

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 26 April, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas):** Call the committee to order. We're in Economic Development and Tourism. 2(e)(1) Salaries—pass.  
The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** The Campers' Association, the camp people that have the northern fishing camps and hunting camps spend their winters at many shows in the United States drumming up business for their summer occupancy and we usually have some indication after they've finished the Minneapolis Show and headed for Winnipeg, then they go north to open up their establishments, have we any indication as to what their occupancy will be this year where the booking is good in their southern tours?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**HON. MURIEL SMITH (Osborne):** Mr. Chairperson, we do have an indication that the bookings are slightly up over last year, but we don't have any precise numbers.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Awareness Program that was started last year with any organization that wanted to have the staff come out and present the Awareness Program with the film, etc., will it be continued this year?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The program that has been started with, or maybe it's under Destination Manitoba, would the Hotel Association or industry training — am I asking it under the right section of Salaries or is it in Destination? I can't wait. I just want to know how well it's going; it was advertised.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, there were about 50 groups that received the hospitality presentation this year, the Awareness Program, and the intention is to continue it.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The salary increase that you have here, the increase in Salaries, there's three extra people. Does that account basically for the increase?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, there has been one person with the responsibility for strategic planning added to the section.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** This is a separate person from the Strategic Planning and Economic Development?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Doesn't the department have a promotional or a development director that would be involved in Strategic Planning or has that changed?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, a planner was added during the period of time of your government. It was a planner added to the department so that the adjusted vote was up one and then we are maintaining the same staff complement for this year.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, I guess I should know. Is the planner under the Travel Manitoba Development Department?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** This is the department that would be, that were anyway, working on the development of the programs under Destination Manitoba?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** And under the program as far as 6, and the other program, I believe, is the Winnipeg Planning and the Winnipeg Destination Area and Rural — I guess it's 3, 5 and 6?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the planner was involved in the study that was done under program 1, and the development of a long-term strategy for tourism that came out of that study as well as with its application to a shorter term plan to apply to Destination Manitoba.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I just didn't catch that, it came out with a what?

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, there was the study under program 1 that was to develop a strategy for the entire tourism industry in the province; that's a long-term strategy. Then there was a shorter term strategy developed for specific application to the Destination Manitoba Programs 2, 3 and 6 that you were referring to. That's the Winnipeg and Rural Capital Project Development and the program 6 which was Incentive to the Private Industry.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** There were some efforts made last year to try and get more of the European tourists in the Province of Manitoba. Certainly all our figures show that our biggest market is to the immediate south of us and the market even further south had been growing. As a matter of fact, all of the figures in most areas were up in '81. Is there any more effort going to be made to get that European tourist dollar?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, in the overall analysis the European tourism count is fairly small and the attempt to target or to evaluate what kind of advertising generates that type of tourism is very difficult to evaluate. It was felt that for the marketing dollars to be effectively spent, they have to be focused in an area where there's some probability of getting a fairly high

response. So for that reason, we've focused our marketing strategy and our advertising on the three provinces, Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the two states immediately to the south of us.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I know the market is small but there are some tourist industry promotions or shows that are held in Europe each year and we usually find that Ontario is there with about 20 people trying to attract the European tourist. Other provinces in Canada make pretty big pitches to be attracting that tourist. I never did agree with those who said that market was not a good one for us. I think that our Northern Manitoba is what the European person wants and especially if it is properly presented to them, and the use of the Canadian Government offices over there and the fact that other provinces are trying to have that European tourist is one that I think can benefit us. Has there been any discussion with the western provinces as to promote sort of a western tour in tourism? In other words, start in Manitoba and end up in B.C. or start in B.C. and end up in Manitoba. There was a very small amount of discussion started on that. Is that continued?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Because of the conversation going on around the table, we are having a little difficulty hearing the speaker so I wonder if we can keep it down a little.

