minister has going and what he foresees will be done towards this. Because this has been a relatively uneducated area in respect to Workplace Safety and Health and is just beginning to be recognized as such now. So possibly the Minister could give some explanation of that particular program.

MR. MacMASTER: There was, Mr. Chairman, a pilot project started last year which we are going to expand on this year in the WestMan region of the province. The Workplace Safety and Health Division will be responsible for conducting noise exposure level surveys in the physical workplace, while the Department of Health and Community Services will be responsible for conducting audiometric testing on the exposed worker. The object of the survey is to determine the potential for industrial induced hearing loss and to explore possible initial procedures. Workplaces were selected and will be selected this year that were felt to be noisy. Subsequent on-site testing, original subjective evaluation, we hope to be valid since all the selected workplaces had and will have high noise levels. Now that pilot project last year, we're not satisfied with the entire project and we're going to expand on that this particular year, Mr. Chairman.

I have part of the other answer, I'll get it for you just in a minute.

MR. FOX: I'm happy to hear that there's a pilot project going. Being a power engineer I have come to the conclusion that probably part of my problem here, even in this Chamber, is that noise pollution is gradual and that it's debilitating over a long period of time and one doesn't even realize it until it's already way past the stage where you can try to make an effort to compare and then try to get compensation for it. So I suppose I'm one of those unfortunates who is going to have to live with it because there is no way I can prove that I had good hearing when I started out

in the industry.

So I would just suggest that I would hope there would be some research done that those who are now involved in industry of the various kinds that have noise pollution, that there would be a continual assessment because as I said it's a sort of a cumulative thing like the Chinese water torture — one drop at a time — after a while the last drop is like a sledge hammer and by then it's too late to realize that you should have done something about it.

So I commend the Minister that he's got a pilot project going. I would hope that this program will expand as rapidly as possible and that there will definitely be some research in order to co-ordinate and get the program expanded as fast as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister wasn't going to respond to my colleague from Kildonan, this was a matter that I had some little interest in and I just came in towards the end of my colleague's remarks and I'm pleased to hear that there is a pilot project under way.

I wonder if the Minister could tell me what the extent of this research into noise-induced hearing loss is? How many people within the department are working on it? To what extent are people being screened for possible hearing loss? Can the Minister tell me whether The Workplace Safety and Health Act includes the matter of noise pollution in the workplace, whether if there are any complaints in this regard, whether an inspector can investigate and to what extent the inspectors are trained and able to carry on an inspection in this regard?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, it's rather, to be quite blunt, it's a little difficult to put the whole picture together. We're doing more than what I've said to the Member for Kildonan, because I was aware in bits and pieces of hearing, over a period of the last three or four months when I've been Minister of certain particular plants, being told by our inspectors that certain areas were too noisy, that they should be supplying the earmuff type protection and there's a variety of them, and I just confirmed it with my staff that that in fact does take place with the inspectors. But I also confirm that the whole process isn't put together in a package that I could present at this particular time.

So the only thing I can say is that the inspectors are in fact doing some of these kinds of things and I would hope, more than hope, I know that as of tomorrow we are going to start talking about the areas where they are doing this, the areas where they have implemented this, the kind of co-operation they have received, the type of complaints they've been getting.

I've been aware of concern for the hearing of mankind for quite some time. I've watched systems being implemented in a variety of industries where, for example, in the mining industry there is a great number of jobs just within the last three or four years that it has become compulsory that you do wear earmuffs or ear plugs. I don't think there's been a specific program in place demanding this of all industries, but it's certainly one that bears looking at, not only the pilot project we're doing but I think we should put together what in fact is taking place in the industry and how it can be upgraded, so we can in fact do it more systematically. I think, in all honesty, it's been done on a bit of an ad hoc sort of a basis up till now and I think there should be more emphasis placed on it during the year 1979, and we intend to embark on that particular area of concern and I think put it all together so we can all talk intelligently about what is really taking place in the industry.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to hear that the Minister has a concern in this area. Can he tell me whether the matter of noise pollution is included under The Workplace Safety and Health Act and can he tell me if the inspectors do a routine test in the workplaces that they go into, or is it only upon complaint?

MR. MacMASTER: At the moment it's more responsive — responding to — and I've been informed that that response comes from companies and safety committees and individuals. Again I don't apologize, I just say the fact of the matter is that there is not a set routine in place and I think that's what we have to work towards. The staff tell me they have responded to companies' requests, Workplace Safety's requests, individuals' requests and I don't think that's satisfactory. I think it has to be tightened up a bit, quite a bit.

I think the Member for Kildonan asked for an idea of the number of workers that we project will be involved. We project over 400 in the Brandon area this particular year, that will be in this program, this pilot project.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister satisfied that his inspectors have the necessary expertise to be able to measure and assess the noise levels in the workplace that they go into to inspect?

MR. MacMASTER: I'm satisfied with the work that the people presently have been doing. I'm not satisfied, as I've outlined as I went through my estimates, that our people are trained to the fullest of their capabilities. I think they're very capable people, capable of absorbing more knowledge in relationship to a variety of things and this is one of them, and that's why we are looking for training officers and that's why we are looking for people to upgrade our inspectors. So I guess if the member is saying am I satisfied that our people are totally equipped, no, I'm not satisfied, and I'm not satisfied with the opportunity that they've been given to equip themselves. That's why I think we have to expand in that particular area and we so intend to do.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister's inspectors respond to a request and go into a workplace do they measure the noise level by audiometer or decibel meter or whatever it's called, or is it simply a subjective opinion on their part?

MR. MacMASTER: They would call in, Mr. Chairman, the industrial hygienist and there would be an audiometric test that she would do. They would make the observation and they would call in a professional to do the testing.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, the Minister used the term audiometric testing, which I understand is a term that is used for testing people and not for testing noise levels. Could he be a little more specific on that so that I'm not misled by his terminology?

MR. MacMASTER: There is different pieces of equipment that we use and I'll get the names so I'm not misleading myself, or misleading the member, I'll get the proper technical names for the pieces of equipment that are used and get it to the member.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'm not that concerned with the proper scientific name of the instrument used for testing, all I wanted to get clear is to whether it is the hearing of the workers that is being tested or whether it is the noise level within the workplace that is being tested.

MR. MacMASTER: Another explanation — I understand that the people who in fact were complaining about their own hearing, that they're referred to the Department of Health, but the testing that we would do is the noise testing within the environment. I don't have the name of the pieces of equipment but if we can divorce the two pieces; one, if there is a specific complaint to him then he can be referred to the Department of Health, but the noise within the industry is done by our particular people with their own equipment.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I want to ask the Minister what standard is used to judge whether the noise level within that particular environment is excessive or not?

MR. MacMASTER: The scale that is used is for a duration per day, if it was 16 hours, it is 80 decibels; 8 hours, it is 85; 4 hours is 90; 2 is 95; 1 is 100; ½ is 105; ¼ is 110; and ⅛ is really no exposure but they do say 115. One-eighth of an hour, it is pretty difficult to break it down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: I thank the Minister for that information. I would like to ask him if he could elaborate on that standard. Is that a mandatory provincial standard or is that simply a rule of thumb developed within the branch or is that a Canadian standard? Is it in fact enforced and are there other jurisdictions within the country or on this continent that also have similar standards for noise pollution and how does our standard compare with the others?

MR. MacMASTER: I'll attempt tomorrow to establish other provincial jurisdictions but we suspect that it's as good as any that's being used in the country. Now, the information out of it came from the American Association of Government Industrial Hygienists, that's where the threshold originated from. The question of course is, what other jurisdictions in Canada are using it or if it is high or low or whatever, and that's a fair question and I'll endeavour tomorrow to get some people on the phone and we'll get that specific answer back to the member of how we rate in our jurisdictions

across the country.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also asked the Minister whether this was a provincial regulation or whether it is a rule of thumb or an industry standard. Could he answer that question, please?

MR. MacMASTER: It's a standard that we use specifically when we go in, when we're responding to — it's not a provincial regulation.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to understand then just what this standard is. If it is not a provincial regulation, is it then not enforced or is it simply a recommended standard and that the particular company, it is perhaps recommended or advised that it should not exceed this particular limit or that it should provide ear protection, hearing protection for its employees in those circumstances?

MR. MacMASTER: At the moment, it is recommendations that we have been using and consideration during the year 1979 to this entire problem of hearing is going to have to be dealt with by our department. As I have said very bluntly and I think very honestly, it's an ad hoc sort of a situation at the moment and that's not satisfactory.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised this whole matter of hearing and hearing loss to include noise-induced hearing loss with the Honourable Minister of Health at his departmental Estimates. He did comment on it rather briefly but referred me to the Minister of Labour and said that most of the work in this area was being done. I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that is probably the reason why not more is being done in this area, that it is an interdepartmental problem and I recall from previous years that issues or matters that fell between or across departments tended to get sloughed off by each of them, whereas programs that came entirely within one department tended to be concentrated on more.

I raised the matter with the Minister of Health on the much wider basis of the population at large and the damage that is being done to the hearing of Manitobans in general. It would seem from the replies from the Minister of Health that very little is being done generally but that a start has been made in the Department of Health and specifically in the workplace. That is probably a logical place to start because there is very little leeway that a worker has. He goes to work and he stays there for eight hours and he is subject to whatever the noise level is, whereas noise levels in some other establishments are to a certain extent voluntary.

I have heard some figures that might suggest somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of the entire population suffers some degree of hearing loss. Now, that is caused, I know, by a number of different factors, aging being one and some cases are congenital. Various chemicals, I understand, could have an effect on hearing as well. But one of the major causes of hearing loss is noise-induced hearing loss. I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that this will develop into one of our major health problems. I have been informed that more people suffer from hearing loss than from the three major diseases of mankind all put together. I have been further informed, in looking into this matter, that the matter of noise-induced hearing loss can be differentiated from other forms of hearing loss because of a particular part of the audiogram which is produced under testing.

I would also suspect, Mr. Chairman, that the standards mentioned by the Minister will be found, after further investigation is done, to be in fact too high, as we have found out in a number of other areas where certain arbitrary limits have been put on mercury contamination, lead contamination, but as more research and investigation is done, that these permissible, tolerable limits have been found to be too high and have had to be reduced. I suspect that that will be the particular case involved with noise pollution.

I do commend the Minister for the work that has been done and I sympathize with him in the remarks that he makes about the matter being done on a rather ad hoc basis so far. I would hope that he can prevail upon his colleagues in Cabinet to make more money available for this cause. Perhaps the whole present split jurisdiction between Labour and Health can be amalgamated into one area under one particular department so that the work on it can be co-ordinated more.

I am particularly concerned, Mr. Chairman, with the noise that is produced electronically and particularly with music. If you have been to a social lately or a disco, as my colleague from Flin Flon says, and he is a little bit more of a swinger than I am because I don't go to those places, you will know, Mr. Chairman, that it is almost impossible to carry on a conversation at one of these functions because of the noise level. They seem to have only two switches on those machines, off and deafening. —(Interjection)— I'm glad I got some support from my colleague on the back bench opposite that he finds this deafening noise as objectionable as I do. I suspect this has been noted

in the press that we are raising a group of teenagers who will be half-deaf by the time they reach 30, and that really concerns me because the obvious remedy for people who have some difficulty in hearing is to turn the volume up louder. Now, that simply becomes self-defeating but I sympathize with my colleague in front who has some hearing loss, and others in this Chamber do as well, and I wish the Honourable Minister well in seeing that more is done in this particular regard to safeguard future generations of Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass; (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, before we get past the (a), I just want to say a few more things. I did commend the Minister for his pilot program and I have to say that probably his staff wasn't aware, but the program did start more than just last year; it started about two or three years back but it was sporadic and I don't exactly know to what extent it was carried out. But it did start with the development of The Workplace Safety and Health Act.

The area that I would like the Minister to really take a hard look at is that there has to be some research into this particular area. It isn't sufficient in industry to determine that there is noise pollution because that is only part of the problem. The other part of the problem is the solution to it, and the earmuffs or plugs or other variety of aids are sometimes, in some industries, more hazardous than the fact that they are there for the protection of hearing, because if people can't hear and they are in a very dangerous area, then if you eliminate the noise pollution, you create a problem of other safety problems with the earmuffs, so therefore the earmuffs get thrown away. And so there has to be more research into this particular area to cover the industries, the various kinds of noise pollution that occurs. There are ways of deadening walls and creating other auditory methods of eliminating the pollution that is created so that the people who work there can work under safe conditions. As you know, if someone is trying to call to you and you have earmuffs on, because there is a hazard that you are not seeing, you are in just as much difficulty as if you are going to have the noise pollution give you some problems.

So I am saying that the whole field has to be researched and really investigated so that not only the detection of the pollution can be found, but also a better solution that just earmuffs, ear plugs or cotton batting, as is the case so often.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we leave this item, I just want to make a few comments on it and ask a couple of questions. The Minister has given us what the division is condoning as an acceptable decibel level of noise pollution gauged on the number of hours that the person in the workplace will be exposed to this noise pollution. That in itself and the facts that other members have brought out, but what I want to know from the Minister is, in the vicinity of these plants, there sometimes are residential areas and people working, well, they may be working in other light industries in the area where the noise decibel rate not only is a hazard in the plant but is a hazard in the immediate vicinity. I know that two or three years ago, that the inspection for this was being carried out by the Environmental Section of the Department of Mines, Resources and Natural Environment. Is this still being carried out by — this function of noise decibel pollution — is this still being carried out by the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, or has this now shifted to the Workplace Safety and Health? Oh, I see, the noise pollution, exterior noise pollution outside of plants is still the responsibility of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in his Environmental Branch. Perhaps again, as the Member for St. Vital has said, what we seem to get here is so many split jurisdictions that it becomes almost impossible for policing of problems such as exist, and it is to be hoped that the minister when he's taking this under consideration, that perhaps he and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources should be getting together on the item of noise pollution, of heavy industry and whatnot, that they take into consideration when they are making recommendations, and I agree that sometimes it's very difficult to dampen the noises down that become involved in industry because of the type and the nature of the industry. Nevertheless, there are methods, as has been suggested by the Member for Kildonan, and they not only work to the betterment of the people involved in the actual plant itself; they would in many cases work to the betterment of people in the vicinity, who are working, or maybe even residential

areas that might be close to where the conditions exist.

I also want to raise a matter with the minister, which was one I raised with him this afternoon, and he referred me to the Industrial Hygiene, and that was when I said — I asked the minister on Page 27 of his Annual Report, where the branch monitors developments in health and safety fields in this province and other jurisdictions, and I referred specifically to the lead-in-air, lead-in-blood levels and the minister said that that was not the right — I believe we were on the Safety and Health Inspection at that time — and he said, Industrial Hygiene would be the section in which to raise this matter.

What steps has the branch been taking to ascertain what types of acceptable levels of blood pollution, blood contamination by lead-producing industries in other parts of Canada, in other parts of North America or anywhere where, as the Member for Churchill has said, extensive studies have been carried out in the United States, and the levels that we now seem to tend to accept here in Manitoba now no longer seem to be acceptable levels, and I would want to be assured that the division — and the minister seems to feel that a Royal Commission is not called for, as my colleague has suggested by resolution and by asking the minister on many, many occasions in the House. But the fact is that the minister has a program which he says is acceptable, but then again how sure is he that these levels that he's working under his plan are acceptable, when we find that other jurisdictions, especially in the United States, have found that .08 is no longer the acceptable level, but something of .05 I think now is what they are recommending. And it certainly would be something that, if the minister is not going to institute or recommend to Cabinet that a Royal Commission be set up, then I think he should have people working within his department to examine what has been done elsewhere, and to be working towards better levels than what we are doing.

Another problem I want to raise with the minister too, is one that I raised with the Minister of Mines and the Environment. That is, the Minister of Mines' report said that tests should be carried out by a certified lab. We now find out that we have no such institution in Manitoba. We have no certified lab. The Provincial Laboratory is not certified. The Health Sciences Laboratory, which does some testing, is certainly not certified.

I would ask the minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, if there are any certified laboratories in Canada, and just what would constitute the recommendations, qualifications, and whatnot that would be required for a laboratory to become certified? Especially when we have had, I wouldn't say arguments, but we've had certain opinions that testing done by the Health Sciences Laboratory, and tests done by the Provincial Laboratory don't seem to jive. They don't seem to come together.

Now, is the minister prepared to look at the field of being able to make sure that we get a certified Provincial Laboratory here in Manitoba? I think this was perhaps something that even if we set up a Royal Commission on the lead contamination, that maybe it might come out even as a recommendation. But I'm not saying that the Provincial Laboratory is not doing a good job, and I'm not saying that the Health Sciences Centre is not doing a good job, but I'm not qualified to tell you, Mr. Chairman, or the minister or anybody else what constitutes a certified laboratory. But from the information that we've been able to elicit from the two ministers, we don't have such a laboratory in Manitoba. And I would like the minister to tell us, and if he doesn't know, to take it under advisement — either he or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources — that I think if his department is recommending that lead-in-blood level tests should be done by a certified laboratory, that there must have been someone somewhere in either one of the two departments making some recommendation that such a laboratory might be set up.

The new Environmental Lab that we are in the process of building now, is it envisaged that there we will have the conditions, the qualified people, in order to become a certified testing laboratory for not only blood-in-level testing but other types of testing that a Provincial Laboratory would carry out

And so I would ask the minister if he can give us his thoughts on this matter, and whether he has any recommendations to make either to his departmental staff or to the staff, or recommendation, I know he can't make recommendations to the staff of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, but he can certainly talk to the minister and I think between the two of them, since it has been suggested that the testing should be carried out by certified laboratories or a certified laboratory, then I think if that is the criteria that either one or the other department have set forth, then I think we should be hurrying posthaste to make sure that we do have a certified testing laboratory in place here in Manitoba for testing of industrial hygiene conditions, and if the minister could give us a few answers on that, then I'll sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Canada's major concern has been the quality control, not so much the establishment of certified labs. The members may have noticed a release some time ago from myself that Mr. Jack King is Manitoba's representative on the New Canadian Centre for Occupational Safety and Health. The Federal Government is establishing this Centre for safety and health in Canada, which I can't predetermine what all they're going to be doing, but I certainly know that it's going to be a similar operation to the Occupation and Health Administration, the OSHA situation in the United States. They're going to be a centre that, in fact, collects and researches and compares and evaluates and monitors, and all those things on a Canadian scene, in comparison to what they're doing in the American scene. This has never been done before in Canada. The provinces have a variety of standards, as I've outlined in my answers this evening. Some of them I'm not even sure.

But I'm pleased that not only was Jack King Manitoba's representative, he's now been put on the Board of, I think it's called Governors, and there's five for Canada, and he's one of them representing Western Canada. So we do certainly have representation at the very highest level on that particular group.

I would think, to follow the line of the questioning — When are labs in Canada going to start to be certified? — I would think that this particular group are the ones that are eventually, and I suppose . . . I've talked to Jack about these things, and I think that will be one of their, I can't tell them what to do, but I expect that will be one of their top priorities, to get labs certified and to set up quality controls in Canada.

You are still comparing your quality controls with a lot of major institutions in the States. When we compare the lead levels in Manitoba to other jurisdictions, it's interesting that the lead-in-air in Manitoba is 150 micrograms per cubic meter, while OSHA in the United States, their standard is 200. Their standard is 50 greater than ours in in Manitoba. The American National Standards Institute is 200, and East and West Germany and Holland are 200 — that's the only names of ones that I have at the particular moment.

So, Mr. Chairman, we, in fact, are better than those particular institutes who are recommending, and those particular groups who a lot of North Americans, including ourselves, take heed to and pay attention to. It's also interesting that our .08 is when a man or a woman comes off the job. OSHA in the United States, .08 means that he has moved to another area within the plant. And our .07 is when he's moved to another area within the plant. So I think, Mr. Chairman, I have said in this House in answers to the questions across that .08 is not set or cast in stone, even as it is now in Manitoba, but it is more comparable and it's better than what they have with OSHA, and what they have in the United States right as of today.

The facts are that there are court cases pending, as we all know, in the United States, anybody that's followed the situation, but my information is that it was in February of 1980 that changes from the .08, even in the mix of all these court cases, that's when the changes were to take place. Now, I bear correcting on these, but that's the information that I have, that today our .08 people come off the job and in the United States with OSHA .08 they're moved within the job. In Manitoba, .07 they're moved within the workplace. So, we're not only comparable on the lead, but we're comparable and better in the air.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have to correct at least one statement, and I will fully intend to correct other statements that the minister has just made, but as he well knows, and it's the first paragraph of the Rules and Regulations out of the Federal Register, from the Department of Labour Occupational Safety and Health Administration, entitled "Occupational Exposure to Lead — the Final Standard" dated Tuesday, 14th, 1978. It says: "The final standard of limits, occupational exposure to lead, to 50 micrograms per cubic metre based on an eight-hour time weighted average. The basis for this action is evidence that exposure to lead must be maintained below this level to prevent material impairment of health or functional capacity to exposed employees." And what the standard says is that it will be brought down to that level over a period of time, and I will have to go through the entire standard to find out what times, what the particular time limits are on that standard. But can the Minister confirm that the final standard is 50 micrograms per cubic metre of air, and can the Minister indicate if he intends to bring Manitoba's level down to that same standard within five years, as OSHA has indicated that they are going to?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I think I just said that our standards are not cast in stone. That means that they are not going to be there forever. The fact of the matter is that we are better today than when the program was implemented. We were better and are better today than they are with the standards that are exercised in the United States under OSHA and under the American

National Standards Institute. We are better than them today and by saying — I repeat that it is not cast in stone — we know that those standards are going to be lowered in time. I haven't got an earmarked particular time but I'm sure that the mass of court cases in the States are going to be watched very closely to see not only whether it is dollar-wise or whether it is technically possible to bring those standards down — I assume as a layman that it would be possible to bring them down to some degree without too much technical change — I don't know whether the projected levels that are being proposed in the United States is technically possible and I think, and again I don't know for sure, but I suspect that that's probably what some of the court cases are about, what the fight is really about, that some, for whatever reason and we can call it economic or we can call it physical, you can call it technologically, you can call it anything, but for whatever reasons, those in the States are claiming that it is either not possible or they are not prepared to accept it. I haven't followed all the cases but we are certainly going to follow them with interest as the results start tumbling out and what new levels are going to and how it has been established they can get there and why it's been established they should get there.

Those are interesting points. There is no question, Mr. Chairman, that we are looking at those points and we're interested as heck in it, but right today, we still, and I state, we're still better than they are in the United States. Will we be better at this time next year? I don't know where they're going and what new information will come up, what new technology comes out which makes it possible for industries to bring it down, what new methods of operation. But that's what the battle is about in the United States today. I don't know all the details but I certainly have heard enough and read the odd bit and piece of paper that my staff shoots through to me and that I pick up in other places, because I'm very interested in this particular area too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, there is quite a difference between not cast in stone and a compliance program that over a period of five years says, we will bring a level down to a certain level because that level has been deemed to be acceptable, that level has been deemed to be attainable and that level has been deemed to be proper for the workers in that workforce. There is a big difference between saying we are going to do that in a systematic organized manner and saying that, well, maybe next year we'll be better, maybe next year we'll be worse.

The government is responding in its typical manner, ad hocism. Ad hocism. They don't want to find out if they should set about now on a systematic program to lower the levels. The final standard for OSHA says that temporary medical removal is mandated for any worker having an elevated blood lead level at or above 60 micrograms per 100 grams of whole blood, and at or above 50 micrograms per 100 grams of whole blood average over the previous six months. That's what they are shooting for and they are going about it in a manner by which the companies know exactly what is expected of them, the workers know what is expected of them, the lead-using industries know what is expected of them, the government knows what is expected of them. There are regulations. I would ask the Minister now, what happens if Canadian Bronze exceeds a level of 150 micrograms per cubic metre of air? Can he tell us right now what action is going to be taken against that company?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, the member keeps very intentionally evading the situation and the facts and the fact are that today we are better off than they are as far as our standards go. That's a fact that seems to be attempting to get buried. When samples are taken and the situation is brought to our attention of limits that exceed it, we will deal with it accordingly. I'm not going to talk about hypothetical situations of something that might or might not take place. Let's hope those types of things don't take place but when they do, I think we have demonstrated in this House and have demonstrated in the province that we are prepared to take action where it's necessary.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Taking action and taking good positive action are two different things. This government has been willing to spurt here and spurt there when a problem crops up, but if they want to use the instance of Canadian Bronze and tell us that they are going to take action when they exceed the level of 150 micrograms of lead per cubic metre there, I ask the Minister right now to table the latest report from Canadian Bronze, to table the latest lead-in-air survey and let us see if any of those work sites at that operation exceed the maximum exposure limit. Is the Minister prepared to do that right now so we know what we are talking about? Will he table the latest lead-in-air survey for Canadian Bronze?

MR. MacMASTER: That's part of the member's Order for Return which will be turned in as soon as we can get it together.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, it's not going to wash; it's not going to wash. In the first year of the standard which has just started, it started last year, the employee shall be removed at a level of 80 micrograms per hundred grams over a daily eight-hour day time weighted average. Now, when the Minister uses the PEL or the TLV in Manitoba for 80 micrograms per hundred grams of whole blood, is he implying that that is done on a time weighted average?

MR. MacMASTER: Let the member rephrase his question, if he wishes to read it all.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, in the first year of their standard, the OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, has said that an employee will be medically removed with full compensation — it's fully outlined as to the procedures that are available to the worker, which isn't fully outlined in this particular province. It is fully outlined how that worker shall be removed and at what remuneration that worker should get. And it says that the worker shall be removed when the level of the worker's blood is at or above 80 micrograms of lead per whole blood over and — "He shall be removed from an area having a daily eight-hour time weighted average exposure to lead at or above 100 micrograms per cubic metre."

Now, does Manitoba make the same sort of detailed provisions for a worker who has been exposed to lead in this province?

MR. MacMASTER: In Manitoba there is no hesitation or reservation; if it is .08, he is off the job.

MR. COWAN: But we're talking about — it's .08, okay, and I'll read the Minister's program to him so that he is aware of what's written down on paper. It says, a worker shall be immediately removed from lead-containing environment until his lead-in-blood level drops below .07 micrograms. The worker may then return to lower exposure areas until his level drops below .06, providing his level continued to improve as described above.

What they are saying is they are not taking the worker off the job. They are saying they are removing him from a lead-containing environment, which could be putting him or she in another area of the plant smelter or operation. This has yet to be tested and I would be interested in when it is tested because there are no regulations to back it up. This program that the Minister talks about that's better than OSHA starts out by saying that participation in the program by for all companies designated by the Minister will become mandatory. Yet the Minister has backstepped, moved away, denied that from the very day he wrote it, or someone wrote it for the Minister, however it came about. He is now saying it will be voluntary. So there is nothing in legislation, there is nothing in regulation that says that this shall happen. So how is the Minister going to enforce it; how is the Minister going to enforce that provision of his program if there's no legislation and no regulation? What happened to the democratic system? Perhaps the Minister can answer what penalties he is going to bring against a company that does not abide by this program which is called, "Elements of a Lead Control Program" which is undated, unsigned and has never been brought before this Legislature for any sort of debate or consideration by the Legislature, which is the method by which one would use in legislation, and has not been put in the form of regulations so it has no provisions to invoke penalties.

So what is the Minister going to do when a company says, look, we are not going to do that; we are not going to remove that person from the job? What's his action then?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I have said from the beginning and I do not choose to change that at this particular moment. I haven't had reason to change our approach which is a co-operative approach by the Safety and Health Committees and the companies. People who unfortunately have been found to have excess readings have been removed with no question, orders have been issued, and I think in the particular case of one company I think it's evident that, without these great regulations that we supposedly need to do something, it hasn't been found necessary.

I have said to the members opposite that if it's found necessary to impose regulations or establish legislation, I'll have no hesitation in doing that, and I think all the parties involved are aware that that is a very real possibility, but to date it hasn't been necessary knowing something about establishing safety committees and how they work, and I've said it before and I'll say it again, there's just no way they'll work unless there's a tremendous amount of co-operation and appreciation on both sides, and that hasn't always taken place. I don't think you necessarily legislate that or order that; I think that has to be done through education and appreciation of both sides with the continued presence of government, which is now there and very real. And I think it's going to work. I could be proven to be wrong. I hope not, but if I am then the appropriate actions will be taken to rectify

the situation.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, we have a pollyanna Minister of Labour. You know, co-operation has been around for a long, long time and so has lead in the environment, and so has it been a problem, and yet we have a company, Canadian Bronze, firing a worker, it's charged, because he had high lead-in-blood levels. Now, that's removed from the job, and I'm referring to the Dykes' case — I believe that's how you pronounce it, D-y-k-e-s — to the Dykes' case where the Manitoba Labour Board ruled against the individual who had been fired from his job because he had high lead-in-blood levels. Is that how the Minister is going to have the worker removed from his job? That has happened. That has happened' Mr. Chairperson, so that there is no doubt as to what ASHA is going to do, and there is no doubt to what the province is setting itself up as having a record to follow.

In the first year, as I said before, 80 micrograms is an action at trigger level. In the second year the standard, employees shall be removed from work area having a daily eight hour time weighted exposure to lead at or above 50 micrograms — that's next year, Mr. Chairperson — 50 micrograms on each occasion that a periodic and a follow-up blood sampling test conducted pursuant to this section indicate that the employees blood lead level is at, or above, 70 micrograms of whole blood. So already in the second year they're better than the program that the Minister has put forth.

In the third year the employee will be removed from an area having 50 micrograms of lead per cubic meter when they have a blood lead level at, or above, 60 micrograms. And in the fifth year we drop down to 50 micrograms, so the record is very plain. SHA has mapped out a five year plan to bring the leadO -using industries down to acceptable levels and to bring the contamination in those industries down to a level where the worker will be safeguarded and to bring the medical removal provisions of OSHA into line with their final standard of 50 micrograms. And the reason they didn't say this year a worker shall be removed from an area having more than 50 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air, when their blood reaches 50 micrograms of lead per hundred grams of whole blood — the reason they didn't do that is it's going to take some change.

The industries are going to have to go in and implement engineering controls. They are going to have to go in and change work practices. They're going to have to get a grip on the problem. So they gave them five years to do it, and they said, "Look, in five years you have to be at this level. You have to be at this level." And it will go before the courts. Of course it will go before the courts. And it's been ruled on in many instances, and I have no doubt that it will be ruled on favourably. When they dropped the level from 500 to 200, which was a number of years ago, it went before the courts and it stood up in the courts.

And that's the type of activity you would expect from the companies; that's the type of activity you'd expect from the lead-using industries, that when you do drop the limits that they try to buffer the blow — and it is a blow to many of ' them — they try to buffer it by going through the court system. So it was to be expected? And it's no reason. The Minister has a hundred reasons for delaying action. We'll wait and see. If we do not have the Royal Commission now, it'll delay this — a hundred reasons for delaying action, a hundred reasons for not coming right out and saying, "Look, there is a major problem and there are solutions, and let us get about to the task of implementing those solutions."

What he has done is, he has quite seriously hampered his own effectiveness and his own efficiency in dealing with the lead poisoning crisis in the Province of Manitoba. He has done it because he has not given the companies any indication that he is going to protect the workers' safety and health by legislation and regulation, and that's what's necessary. Look, if co-operation worked, would there? Because the companies would say, "We want to create safe work places and healthy workplaces and therefore we will do it. You know, if they want to make a profit, Mr. Chairperson, they make a profit. If they want to create safe and healthy workplaces they can do that also. They haven't done it, and that's why we needed the original workplace safety and health legislation, that's why we needed regulations, and that's why we need a better program than this so-called lead control program that at first was mandatory and is now, Mr. Chairperson, voluntary, and we're seeing it start to fall apart already.

Mr. Chairman, in almost every instance the program that the Minister has developed is weaker than the existing legislation, and it goes about solving the program in the wrong way. The first part is an air sampling program. Well, let's start with the first sentence: "Participation in the program for all companies designated by the Minister will become mandatory." Well, the Minister has designated five companies so far, I understand, and yet when we ask him, what about these other companies? What about Kromar Printing, which is listed in the Workplace Safety and Health list of committees as having hazardous levels of lead, potential lead contamination problems there. It is listed. He can look it up in the Order-in-Council that designates 313 companies as needing safety

committees, and then he can look along the side where it says, "Hazardous conditions", and there are a number, there are three or four, and I brought them to the Minister's attention in this House during the Question Period. There are three or four that are listed as having lead as a hazard, yet the Minister has not implemented his program. He has ignored those three or four, plus there are numerous others because 313 work sites does not encompass by any means the range of work sites that are in this province. There are many others that have potential lead contamination problems.

There's a battery-braking outfit out in Brandon has been brought to the Minister's attention, and I hes name because I'm not certain of it, but I know it was br attention on the 24 Hours Program. Has he done anything about that? There's a couple of battery operations here in the city, battery braking, which, according to SHA is one of the worst places to be O working in regard to potential lead problems. No, they haven't been included in this program, so right off the bat we find that the program does not address itself to the problem, to the entire problem, that it's deal with five now and deal with five later — well, who's to decide that those five later should have to wait? Who's to decide if they should continue to be contaminated and poisoned while the Minister's waiting?

And then he says — his first thought was good, it'd be mandatory, but when we pressed him, will it be mandatory, he said, "No, it will be voluntary." It'll be voluntary. He says, "All lead-using industries will be identified." Next sentence, all lead-using industries will be identified. I'd ask the Minister right now, what lead-using industries in the Province of Manitoba have been identified, and what is being done right now to identify those industries?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass. Could I suggest to the honourable member that it appears that it is getting close to being repetitious. —(Interjection)— I'll make the remarks. And I would ask the member if he has a different manner of asking the Minister different manner of asking the Minister different questions I would allow him to proceed.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps I'll cede to your direction then, Mr. Chairperson. This program that we are talking about is two pages long and we have not gone through it in detail, and I was going to direct my remarks specifically to the program at this juncture and ask the Minister to clarify some of the statements that are made in the program, and I would just ask the Chairperson if he would consider that in itself to be repetitious or if I could have the opportunity to pursue this line of questioning through this program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think that I could probably make the same debate as the Honourable Member for Churchill; I seem to be so familiar with it. But the debate has changed slightly and I'll let the honourable member, if he feels that it is a different tack, I'll let the honourable member proceed.

MR. COWAN: Please, Mr. Chairperson, stop me if you consider me to be going over the same points in this program.

Lead-using industries will be required to have either a safety committee or a safety representative. Can the Minister inform me as to what lead-using industries have been required to have a safety committee or a safety representative under this program, not those that already had them, but under this particular program?

MR. MacMASTER: Under this program, they all have them and the expansion feature is being studied right at this particular moment, appropriate industries as a whole, and batteries are certainly one that is being considered right at this moment. And there are others.

MR. COWAN: Yes, the air sampling program under this Lead Control Program, Mr. Chairperson, Element (1) says, "Industry will be responsible for conducting a routine lead-in-air sampling program."

I would ask the Minister if he would now be willing to commit himself to changing that to say that "Industry and workers, co-operatively", that's his word, "will be responsible for air sampling programs." Is he willing to make that commitment at this juncture?

MR. MacMASTER: That's part of the Training Program that will be taking place in the next year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: So he is not willing to say that that will occur now. Because all it is is a matter of going in and training one or two workers in a workplace right now to be able to go around

with the company when it is making the testing or, better yet, with the Workplace Safety and Health Division, which is . . . You know, government is supposed to be a neutral third party in this, and having the Workplace Safety and Health Division make that sampling rather than saying industry will be responsible for conducting a routine lead-in-air sampling program, that, Sir, to use an old phrase that is bantered about in this House quite frequently, is akin to putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank, because industry are the ones that have the most to lose if the air samples show high and they are the ones who have the most to gain if the air samples show low.

So the next part, Element (2) says "Industry will be responsible for all aspects of engineering controls. The department's only interest would be to ensure afterwards that they were effective in achieving desired results."

So I would ask the Minister if he would not make a commitment to using Section 18(1)(f) of the Workplace Safety and Health Act, which says that regulations may be made prescribing requirements with respect to design, construction, guarding, siting, installation, commissioning, examination, repair and maintenance, alteration, adjustment, dismantling, testing, inspection, use or approval, prior to installation or use of any plant undertaking equipment or machinery.

And the main difference there, Mr. Chairman, is that the Workplace Safety and Health Division will be responsible for adding its expertise prior to the installation rather than afterwards. And, again, to use a cliché, it would be akin to locking the door of the barn after the horse is in the field. Because after you have this expensive machinery in place it's very difficult to make the type of design changes that might be necessary. So it would be far better if the Division would use its talents to help design previous or prior to the installation. Is the Minister willing to make that commitment?

MR. MacMASTER: I think basically that's the responsibility of the companies, to do their own engineering, and we will certainly work with them.

The member, apparently, isn't aware of how the lead testing takes place. It is taken place by buckling on equipment onto the man's belt and an air-intake valve on his collar and he, in fact, during his working period of time where he wanders, that's how the sample is taken. What we're saying in our proposal in that program is that we think the companies should be buying this equipment. We don't think it's necessary that the government should be supplying all this particular equipment. But the method of sampling will be the same. Not the way the men with it any running around taking air samples; it's strapped to their hips and clamped on their collars. They will be the ones that will be taking the sampling.

MR. COWAN: Then I'd only ask the Minister which company has invested in such equipment and which company in the province is currently using it to do their own lead-in-blood testing, and is the Minister willing to table the results that would have to be filed with his department as part of this program? And what is being done to ensure that the companies' equipment is being properly used and what is being done to ensure that the companies' samples are being taken adequately? In other words, he has told us that there is a problem with different labs doing testing. Well, then, there might be a problem with different sorts of testing devices being used by companies, so who is going to ensure that those devices are proper devices? j

MR. MacMASTER: I said to the member that, at the moment, they're all using government equipment and we think that they should be purchasing the equipment themselves because as we expand on the program we're going to be moving into other areas. Initially we were going to be using our own equipment and it will take a roller coaster effect where the companies then, as they come on line, will be required to purchase their own equipment.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Has the Minister entered into negotiations with the company for the purposes of forcing them to buy such equipment? (—Interjection—)

Well, then, Mr. Chairperson, I think that there is a problem there, that the program is not being implemented in that respect and we will find that there are other problems in this regard. While it may be up to the company — to go back to the last statement we were talking about, Element (2) — it may be up to the company to decide what sort of equipment to put in to control ventilation, to control air-flow, to control dust and minimize lead contamination in the workplace.

It also many times happens that they do go and spend a substantial amount of money, such as \$500,000 in the case of Canadian Bronze, and end up not solving the problem, because in Canadian Bronze we still have people being poisoned. So it is my conjecture, it is my hope that the government would come in beforehand and use their expertise and say, "Sit down and go over those plans", just as I believe the Building Codes Division goes over plans to ensure that safety regulations are being followed.

Now, it says, "Each lead-using industry", Element (4), "Each lead-using industry would be required to contract with a member of the medical profession to conduct routine lead-in-blood samples. Samples will be analysed in the department's laboratory ;" and then it says, "which should become certified." And we've been through this debate at some length. It says right in the program that it should become certified, "or at any other certified laboratory recognized by the department." And we know that there is no certified laboratory in Manitoba and the Minister tells us that there is no certified laboratory in Canada, and the Minister of Mines and Resources tells us that no laboratory can become certified in Canada. This is all on the record in Hansard. So again we see a major contradiction in this program.

My question to the Minister is, why not utilize Section 49.1 of The Workplace Safety and Health Act that says "The chief occupational medical officer may carry out or arrange to have carried out by another physician or other qualified person such medical examination of workers or former workers as he deems desirable for the purpose of administering the Act and the regulations but such examinations shall require the consent of the person to be examined." Why was it decided that they would go with this part of the program, Element No. 4, biological tests, the wording there rather than the wording that already exists in the Workplace Safety and Health Act?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well, I might add that that would clear up the problem with the case also, because the Workplace Safety and Health Act goes on to say, in Section 50 sub. 3, "Unless disclosed in a form calculated to prevent the information from being identified as relating to a particular person or case or unless disclosed as required by law, any information obtained by the Chief Occupational Medical Officer pursuant to Section 49", which is the section I read previously, in this section, "shall not be disclosed without the consent of the person examined or attended."

And what we have by this poorly drafted program is that a doctor does a test, goes and tells the company and the company fires a person, and then the Labour Board rules that the doctor that was involved is not even involved with the technicality. There is a section in the Workplace Safety and Health Act which says a worker cannot be discriminated against for providing information to an inquiry, a Workplace Safety and Health Officer or a committee, or to any other person concerned with the administration of the Act. And then the Manitoba Labour Board comes along and rules that this doctor that they're talking about in this biological testing section is not a person who is connected with the administration of the Act. Dyke was fired and has no recourse under the Manitoba Labour Board.

So what the Minister has done by changing what was in fairly well-drafted legislation into poorly-drafted program, is had an individual fired. Had he just stuck with the Act, then we wouldn't have had that problem. And now that problem exists and it's going to exist on other occasions. So I would suggest that he erase this section and go back to the ad.

The results of the lead-in-blood tests were reported directly to the contracted position. And it doesn't say anything about the employee being able to contract a position, either. There is a problem with a private physician coming in and giving lead-in-blood tests to the Provincial Lab, and we went through that with the Minister of Mines and Resources and the Environment in quite some detail so I don't feel as if we have to cover that ground again; but there is a problem there, let the record show that.

The physician will be responsible for reporting all tests results to Industry Management. It contradicts what's in the Workplace Safety and Health Act. His own program is contradictory to the legislation of the province, and that's why it's not going to work; that's why it can't work, and that's why we should have a Royal Commission just to look at this program because the program is putting workers in double jeopardy that they don't need to be in. And I also might add that I'm sure the Manitoba Medical Association would find that clause somewhat onerous, that they would feel that it was their duty to report directly to their client, not to the industry.

And then it says, "Management will, in turn, communicate the test results to the Safety Committee representative and the individual workers." So we've even put a link between the doctors and the workers who were having the test done — management. And we see Dykes being fired because of that. So it by-passes the provisions of the Act, 49.1 and sub-clause (3).

Now, the only thing that is halfway decent for it right now is the Schedule Element 4, which is the schedule of when a worker will be removed and it's fairly similar to the OSHA standards for the first year, and if it was part of an overall five year program then it would probably be acceptable, but it's not, it just stops right there. So we don't know where it's going to go from there. The companies don't know where it's going to go from there. So when the Minister comes to the companies and says you have to put in engineering controls for lead contamination within

the workplace and says our limits are now 150 but they may go down later, the company doesn't know what to do. How far down are they going to go, or are they going to stay the same? So the company is going to do the logical thing. It is going to do the least costly renovations. It's going to do the renovations that bring it down to 150 and we know 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air is not a safe level. We know that it can be used as a temporary level but that it is not a safe level. We know that lead in a worker's blood is going to rise to a dangerous level when they work in an area that has 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air on a time rated average of an 8 hour day.

The Minister says that a code of practice will be developed detailing the respective duties of workers and employees in regard to this lead control program. Can the Minister inform us if any code of practice has yet to be implemented by his government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass—the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well there's a couple of things that the member said that are not correct. The Labour Board's decision was based on the Act, that's where they made their decision, not on the program, and I appreciate the fact that the gentleman who represented the individual is a good friend of the member opposite and I have talked to the individual myself. I understand his position but there is a possibility that the presentation, as I told him and it's no secret I'll tell the Member for Churchill the same, that maybe his presentation wasn't that good, and I've told him that to his face so there is really no secret about that.

The system there has been a slight change in the program. The system is that our department notifies the workers of the results, they notify the doctors of the results and the company gets the number results, not individual results from our particular department and I think that's an important change.

MR. COWAN: Yes that is an important change because now it is more in keeping with the Act. Now what happens to an individual who is now told that they exceed .08 or 80 micrograms per 100 grams of whole blood, and they go to the company and they say to the company I know, here's the test results, I know I exceed 80 micrograms of lead per 100 grams of whole blood, and the company says one of three things, you're fired which it has done, and sometimes it says your fired because you obviously are more susceptible to lead than other people. That's one of the reasons the company gives. Or it says your laid off or it says you will go off on worker's compensation.

Now if the individual goes off on worker's compensation they are not making the same level of pay that they were making at work. They are going off at a loss of pay, yet in the Act under Section 51, it says, "where it appears to direct or upon the advice of the chief occupational medical officer that a worker has been over-exposed to harmful substance and that a temporary removal from the hazard will enable the worker to resume his usual work, the director may by order require the employer to provide without loss of pay to the worker temporary alternative work which in the opinion of the director is suitable for such a period of time as a director may specify," and OSHA even goes further than that. It says that the worker will be taken off the job totally without loss of pay. And yet the worker now who finds out that they have a high lead-in-blood level is playing half a game of Russian roulette. They're going in there and there is only one slug that's right. The other two can hurt. One can be fired, one can be laid off, and the other can go on worker's compensation but at no time do they continue without a loss of pay.

So the worker is having now to pay for the company that is polluting the workplace and contaminating its workers with lead. So how does the Minister deal with that particular problem where we are making again the worker pay for the abuses of the company?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b) —pass—the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, the worker is notified and the doctor is notified and the doctor then gives the individual a medical and they get another blood sample to confirm what's taken place and if in fact it bears up, the man is taken off or the woman is taken off, whatever the case may be. That's the way that it is to work and I like to believe that's the way it's working.

The particular case that, and it's only one, that the member talks about I think we'll find, and I'm not going to dig into it because I understand from again talking to the gentleman that was involved in making a presentation, that there's possibilities of him representing or doing something. He felt at the time I was talking to him that there might be other avenues open to him, so I don't think I should involve myself with his particular legal case at this time. But that's the way the system is meant to work and I like to believe that's the way it's going to work.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well that's not the way it's been working because in the Northwest Smelting and Refining incident, which took place in March, we had 10 workers who were found to have high lead-in-blood, 8 went on compensation, 1 has quit and 1 was fired last week, and another worker, Jerry Naught who was treated for lead poisoning last month and then returned to work said Wednesday he had been told he would be laid off effective today. So we have workers being fired, quitting, and being laid off that are being contaminated with lead. So the program is not working and it can't work until it gets some teeth and that's the whole problem with this program — that it has no teeth. Perhaps we've belaboured it too long but I think it's important that the Minister knows that that program has no teeth and just why, because I don't think anyone has sat down and gone over that program in great detail.

It's contradictory to the Act. It's contradictory to the standards set by the Manitoba Medical Association. It's in many instances weaker than the Act, and all the Minister had to do was implement The Workplace Safety and Health Act to the degree to which it was meant to be implemented. All the Minister had to do was commit themselves to that Act and that would have done two things. That would have done everything that the Minister's program intends to do but doesn't do and it also would have strengthened The Workplace Safety and Health Act because the only way legislation can be strengthened is by use and if you don't use it then it tends to wilt, it tends to falter, it tends to fall by the wayside. You set the wrong precedents and you destroy the Act over a number of years. If you do use it, then it tends to strengthen the Act.

So by putting in this program, which is contradictory and less effective than the Act, the Minister has in effect weakened The Workplace Safety and Health Act, and I don't think that was his intent, and I don't think that that was given too much consideration. But that is indeed what is going to happen. Is the Minister prepared to use The Workplace Safety and Health Act to its fullest degree rather than relying on these ad hoc programs which act to the detriment of the Act and to the detriment of the worker? What's going to be their reaction in the future when new toxins or carcinogens, new crises pop up in the province, or not pop up but at least we become aware of them?

MR. MacMASTER: The program, Mr. Chairman, is simply a procedure that is being followed and you use the Act for the legal backup and will so be used.

The member makes reference to somebody quitting and I can't be responsible if somebody quit. It is interesting to note that he threw in that somebody was fired and this is, you know, fired because, and doesn't really say because but just leaves it hanging in the air that it had to be because of something to do with lead. Well, maybe he should research these things a little bit longer and a little bit more in depth before he keeps leaving the innuendoes hanging in the air, because our people specifically tracked down this one and the man himself specifically told us why he was fired and it didn't have a darn thing to do with the lead in his blood whatsoever.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether it was Twiddle-Dee or Twiddle-Dum, but would the Member for Pembina like to put those remarks on the record?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister then, since he has obviously gone to some depth, can he indicate to us why that worker was fired?

MR. MacMASTER: I have a little more respect for the person's personal particular problem than to expound it here in the House.

MR. COWAN: I didn't ask for the individual's name as you will note, Mr. Chairman, because I have just as much respect for the worker's rights as the Minister does. —(Interjections)— The Minister has his cheering gallery here tonight; they are getting heated up which will obviously make the debate a bit more lively and probably prolong it but that's all right, Mr. Chairperson.

I would ask the Minister, leaving the program for a moment, what process is used to determine threshold limit values or permissible exposure limits, TLVs or PELs, in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. MacMASTER: The standards that we have used have been adopted from OSHA and other American organizations, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: If they have been adopted from OSHA, does the Minister then indicate that they

will be following the five-year program of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration entitled, "The Final Standard for Lead-Using Industries," dated November 14, 1978?

MR. MacMASTER: I think that's the program we have been talking about that's before the courts now in the United States.

MR. COWAN: Yes, but will the Minister be following the TLVs that are laid out very specifically in that document? The Minister indicates that they have answered that before and I think the answer is no, so what the Minister is telling us now is that they selectively choose which TLVs they are going to follow. If it fits in within their own perception of what the problem should be, then they go ahead and they adopt it, and if it does not fit in their own perception, then they ignore it. Again, ad hocism. They aren't committing themselves to OSHA. They are saying, we will pick and choose and I'll suggest one of the reasons why they aren't committing themselves to OSHA, from INCO's annual report, Occupational Safety and Health, and this is their latest annual report. It says that "New government standards for lead exposure in the workplace were announced in the fall of 1978 by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA. These regulations, which will be increasingly restrictive over the next five years, are believed to be by both the company and the industry unnecessarily stringent. They will be extremely difficult and expensive to achieve and unless modified will require substantial future investments by all storage battery manufacturers."

Now that's from the annual report of a company that the Minister is very closely associated with. So I would suggest that perhaps that is a reason for not adopting these very stringent threshold limit values, because it will make that company —(Interjection)— Yes, the Member for Kildonan quite correctly said "alleged stringent" because the research done by OSHA indicates that it can be accomplished and they even put it down to a dollar value as to what it would cost each industry to abide by the regulations.

I would ask the Minister in the Province of Manitoba, what is the threshold limit value for ammonia?

MR. MacMASTER: I haven't got that with me at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister if he would undertake to report back to us what the threshold limit for ammonia is? The Minister has indicated that he will. I'll also give him a number of other substances which I would like him to take as notice and report back to us. I would like him to report back to arsine, boron trifluoride, carbon dioxide in the workplace, carbon monoxide in the workplace, chlorine, fluorine, hydrogen cyanide which is being used in the mines, hydrogen sulfide, nitric oxide, nitric dioxide, ozone, phosgene, phosphine, propane, sulfur dioxide — those are all gases.

I would ask him to report back on the threshold limit values for arsenic compounds in the solids range, barium compounds, calcium, calcium oxide, camphor, chromic acid, DDT mixtures, iodine in the workplace, monochloroacetic acid, phenol, white phosphorous, picric acid — I believe that was an acid that was indicated in a Workplace Safety and Health Report that made the news not too long ago regarding the Health Sciences Centre — Silver nitrate, sodium hydroxide and zinc chloride.

In the liquids area, I would ask him to report back on acetone, amyl alcohol, benzaldehyde, benzene, carbon disulfide, chlorobenzene, diesel oil, diethylamine, ethyl acetate, ethyl alcohol, ethylene glycol, ethyl ether, formalin, formic acid, gasoline, heptane, hydrazine, hydrochloric acid, hydrocyanic acid, isopropyl alcohol, mercury, methyl alcohol, nitrobenzene, nitroglycerin, octane, pentane, styrene, sulfuric acid, toluene; and I'd ask the minister also, what work is being done towards compiling a chemical inventory to list those chemicals and toxic substances that are used in the workplaces in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: That latest particular question has been referred to our Research Division to see if they can put a program together. In relationship to all the ones that he's named, the threshold limit values that we're using in Manitoba, are those established by the American Association of Government Industrial Hygienists.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well that would then mean that I don't need a report back from the minister because I have that information available to me. Then I would ask him, how many of those threshold limit values have been written into regulations?

MR. MacMASTER: None, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Yes. Well, again not to belabour the point but the fact is, that without writing those into legislation or regulation, they are useless to have. They are nice, they are decorative, but they mean nothing because the government can't enforce them, and they are meant to be enforced. They're like a speed limit, Mr. Chairperson. They're like a 90 kilometer per hour speed limit. You put it there because it is deemed to be a safe speed to travel at, or the upper limit of a safe speed to travel at, beyond which you are having problems and yet if we told the police of this province that they can stop people who are speeding and say, "Excuse me, Sir, but you were exceeding the threshold limit value for speed in this province. You were exceeding the permissible exposure limit for speed in this province, and I have to tell you right now that you are not only endangering yourself, but you were endangering many other residents and citizens of this province, and I would ask you voluntarily to stop," I would have to suggest that we would have a lot more speeding going on, because over the years we have found that that voluntary system doesn't work all the time — that co-operative system doesn't work all the time — and I, as well as the minister would like to see it work. I'd love to see it work, but it doesn't work. That's why we have speed limits. That's why we have laws. That's why we have some sort of penalties.

Letting industry do its own testing, use its own machines to do its testing is like that same officer following someone driving along and the person's weaving, they stop the car and they say, "Excuse me, Sir, but you were weaving. We have reason to believe that you were under the influence of alcohol," and the driver says, "Well, I'm not, let me show you," and reaches into his glove box or her glove box, pulls out a breath analyzer, blows into it, shows the officer and it shows less than the limit — and the officer looks at it and says very well and fine and lets the person drive off. That's the type of program that the minister has put together for the lead using industry. It lets the lead using industry use their own machinery, and lets the lead using industry develop its own techniques and there's no real check on it.

So what we have is, we have some nice threshold limit values. We have some nice programs. We got no teeth. As nice as they are, as pretty as they may be on the outside — and some are less pretty than others — there's no teeth, and therefore they cannot work and they won't work. So we will come around later, either under this government or another government in time, to putting some teeth into those regulations, to putting some teeth into those programs.

I'd ask the minister if he has with him the regulation concerning lead in benzene. I believe he's getting the regulation now, I don't have that regulation before me but I believe in that regulation. There is some section that says that signs should be posted where there is reason to believe that lead contamination exists. Is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: The packages or containers are to be marked where they contain those particular items. I don't see anything saying a sign to . . . no, I don't see the specific thing. I think what the member is probably saying is that the containers are to be marked. That's in the regulation.

MR. COWAN: Yes. Perhaps I'd phrased that poorly, Mr. Chairperson. Can the minister indicate if any instructions have been given to the Workplace Safety and Health Inspectors in regard to the proper marking of containers containing lead, in the province?

MR. MacMASTER: I'm not sure of that particular answer to that question and I don't want to be misleading on it, so I'll get the answer for that.

MR. COWAN: Well I'd appreciate that, because I think that would indicate to us . . . you see, there's two things that have to be done here, Mr. Chairperson. One is, you have to have the regulations, and the second, is you have to have the enforcement of the regulations. If you have the regulations so you can have the enforcement and when you don't have the enforcement of the regulations, it's akin to not having them at all. So that is the point that I'm trying to make in this regard.

I have been informed by workers — and as the minister has quite correctly stated — that through my public posture on this and through my discussions with unions I have become very close to some of the workers who have to work under these adverse conditions and they have informed me that they are concerned that not always are the regulations being followed. And so I would just want to bring that to the minister's attention without any allegations or accusations. There's just one place I think that perhaps the Workplace Safety and Health Division can be made to be more effective.

I'd ask the minister to what he attributes the drop-off in the number of lead poisoning cases; in the past year it went down from 10 to 9, in 1978 over 1977.

MR. MacMASTER: I would have to assume that the numbers are correct, and I can't specifically tell the member why that is the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes. It indicates in the Annual Report that the number of field surveys of lead, nickel, zinc, toluene, styrene and hydrogen sulfide, asbestos and silica decreased from 171 field surveys since 1977 and 74 in 1978. Can the Minister indicate, out of that how many were for lead?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I haven't got that breakdown with me, Mr. Chairman. I can't break that out of the figures that we have.

MR. COWAN: Would the Minister undertake then to report back as to the number of field surveys for each of those items?

Is this the section under which the Minister would wish to discuss the provincial laboratory, the testing facilities there, or would it be the Occupational Medical Unit? The Minister made some very strong allegations that the lead-in-blood testing, the sample analysis done at the Health Sciences Centre was high and erratic; what is being done to substantiate those statements of the Minister previously?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, the people from the Health Sciences Centre have been talking to our staff over a period of the last couple of months, and I know that they have gotten themselves involved in a quality control program. And it's interesting that recently, I can't say just how recent, but recently their methods and their procedures quite possibly are now similar to us because they've been talking to us about the type of procedures and methods that we were using; again, our staff hasn't communicated with theirs and I understand comparative tests are still taking place. I'd certainly hope, and I think it's a wish of all, that eventually they'll be using the same systems and the same procedures so that we don't have pretty substantial differences in the future and then it will not matter, there'll never be a doubt as to what the actual readings are on particular people that are being tested.

MR. COWAN: Well, upon what information did the Minister base his allegations then that the testing done at the Health Sciences Centre was erratic and high?

MR. MacMASTER: That was established some time ago, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. Well, when a subject takes your interest, such as this has taken my interest in the past months, references crop up to it in strange places. I believe this is from Popular Mechanics, the latest issue, and it talks about air powered cartridges and it says, "Three recycable cartridges use compressed air in airgun pellets instead of powder and bullets. Made in Britain, they're used to reduce police training costs and lower lead pollution at heavily-used firing ranges." I'd ask the Minister then if any attention has been directed to the use of lead bullets in firing ranges in the Province of Manitoba? Do we have that same problem here, or is this a problem that was fairly well confined to the British Isles?

MR. MacMASTER: We have been looking at the fire range situation here in Manitoba. It certainly hasn't been extensive, but it could lead into being extensive in the next short period of time. There has been some work done in that area.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, is there a problem in that regard or is there a potential problem, and would that come under the Workplace Safety and Health Division, the testing, if they're doing testing, or the investigations if they're doing investigation?

MR. MacMASTER: I understand that some work has been done on that particular area by our department. I don't know if anything has been totally finalized yet but it is an area that we are looking at.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask, in respect to the question I asked on the 500 versus the 100 analysis whether the Minister was going to give me a partial answer or going to give all of it some other time? The other question I wanted to refer to the Minister, whether he wanted discussed safety in respect to ammonia and ammonia spills under the Mechanical Engineering or under Industrial Hygiene. I don't know whether it falls into one or the other. If he's prepared to discuss it here I'm prepared to ask a few questions on it. I'd just like some indication from the Minister. That is, liquid ammonia and —(Interjection)— All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass; . . .

MR. FOX: Well, I'd also like an indication whether the Minister's going to give me an answer now or later in respect to the question that I asked on the 513 analysis versus the 100 analysis that had in excess of accepted standards.

MR. MacMASTER: The 100 is broken down: 66 lead, 10 in the copper field, 5 in the Cadmian field, 5 in the zinc field, 8 in the iron field, 3 in silica, and 5 point for solvent, 3, that's your 100 that were found to exceed acceptable standards.

MR. FOX: So in other words, 66 and 61 were duplications. Is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: These were in air.

MR. FOX: Oh, I see. Nevertheless . . . what you're doing is you're checking for air, then out of that you find that there are so many people involved you have samplings of the people in the industry as well. I understand.

The others that he broke down, do they all come from the same industry, or were they from a wide variety of industry?

MR. MacMASTER: A wide variety.

MR. FOX: Okay. We're still under Industrial Hygiene, Section (a) or (b)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a). I moved to (b), I should say, and everybody still spoke on (a) so I left it.

MR. FOX: Well, the only thing I was going to ask under (b), was to get the Minister to give us a breakdown of that to see whether it was similar to last year and what the difference is in the amount.

MR. MacMASTER: Equipment is up \$3,000 and the others are up very slightly. It's from \$35,800 last year up to \$49,000 and it's very small adjustments except for the additional \$3,000 in equipment.

MR. COWAN: Yes, earlier the first question I had asked the Minister was what steps have been taken to increase the activity and at that point he was writing something down and asked us to ask a number of question in between. A certain amount of time has intervened and I'm wondering if the Minister has a reply to that first question that we had asked him under this section?

MR. MacMASTER: Certainly lead and hearing are getting a great more attention this year, or will be than they did last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, it will only take me one moment. It says, "We recognize the importance of the work performed by this unit and have taken some steps to expand its activities." Now, the Minister has told us in what areas they have taken those steps. I would just ask him, is he talking in specific to the Lead Control Program here and if so what similar steps have been taken in the area of hearing?

MR. MacMASTER: I explained that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: I was just seeking clarification on that, that that is indeed what we are talking about

is the Lead Control Program. Very good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass; (3)—pass. (4) Occupational Medicine (a) Salaries.

A MEMBER: . . . which is amenable to having the committee rise at this time because this would be opening up a fairly extensive area again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: I feel quite comfortable to go for awhile, Mr. Chairman. I think with the Budget debate coming in in the next few days, I would like to see us get as far as we can on these particular items tonight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item (a) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill. The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: There are some basic questions that I would like to answer before we get going. There were four last year, all funded, all filled; four this year, all funded, all filled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister indicate why there has not been an appointment of a Chief Medical Officer as required under The Workplace Safety and Health Act?

MR. MacMASTER: I think it is just a technicality, Mr. Chairman. The doctor on staff in effect fills that position.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. Well, it's more than a technicality because there are some very specific requirements and duties and responsibilities set out for the Chief Medical Officer in The Workplace Safety and Health Act and if you don't appoint a person to that position, then you can't have a person fulfill the functions and The Workplace Safety and Health Act is not being used or utilized to its full extent. So I would ask the Minister if they can commit themselves now to making that commitment, to finalizing that commitment?

MR. MacMASTER: Just a point of clarification. I didn't, I guess, complete my statement. The gentleman in question does not have that title now but that is being considered in the very near future. I had the note on it and I didn't follow through on it but that is being considered. I'm aware of possibly all the points that the member is going to be raising, the values of having that particular appointment.

MR. COWAN: Well, that again is good news. It should have been done long ago, of course, but the fact that it is finally being done is indeed some progress being shown, long overdue, mind you.

I assume then that the person who is now occupying the position of Occupational Medical Consultant will then be occupying the position of Chief Occupational Medical Officer. Is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: The only guarantee I can give the member is that that position is going to be filled.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Does the Minister intend to post or bulletin the position?

MR. MacMASTER: I haven't thought of it at the moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairperson. I was reading my quotations here from the annuals; I missed the Minister's answer. Will the position be bulletined?

MR. MacMASTER: I haven't exactly determined that procedure but an appropriate procedure will be established in the near future.

MR. COWAN: That is somewhat hazy and nebulous, Mr. Chairperson, but I guess we'll have to wait and see what transpires. Can the Minister indicate or give us some sort of time limits as to when we can expect this filling of that position to occur? He indicates that he can't. Can the Minister then tell us who is now responsible for the operation of this branch?

MR. MacMASTER: Dr. Krywulak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps we can have, if the Minister has it available, a bit of history as to how Dr. Krywulak came to be appointed to head this particular Occupational Medicine Branch, what his work history is within the department to lead him to this particular position.

MR. MacMASTER: His history, Mr. Chairman, goes way back years in the Department of Health. I don't have a particular breakdown point by point of how he has progressed to where he is but he was with the Department of Health. I wouldn't even like to guess but I know it was a long time ago and he has worked his way up over the years.

MR. COWAN: Yes, the reason I ask that is because several public statements made by Dr. Walter Krywulak have caused myself and others a fair amount of concern. In May of 1977, I believe, Dr. Krywulak denied that lead poisoning was a severe problem in Winnipeg and in the province, and yet I think every scrap and shred of evidence since has shown that it is a major problem. The reason that the Minister gives is that nobody died of lead poisoning last year, nor was a single person hospitalized, yet all the evidence, medical and scientific evidence, indicates that you don't need to have symptoms of lead poisoning for it to be having some not so subtle, some subtle and some overt and not so overt effects on the body. And I think that a person that is clinging on to the attitude that people have to be hospitalized or that people have to die for there to be a severe problem is not facing up to the facts as they exist today, is not taking into consideration the latest available scientific and medical documentation.

Dr. Krywulak also said a physician with the Department of Labour said the lead level that government considers acceptable is .08 milligrams of lead in 100 grams of whole blood. That he said is acceptable; he didn't say that that was the threshold limit value. Krywulak said he regards anyone whose lead level is .1 milligrams or higher with a degree of caution; now we see these people being whisked out of the workplace. No longer are we saying that people should be allowed to continue working with those levels. And he said it is acceptable that 5 percent or fewer of the employees in any one workplace have a lead level of .1 or higher, but if this increases to 10 or 20 percent of the workers his quote was, "I'm a little bit apprehensive." That's from a July 26, 1978, article. Excuse me, I mentioned in the previous article that it was a 1977 article and it was in 1978.

I'd like the Minister just to comment, because here we have the Director of the Branch saying that he regards anyone with lead levels .1 milligrams or higher with a degree of caution and that it's acceptable that 5 percent or fewer of the employees in any one workplace have that level and he only becomes a little bit apprehensive if 10 or 20 percent of the workers have that level; I'd like the Minister to comment briefly on that comment made by the Director of this Branch.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, the first series of comments made by the member in relationship to somebody having to die or be hospitalized before I, personally, would consider there being a problem, I don't know how that's attributed to me specifically. If that wasn't the insinuation, I think whatever the inference was it was poorly placed or misplaced, or whatever.

As far as the comments in the articles in the newspaper that are apparently quotes, I just find that terribly difficult to deal with. I know the kind of advice that I have received from a variety of people talking about establishing the numbers where we should be concerned, and it's possibly unfortunate that people are being quoted. I think I heard the Member for Churchill tonight saying that he was quoted as something but that isn't really the whole story; that isn't really what he was saying. You know, this happens to us every day. We make comments and sometimes you're taken out of context; sometimes the part that is the little most exciting is the part that's reported. And I suppose it happens in conversation when reporters and people are talking to you they don't always get the entire story, or don't write the whole story. In often cases, I have seen myself standing and talking to five or six of them; I'm sure it's impossible for them to even hear the whole story. So I suppose things are highlighted now.

I can't stand in judgment today of this particular gentleman who is quoted in the paper as saying

something. I don't know. He might have an explanation like the Member for Churchill had tonight. Like I have said, I'm sure, and I don't remember the instances in the House here, where members opposite have stood up and said, "I read in the paper you said this." Then you have to tell them what led into it and what led out of it, and it shows sometimes a whole different story.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Firstly, Mr. Chairperson, I apologize if there was any inference that implied that the Minister had made that statement. I had not intended to say that, and if it did come out, my apologies to the Minister. I want the record to stand correct, that I was attributing that quote and the philosophy behind such a quote to the person who had made the quote, and not to the Minister, either by direct connection or by inference. So I hope that the Minister understands that that was the case.

But what I'm asking the Minister to do is to comment on these statements that were made. And I agree with him, that every once in a while, there is a tendency for either us, as politicians, because we're only human, to not say exactly what we want to say in such a way as there can be no inference taken, and in such a way that there can be no misinterpretation; that happens. But these comments are fairly definitive, and I would just like the Minister, then, to say that he does not agree with the comments as quoted; that it is acceptable that five percent or fewer of the employees in any one workplace have a lead level of .1 or higher. I'd like him to set the record straight and say that he can't agree with that sort of a statement.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I think by action, I've established that that isn't acceptable to myself, and again, I'm in somewhat of an awkward position. I have no intentions of chastising in any way, shape or form, deserving or not, any particular staff that works in my departments. I have never, and I choose not to now, and I hope never will chastise them, or ridicule them, or debate their values in public. If, in fact, any member of the particular departments that I'm responsible for is doing things that I figure is detrimental to the operation of the department, and the service to the people they provide, then that particular person will talk to their director, or the deputy minister, whatever is appropriate. If it's serious enough, I have no hesitation in talking to them myself.

But if the member opposite thinks that — and I suppose I can look back and remember all kinds of quotes made by people who work for the government, which in some cases I didn't agree with — but I have no intention of getting in a position, whereas Minister responsible for some large, important departments, and have a tremendous amount of people working within those departments, that the fact that they may say things off-the-cuff, or they may say things in total or in part, and it's quoted as something — I have no intention of getting myself involved publicly in debating the value of their particular statements.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, that is indeed an admirable policy. But I was not asking the Minister to get involved in debating the merits of the individual. I was asking the Minister to disassociate himself from some comments that have been attributed to that Minister, which, for whatever reason they were given, tend to confuse the issue, and we are trying in this respect to clarify the issue.

I would ask the Minister if he can give us a breakdown as to what the different positions that he announced previously are responsible for in this department?

MR. MacMASTER: Medical officer, occupational nurse, administration officer and an administration secretary — four; the same this year as they were last year; the same categories, positions, classifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Is this the division that's responsible for the lung-function tests, the x-ray tests that are done on minors in northern Manitoba, or in all of Manitoba I would guess? Perhaps the Minister can just indicate what workers in other industries undergo these lung-function tests?

MR. MacMASTER: The hardrock mining industry, stone-cutting, metal foundry work, hardrock drilling and crushing, those are the examples of the types of industries, and I suppose you can call them all industries.

MR. COWAN: So in other words, the lung-function tests and the x-rays would be administered for the purpose of finding cases of silicosis for the most part, is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Those members who want to pass can take off, there's no problem.

In respect to this area I understand, Mr. Chairman, that there's some co-operation between the Workplace Safety Health and the Workers Compensation. Is the inspection carried out in respect to the lung diseases and so on through the Workers Compensation, or through the Workplace Safety Health? I know that it's done through the Sanatorium Board, but I was wondering which one inaugurates, who starts the process going in the various areas?

The other question I'd like answered, Mr. Chairman, is in respect to x-raying. I think we've become much more conscious of the fact that there can be detrimental effects of too many x-rays. Are there other tests being used by the department in detecting some of these diseases besides x-ray techniques?

MR. MacMASTER: Well the lung-function test, of course, and I'm sure that the member is familiar with it, the breathing into the machine and taking the readings, that is being used and it is the Safety and Health Department that initiates and runs this particular program.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I realize that probably most of the diseases will be related to mining, insulation and such areas. I was just wondering — some areas they have inspection on a regular basis, food processing plants and so on in respect to communicable diseases and also lung diseases — but there are also areas where employees are under the hazardous conditions of breathing in ammonia and other toxic fumes. Do those people have a regular inspection or is that dependent upon physical check-ups on a yearly basis, or when the worker becomes ill?

MR. MacMASTER: Our safety officers could initiate that type of program, but the member is correct, it isn't a routine practice today. No.

MR. FOX: Well, since as I said we are becoming much more aware, would The Workplace Safety Act not be the particular area that should have a look at this? I know I haven't been able to determine whether there was any research under this Workplace Safety Health Act, it doesn't fall under safety inspection or under industrial hygiene or occupational medicine. All of them are separate entities but none of them indicate whether there's any research. Would it not be advisable for the Minister to have a look at this and see if some research should be done in this particular area to determine some of these things? I do realize that some of the areas that we are discussing that we're breaking new ground.

The other thing is that we are still not aware of how much of the occupational diseases that occur, occur because some of these toxic agents are cumulative, some aren't. Some just create a problem after the initial overdose, but many areas are a kind of cumulative things which occur. And I would suggest that the Minister have a look at whether we couldn't get some research into more of these areas so we could determine what the toxic effects are and also their cumulative effect.

MR. MacMASTER: I can certainly take as a pretty good recommendation from the Member for Kildonan that our research people should be looking into other areas. I don't think he used the word "breaking new ground." We're not afraid to break new ground, but I was being very honest with him and saying that there isn't any routines in place today, but again hopefully during the course of the year, we'll be looking at other areas to get into. There is just a host of places you could go and things you could do.

MR. FOX: One more question, and that is where will the research take place? Is there a research section within the Workplace Safety, or will it take place under the The Workers Compensation Act, or is there another area that has the responsibility of doing the research for this particular industrial development?

MR. MacMASTER: The Technical Development officer will be co-ordinating the type of research that's required, and would then go to the divisions that he feels necessary to carry out that type of work. It might even be outside our department in conjunction with department health or the Minister of Mines and Environment.

MR. FOX: Yes, both under the industrial hygiene and I believe under this area there are consultants. Are these consultants on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis? Are they within the department, or are they from outside sources, or both? .

MR. MacMASTER: I should have remembered that. The fees are for the Sanatorium Board under this particular section, not for consultants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The testing that is carried out, I know at one time — this is dealing with the point raised by the Honourable Member for Kildonan — that the excessive use of x-rays is one that I guess perhaps take a bit of caution with. There was another test we all that was being carried out under the Sanatorium Board, and that was the method of not using x-rays all the time . The testing that they carried out on your arm, if it turned red with some certain dots or something, there was a possibility that people had been exposed to tuberculosis. Is this type of testing still being used and is it a test that they can use for say, silicosis or other tests or do they just have to use it for some industry? Do they just have to keep using the type of chest x-rays and plates as we've been using in the past?

MR. MacMASTER: The x-ray situation is of concern to the degree that we have feelers out to various organizations as to what they are doing about it. The most interesting answer that we've heard so far is that the Government of Ontario is in the midst, and they're not telling us what it is, but they claim that very soon, they'll have information on possibly — and I must emphasize possibly, because I'm not a scientist or a hygiene expert or a chemist or anything, but they claim that they may possibly have in the very near future a substitute for the x-ray. I think it would be a tremendous break-through, if that in fact takes place, because I'm not an expert in it, but I've read enough about the concern that organizations are now expressing with too many x-rays. So, we're following with interest what is happening in Ontario, and we do have feelers out to other areas to see what other people are doing about it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JENKINS: Well, I thank the Minister for that information. That's something that I hadn't heard of. This is particularly illuminating, but the Minister raised Ontario, and what is disturbing is the reports that seem to come out from Ontario that somewhere about 60 percent of some of the x-ray units in some of the hospitals are — and I realize we're not in the Department of Health, but if units in hospitals are leaking radiation, has the Minister thought of checking some of the mobile units that do go around to the workplaces, or say through the Sanatorium Board. Because if the stories that we're hearing coming out of Ontario that there is a serious radiation leak from some of the x-ray units that are in place down there, there is a distinct possibility that we are using the same type of x-ray machines — I guess they're fairly standard across the country — it would be something that we should maybe be looking at here in Manitoba, not only just the mobile units — and I realize that the Minister of Labour is not responsible for the Department of Health, but the very fact that permanently installed x-ray units have been showing a radiation leak I think sufficient cause for the government and in particular through the auspices of the Workers Compensation Board and the Lung Association in Manitoba, that perhaps some checks should be run on our own machines. I hope that the day will not be too long that the Minister will be able to announce to the House that we have another type of testing, which he has told us here this evening, but I would hope that the Minister would take under serious consideration to raise the matter say, with the Lung Association and through the Workers Compensation Board that there will be some checks of our portable units, to make sure that they are not leaking radiation. Because I think that we, in our ordinary lives are subjected to so many things and I know I've had a considerable amount of x-rays myself, but I have always been under the impression that these things were as safe as possible. But now, when we start hearing that other jurisdictions are finding out that the machinery that has been used could be a serious effect on people, I would be very assured if the Minister would tell us that he would raise this question through the Workers Compensation and the Lung Association of Manitoba.

MR. MacMASTER: I will be, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairperson. We were deciding who is going to talk about carcinogens, and the duty fell upon my shoulders, being the only one on this side here that does

not smoke.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're just about out at the end of the tape, and if you're just getting ready to speak on a new subject, I would suggest that possibly we will just take some time out to change the tape.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee come to order. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have to note that the Minister is lighting up now for our discussion of carcinogens. It's a major problem. For the record, the Minister is using a filter which is going to mean that he'll probably survive a year longer or so. I'm rather pompous on smoking. I used to be a smoker myself and have quit for six years, seven years now, and I recommend it to anybody.

MR. BARROW: You certainly tell us every day about it.

MR. COWAN: Yes, the poor Member for Flin Flon, I consistently harp at him, but hopefully we'll get him off the habit shortly.

At any rate, as an interesting sidelight for a comment that came from the back benches about lead is that cigarettes also contain a certain amount of lead in them, that many years ago the tobacco fields that were being used to grow tobacco had lead arsenate applied to them as a pesticide and it got into the soil, and from the soil it went into the plants as they grow and now all cigarettes, although it's not used as a pesticide any more, most cigarettes or most tobacco is contaminated with lead, so that's another one of the ways of ingesting it, although it is in minute quantities.

The Member for Pembina says that everybody should stop ' smoking and I have to second such a notion. It would save on health costs. At any rate, back to the subject at hand. Cancer is a problem that is beginning to show up. There was a study done I think I mentioned previously that showed Winnipeg to be in the top 20 percent of areas with respiratory cancer, lung cancer. And a lot of cancer is being attributed now to carcinogens in the workplace and the problem with cancer and the work environment is that it takes 10, 15, 20 years for the cancer to show up.

And with that as a fact, it means that you can't always trace directly back the source of the cancer, although we may know that such material that both the Minister and I have come in contact with in our work, nickel dust has been alleged to be linked with cancer . It's now showing up after 20 years, people in that industry are starting to show up with cancer. So what happens is people have contact with the carcinogen and 20 years later they develop cancer and we can't trace it back. So it makes it very difficult to control the carcinogenic substances and we rely quite a bit on the animal studies which aren't always comparative or as reliable as studies on human bodies. So we have a definite problem in identifying the source and therefore a definite problem in controlling the source. The one way around that is to do some fairly sophisticated epidemiological — notice how I slur through that, I have trouble with that word — some fairly sophisticated epidemiological surveys and studies of workers; we take into effect whether they have been exposed to different known carcinogens; we take into effect whether they smoke themselves, the environment in which they grew up. We compile all that information — it usually has to be done on computer because it's a fairly detailed process — compile all that information and statistically start to break out the carcinogens. It's a long involved process.

Now I know that the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company has just initiated an epidemiological — if I miss it I'm in trouble — epidemiological study of their workers. They're going back through their old work records and they're trying to determine how their workers have died, what illnesses they have contacted, how many have died of cancer and what kinds of cancer, to try to link in or to develop or to discover links in with cancer in the workplace. And they're doing it at that one specific operation.

It seems to me that a research project of this nature and this magnitude would be best suited to come under the auspices of government, and my question to the Minister is, is anything being done in this department or within the division as a whole to initiate epidemiological studies that would be used for the purpose of determining whether certain items currently in use in the workplace are carcinogenic?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, in all honesty there is not a major research project under way, but what our department was hoping to gear itself for this year — we are examining and looking at some of the international approaches to this particular problem and specifically in the educational field

and how some organizations are — what type of procedures they're establishing in educating workers and companies. The one that comes to mind is the International Labour Organization, the ILO. They have some information and documentation on procedures and approaches to this particular problem. There is no question — whether it's right or wrong today in this day in '79 it's new in Manitoba — a real good, solid approach as to which direction we're going to go and how we're going to start — at least basically, talking to companies and workers about the problems, and you know, I don't think the members expect me to dig through the raft of papers and files in the history of the province as to whether we've done anything or not, I don't know whether that's the point.

The point is that this particular year we're going to be in touch with the ILO and other international organizations to see how approaching they're and making people aware of the problem. I think, again rightly or wrongly, it's going to be our objective this year to establish a procedure of making people aware of the problem and during the course of the year, as we gather more information on it — possibly and I don't want to get caught that a year from now I haven't done it — but possibly some more in-depth research into the whole area may be undertaken during the course of the year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairperson. I would ask the Minister how this information is going to be distributed to the workers in the work force and to the representatives of industry. Will it be in the same manner as the last meeting I believe held at the Ramada Inn where you had workers and medical authorities and company officials come together to discuss the problem in general? Will it be through the Workplace, Safety and Health committees, or will it be a general educational program through the public media?

MR. MacMASTER: We have thought of two approaches. I'm always open for suggestions for better or greater ones within reason. The first would be through seminars such as we had here in the city. I understand the requests for opinions on that particular approach to getting all groups together that are interested in a particular problem, how that was accepted — if that's the word — by the groups involved and what better ways information could be given to them. I haven't asked the specific question whether comments on that seminar have come back in, but knowing a fair number of the people that were present, I suspect that they're going to put together a fairly comprehensive commentary on what their thoughts were on that particular seminar; so that's the one approach through seminars.

The other is that we're working on a bulletin and that isn't finalized how that's going to work but we are working on an informational bulletin, which I think would also be an ideal way to get this information out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, I assume that is the same bulletin that the Minister had talked about in his initial remarks on the debate of Labour Estimates and that he hoped will turn into a regularly published newspaper. Is that correct?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. COWAN: The Annual Report says that special questionnaires were administered which looked at smoking habits in occupational histories. Were these questionnaires administered to those people taking part of the X-ray in lung-function testing programs of the Occupational Medical Branch? Would the Minister be willing to table a sample of one of those questionnaires?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. COWAN: Has the information that has been collected and collated, or has the information that has been collected from those questionnaires been collated and is there an evaluation of those questionnaires?

MR. MacMASTER: We can get enough of that together that I can give comments on that tomorrow regardless of what section we're under, and at the same time tomorrow I'll pull from the files one of those questionnaires and I can personally send it across the hall to the member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, I'd asked the Minister earlier if there was any inclination given to compiling a chemical or toxic substance inventory. Is there also any inclination given to compiling a carcinogenic inventory and making that public information so that the workers who are working around some of these carcinogens know full well the dangers that are inherent and they could do that through a public media program? I know that I've worked in close contact with some which at the time were considered to be carcinogens, but the information was very recent and it hadn't made it to the general public yet and I know personally, had I known that I was working around carcinogens, then I probably would have handled the items with more care. So part of this whole program is getting that sort of information out to the public and one of the first steps would be finding out just what items are considered to be carcinogenic.

MR. MacMASTER: I think it's a twofold thing and I really think the message I've been attempting to get across through this set of Estimates and it will follow through the rest of the department, is that education is so key and so crucial and it doesn't matter really — I suppose there's been questions that doesn't relate to better training of our staff so they can better carry the message and better make people aware of what's going on — we're certainly going to during the course of the year, as I've said, better educate our people so that they in turn are more aware of hazards of all natures. We appreciate the fact that all the hazards in a workplace isn't a 12-inch beam with some bolts out there. There's an awful lot of other hazards and we have mentioned many of them here tonight.

A chemical problem is very real, it's around us and I think society now is starting to concern themselves more with it and we have to do what is possible to keep up with the times and I think it's as much an education thing as anything else. And we admit — all of our people admit, it's not just me as a Minister — our people admit that we haven't got all the education we need to do the job so it's going to be a tremendous job of educating our people to identify an awful lot of these problems, and then in turn be able to get it across to working men and women in the workplace, and companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass; (b)—pass — the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes. Would the Minister just outline where the expenditures are going under this particular item?

MR. MacMASTER: The major increase in the Other Expenditures — it's a normal Other Expenditure, and I don't think I have to repeat them all — furnishings and postage and equipment and publications and travel and freight. But the major increase this year is in your Professional Fees. Now in this particular item: Professional Fees means the cost of the X-rays, and cost of X-rays this year will be rising to \$10 per X-ray and I'll confirm just what it was last year, which was \$9.55, so though it may only sound like 45 cents, when you work it out into the hundreds and hundreds of X-rays, that is the major increase. The increase in fact in that one particular item is \$12,000, and that takes up the majority of the increase and the rest is normal what you'd consider increases in other particular areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)—pass; (4)—pass.

MR. FOX: I wonder, gentlemen, whether this would be an appropriate time for the committee to rise?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute; that is item (a)—pass — the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the members opposite feel, considering as I mentioned to the Member for Logan, that with the Budget Debate tomorrow night going on and from then on there is going to be a few days peace or a few days rest, I wonder if we couldn't try and finish that page this evening. There is one item that I haven't even got in front of me; I know there is one more item: Mechanical and Engineering. I'm prepared to get into that until we all decided we're getting so fuzzy that we're not making sense. I don't feel bad myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b) Mechanical and Engineering, (1)Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister first could give us the amount

of staff that are involved in this department, how many funded positions there were last year and how many unfunded, how many are funded this year and how many vacancies are in the present salary rate that we're discussing at the present time?

MR. MacMASTER: Last year there was — now I'll say it as clear as I can like I have before. Last year, there were 52.31 positions, as your Estimates would have indicated. There were two positions that were unfunded, so there were really, in effect, 50 positions that were funded last year; that's 50 people positions.

This year we intend to increase that to 52 funded. We intend to fill that entire complement; the money is there; and we have full intentions of filling that particular complement this year.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, could we have what the two positions that the Minister intends to fill this year? Are they inspectoral staff, or are they administrative staff, or just what positions were these two positions that the Minister intends to fill.

MR. MacMASTER: One is a building inspector, and one is a boiler inspector, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In the report, on Page 59, dealing with Mechanical Engineering Division, dealing with The Steam Pressure Plant Act which provides for a period inspection of all boilers, pressure vessels and refrigeration units, except domestic installations, and the approval of design of these units prior to installation; carrying on down the page, inspection on behalf of the Canada Labour Department of equipment in establishments in Manitoba that are under the federal government's jurisdiction. And earlier this evening, the Minister stated that some of the inspections that were being carried out on behalf of the federal government, by the Workers Compensation where the agreement has expired but under The Steam and Pressure Plant Act, Refrigeration Acts, are the departments still carrying out these inspections on behalf of the federal Department of Labour at the present time.

MR. MacMASTER: They expired on February 28th.

MR. JENKINS: All agreements have expired then, with the federal government. All agreements?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, all agreements.

MR. JENKINS: All agreements that we had with the federal government for inspection of any Acts under the Province of Manitoba, where federal jurisdiction is involved have now all lapsed. Is that what the Minister is saying?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes.

MR. JENKINS: Well, I don't know. This seems to be a . . . what reasons have the federal Department of Labour? Are they putting in place people here in the Province of Manitoba to carry out the inspections, or maybe they figure it's the good old days, but I say the bad old days where we were not getting the inspections in places of where we were under operation here in the province, under the federal departments because of the lack of inspection staff here in Manitoba. Could the Minister give us some reasons, or what reasons has the federal Minister of Labour given to his provincial counterparts for the withdrawal of the co-operative spirit that we have had in the past. I think it's been a good one, and if the Minister here can give us some of the thinking because I don't — unless I misunderstand the Minister — I don't think it's one that has been instigated by the province and this Minister. It seems to be a complete withdrawal of the spirit of co-operation that we did have with the federal people.

I don't know if I'm reading the remarks that the Minister made earlier this evening — I don't know whether it was this evening or this afternoon when we were discussing this — but it does seem to be a certain departure from the spirit of co-operation that we have had in the past. Is the Minister intending to try and revive this thing so that we can get a proper inspection in all workplaces, regardless of whether they come under provincial or federal jurisdiction in the field of labour? Because I think that's one of the real problems that we have in this country.

If we look at it, we have 10 provincial Departments of Labour, one federal, and then God knows what goes on in the Territories. And if the federal government was putting in place sufficient inspectoral staff and whatnot, it would be all right; but if we're going to go back to, as I said, the bad old days, where we have inspectors stationed in Edmonton or Regina or Vancouver, and

some here in Winnipeg, and we work on a basis much as we had in the past where this inspectorial staff was inspecting for the whole three prairie provinces and the Province of British Columbia. I don't think that is a satisfactory method of keeping up the inspections of plants and working conditions, and if the Minister could enlighten us to what led to the withdrawal of the federal Department of Labour from co-operation with, not only this province, but I guess it's been withdrawn in all the provinces and if it has, that's something that I'm not aware of, and if the Minister could give us some of the rationale that they must have put forward, why they have decided to do this.

MR. MacMASTER: My understanding, Mr. Chairman, and I am not capable of digging into the heads of the people who make these decisions, but it is my understanding that Manitoba was not the only one; that the federal government did in fact sever all agreements with all provinces on this particular aspect. It's now my understanding that just recently, and this is as recent as just a few days ago and it was just brought to my attention, that now there has been some indication that maybe they would like to sit down and talk to us again about some type of an agreement. Now, we haven't had those particular meetings, but there is an indication now that they are interested and we haven't determined yet whether that interest is being expressed in other provinces; whether they, for whatever reason, decided to divorce themselves of those agreements, and now the indication is that they want to at least renew discussions on, I suspect, some type of other agreement. I don't know what it would be.

MR. JENKINS: Well, that is at least a bit encouraging, and I realize that the Minister can't get into the heads of the people in Ottawa, and I realize that there may not be a decision, in all probability there will not be a decision until after the 22nd of May, when we either will have a new government — well, we will have a new government regardless, because it will be a different government than this one that is already in Ottawa — but I do think that the Minister as soon as possible after the 22nd of May when a new government is installed in Ottawa, that he do make some exploratory moves towards this.

I might ask the Minister if there was any cost-sharing of the inspections that were carried-out on behalf of the federal government by his staff? Was there any cost-sharing, or was it a move to reduce their spending estimates, because if the withdrawal of the co-operation is carried-out to its ultimate, I know that the federal government allows its employees to be covered by the provinces under Workers Compensation. But if they are going to start withdrawing altogether, I would suggest that perhaps we may find out that we have workers under the federal labour jurisdiction being withdrawn from Workers Compensation, you know, carried to its ultimate. I'm not saying that this will happen, but the fact is that we have had, I think, over maybe the last 6 or 7 years, a fairly good working relationship as far as the inspections that would be carried out on behalf of the federal government by the use of staff here. And if they're not going to replace the staff in any way, shape or form, then it's done for the sheer economics of it, I think that's a very deplorable situation, and if the Minister could give us a breakdown of the cost-sharing of the inspections that were carried out for the federal department by his department — was it a 50-50 sharing, or what was the cost-sharing that we had with the federal department?

MR. MacMASTER: It was 100 percent paid for by the federal government.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'd like to know from the Minister whether there are any exemptions in respect to the power engineers' certifications that a number of plants require? I do recall that the Minister had exempted — not this Minister, but the other Minister — some of the plants in the Brandon area. I would like to have a listing, if possible, of the number of plants at the present time which are operating without the proper qualifications, if he can get me that information, and how many have been exempted temporarily, or for any specific length of time?

And I would like to ask in respect to the engineering, I asked the Minister about ammonia. In respect to ammonia, Mr. Chairman, at the present time the trend is towards flooded systems, and this has become a much more versatile form of refrigeration in the various plants, but also in a way it has become much more hazardous for the simple reason that a flooded system means that instead of using vapours with which to create the refrigeration, you are using liquid. And consequently we have already experienced one or two areas where we've had accidents, and the repair crews haven't been able to get in. In fact, one place that I recall, the Fire Department came and they too couldn't get in for the simple reason that they had difficulty because the whole area couldn't be evacuated for ammonia, they had to have a wet-suit to get in, and I would suggest that possibly the Minister should look at tightening the regulations in this particular area so that the plants that

have the flooded system would have training in the special use of some of this equipment. Is the Minister following me? Because, as I said, it becomes a closed area impossible to get in when a break occurs, and a whole room is full of liquid spray. You have to have special equipment; you also have to have special knowledge of where you can shut-off.

I think one other thing that should be said in that regard is that probably the regulations should be looked at that the installation of that equipment should be so regulated that there should be shut-offs on the outside, not just on the inside. In a number of these areas the units are inside and once something breaks you can't get near the units, so there should be another way of shutting it off so that you can get in there and repair the damage by pumping out.

I do recall that the particular break that I'm aware of that took place at Swifts, it took them some three hours before they could get into the place for the simple reason that they had to just about pump out the whole system before they could get near the break. They also had to evacuate the whole plant. Now, as I said, with much of this flooded system being in vogue and becoming more prevalent, there should be another look at the area as to whether the regulations couldn't be altered to improve the situation.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I'll take certainly the comments that the member has said in consideration. I have an answer on the previous one, who is exempted in Manitoba? And it is Simplot and Hooker, the same two I think that were being debated last year, and in the very near future just about imminently we'll be lifting the exemption from Hooker because they now, in fact, have the appropriate number of people in place, so that will leave Simplot.

MR. FOX: Well, since Hooker has been able to get an engineer, has the Minister any time limit on when Simplot will have to get it, because I think it's just an exploitation of the fact that there is an exemption, and much as I appreciate that there are other people there that have engineering qualifications, I do not think that those qualifications are of the power engineering quality which makes them capable of making decisions. I'm certain they can supervise generally, but they cannot do it specifically, and can the Minister give us some assurance that exemptions won't go on forever as long as that plant wishes to go without the proper qualified engineer?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, we're certainly reviewing it, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a specific time limit on it, but I think the Member for Kildonan — I think he should be aware, I don't recall whether it was that public or not — but our division people did go out just recently, and issued an award to that particular company, Simplot, for a year of outstanding and exceptional safety record.

So there are some good things going on in the plant and I know what the member is saying — that we should keep pushing, which we are, to get the particular qualified personnel in place and we'll endeavour to continue to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: I thank the Minister for taking that approach, because otherwise it probably would become just like a snowball going downhill. Other companies would say, "Well, if one company can take advantage of this particular escape clause, so will we." And, of course, that is to the detriment and safety of, not only the plants and their personnel, but also the public because the public is involved.

I know my own particular plant, if there should be a major break, we'd probably have to evacuate most of St. Boniface.

I should like to ask the Minister to indicate the number of inspections in the related fields, and whether there's been a decrease or an increase for each category over last year.

MR. MacMASTER: There was an increase in all categories, Mr. Chairman. I suppose I should read out the number of inspections; it might help us. There was an increase in building inspections, up to 536; plans of buildings, 862; boilers and pressure vessel inspections, 15,367; welders, 825; gas and oil inspections, gas and oil inspections was down 39, but there were 2,061 — I'm trying to be specific if they're up or down — elevator inspections, there were 40 less this year, the number being 812; amusements, rides, inspections were up, 676 was the number done this year; the mobile homes and travel trailers, they were down, but there were 5,536 done; electrical inspections were up substantially, 3,630.

MR. FOX: Now I'd like to get to the question of the inspection in respect to the rural areas. I believe I brought this to the attention of the Minister earlier, indicating that at one time the Health Department inspectors used to inspect those out in the rural areas and also in the municipalities.

I understand that format has been changed and now that the municipalities have to do their own, like Portage la Prairie, Brandon, and so on, who is responsible for this particular inspection and who supervises it if it isn't the Department of Labour?

MR. MacMASTER: The responsibilities, as I understand it, have carried forth as they were related to in the Department of Health where previously when you put in water and sewer, example, Portage la Prairie, they were then required to have their own inspector. That responsibility, and I think maybe that's where the gray area is, that responsibility has been continued. They are still responsible for their own inspections regardless of the fact that it's gone from the Department of Health to us.

MR. FOX: Can the Minister tell us whether there was an inspection of the elevator at which the fatality occurred and when the last inspection took place there? The one in the apartment block that Stan Helleur . . .

MR. MacMASTER: That particular elevator had not been inspected for a number of years but the report that we have, and I don't know how far we want to get into this they're because I know that still being investigated, but I think I can safely say and again technically I don't know how far to go, but I can safely say that our inspections of the elevator and the operation of same were that it was in — I hate the word perfect — good working condition. So there were other factors involved in this particular unfortunate situation.

MR. FOX: I wonder if the Minister could give us an itemization of the numbers of the various ticket certificates now for the power engineering field and also how many exams were written in the last year in the various categories?

MR. MacMASTER: All that detailed information is in the Annual Report that I tabled in the House. Page 64, just to save time, it has your first, second, third, fourths, the number of certificates issued, including renewals — it has all that information — Page 64 of the Annual Report that I tabled in the House, Mr. Chairman. Now, if there's any details about it . . .

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The number of examinations that were written. The other question I would like to pose is whether the Minister can tell us how many of those firsts, seconds and thirds were written in the Brandon area?

MR. MacMASTER: I am advised that we couldn't break that out, Mr. Chairman. The first column on that particular page are the number of examinations that were conducted, you know, 21, 110, 215 — so that we're looking at the same numbers — that's the answer to his question. I am informed that we can't break that out — I suppose there's no such a thing as can't — we could somehow, some way, maybe some day, but we just have never done that.

MR. FOX: Well, the reason I asked, Mr. Chairman, is because I don't imagine people that are writing for a ticket who are residing in Brandon have to come to Winnipeg, or up north either, so there should be some way of determining who writes where and when.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: On (1) before we leave, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Kildonan raised a question with the Minister, and I don't want to go into the one about where the fatality took place, but the Minister said that the elevator in particular had not been inspected for a number of years. Just how often are elevators inspected? I know that they have an inspection when installation is made, but is there a set time limit for re-inspection? I know that they're issued yearly permits to operate the elevators, whether they be operated manually or the automatic type, push-button type that we have in most places.

Why I am raising this is, I just can't remember the building I was in — it was an apartment block here not too long ago where I was in an elevator and there was not even a permit in the elevator — whether some one had just taken it and torn it off the wall, that is a possibility. Or it may have been, since we have a new Minister of Labour, that a new permit was in the process of being put on the wall in the glass case, or whatever it is that they put it in.

But if the Minister could give us an idea just when a re-inspection does take place of an elevator, since the Minister raised it in reply to the Member for Kildonan that the particular elevator in question had not been inspected for several years, or whatever, or a number of years — I'm not just sure

what he said — but surely there must be a policy of the department for re-inspection of elevators as a normal course because of the normal wear and tear that does take place in operation. If the Minister could give us an idea of just what — is it a five-year period, ten-year period or just what is entailed in that?

MR. MacMASTER: I understand in some instances with older elevators, they are inspected sometimes two to three times a year. But the newness of the elevators, and if in fact there's a maintenance contract been issued on them, has a very direct bearing on how often we would be inspecting them, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass; (b)—pass. I have a motion for committee rise.

We are on Item (c), Fire Prevention. (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Would the Honourable Minister indicate the complement of this area?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to give the members opposite some of the basics of this particular section, and then I'd be prepared to agree with committee rise. Our Fire Commissioner is out of town today, but there are some basic questions that are fundamental to every set that we've gone into, which I think that we can get into in this particular area.

Last year . . . I skipped one here. Last year there was 24.05 and this year there's 24.05; all funded both years, Mr. Chairman. I omitted something which I apologize for. I have the list of committees under M and E and I had said that I would give those to the members as I went through and it got buried in the jungle of paper.

Under M and E there's your Building Standards Board; there's your Power Engineers Advisory Board; there's your Elevator Board; there's a Propane Gas Advisory Board; there's your Gas Advisory Committee; and there's four Trade Examination Boards. Now I apologize for this, Mr. Chairman, we've got into the Fire Prevention, but with the concurrence of the members opposite, if they have any questions I'll answer them on those particular Boards while we have our Director here. It was an oversight on my part that it got through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm not going to open up the item but I will allow any questions on it.

MR. FOX: Well, the Minister indicated the Fire Commissioner isn't in. Does he expect him in town tomorrow afternoon?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, we'll have someone here tomorrow but the Boards I've mentioned refer to the previous item that we've passed. Those Boards I've mentioned refer to M and E, what we've just passed and I just picked it up as I was picking up the papers and I don't want us to wander too far by the M and E that we just passed. I know we passed it but I gave the members opposite my word that I would raise the Boards that referred to the section, and those Boards refer to the section we just passed, and how you wish to deal with any questions that they have on that is fair with me because it was my oversight to let that section get by without notifying them of those particular Boards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, to the honourable members, I suggested that rather than open up the item which is already passed, I would allow any questions even though they weren't bearing on the item that was under discussion now. So you can ask questions on the (b) item if you care to.

MR. FOX: Well, Mr. Chairman, we'll pick those items up that we have lost or omitted under the Minister's Salary. But again I say, he doesn't have the Fire Commissioner here. I asked whether he was prepared to have the Committee rise. Now you never put the question and I would say I'll make a motion that the Committee rise at this time. I think we've gone long enough; it's one o'clock, unless the Minister wants to go all night fine, let him say so. But I don't see that there's any point in dragging it out at this time.

MR. MacMASTER: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister had suggested that he was just going to give his opening statements on the Fire Prevention and then Committee rise and I do have a motion from the Minister now; Committee rise.

Committee rise. This meeting is adjourned.