The Honourable Minister.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, with regard to the first question about consultation with other provinces, we have in fact talked at some length with Saskatchewan who did put a fair bit of time, money and investment into attracting the European investor, or tourist, and their evaluation is that really it's not worth it. If you can tote up the money spent on trips over there and the wide dispersal of advertising, because the data that comes to us in terms of the European people who come here, they're not focused in any one area. Their estimate of the situation was that was not an effective way to do it.

Now, the prospect of grouping together and making a joint presentation, I think, holds more promise and since we are a part of the national tourism groups, I think that it would be appropriate to explore those kinds of group processes with them because the Federal Government working through their CGOT and the TIAC, the national organization of tourist organizations, are working jointly on coming up with a national plan, the purpose of which is to try to give mutual benefit by approaching the tasks of marketing and servicing the tourism industry in a co-ordinated way. I think that working, co-operating with them is the line that is going to provide us the most benefit in the longer run, so we will take up the member's suggestion and explore the possibilities of some kind of co-ordinated action; that way it may be economical to do some targeted advertising in Europe.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The advertising campaign, when you say in Canada, is it just going to be in Ontario and to the west of us, or is it going pretty well everywhere in Canada?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the approach to advertising we are taking is a targeted approach. The numbers of tourists that we attract from specific areas is so much greater than the numbers we get from the other provinces that the bulk of our formal advertising will go to three provinces and two states as I referred to earlier.

As we work along with the federal organizations, we will, no doubt, find that there is some kind of a broad-brush general advertising that we can do through them and by linking up some of the activity across the country, we would probably be able to reach a lot of those travellers when they sort of get into the western region. They would get some benefit of our advertising at that point. The airlines would all do work at advance sales of tourists and do try to encourage tourists to stop off in different areas. So I think as our major attractions are developed here that there'll be a natural flow into that co-ordinated national program, but at this point in time because we have limited resources, it seemed wiser to target our marketing activities.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, I would just like to mention that the tourist doesn't always go back to the same place every year. You've got to be hitting at other markets continually because they don't always take the same holiday.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for River Heights.

**MR. WARREN STEEN (River Heights):** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, and I wouldn't expect that she personally has been contacted, but if her office has been contacted by the Manitoba Curling Association in a recent conversation with Mr. Vic Palmer, a past president of the Curling Association, he spoke to me about the probability if the Manitoba Curling Association put a bid in for the 1984 or the 1985 Silver Broom, what would be their chances of obtaining the Convention Centre here in the City of Winnipeg as a host facility for the extra curricular activities that go with the Silver Broom? I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Silver Broom would attract somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 4,000 persons to the City of Winnipeg of which many of them would be from Europe. Through you and through the Minister, has her department had any conversations with the Curling Association about Winnipeg hosting such an event in approximately 1984 or 1985?

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, we have had informal discussions with the Manitoba Curling Association. We would consider seriously and likely be able to accommodate a convention of that size, as we discussed earlier today, some of the problems of booking large numbers into the Convention Centre because we're dealing with many many hotels. A concept has been proposed that we try to introduce computerized booking and we've undertaken to analyse that carefully and see if, in fact, at what stage of our development that might be an economical move to make, but we haven't done that at the present.

**MR. STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I have been to London

and I've been to Alberta House in London, and the Alberta Government has a very strong tourist and travel promotion office there that primarily looks for the European skier and promotes both Banff and Jasper. I know that Manitoba doesn't have the facilities that Alberta does and it would be very difficult for Manitoba to promote in Europe for winter vacations in Manitoba because, quite frankly, we don't have what Alberta has to offer or what Colorado perhaps does to the skier. But I do believe that curling is a growing game in Europe and that there's a number of rinks from Manitoba, meaning teams, that do go over to Europe each year and participate and some do come back here. I wonder, through the Curling Association, if some packages could be put together and we could make a stronger effort in years to come to try and influence groups of 32 participants of coming to Manitoba and being hosted here by more than one group, perhaps spending a day or two in one community and on to another one and maybe spending a week in our province and seeing five or six different communities while they're here.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, that is a good idea. That kind of outreach and thinking ahead to offer a variety of packages. I have talked with the Convention Centre people and understand some of the services they can provide. The earlier, of course, such an approach is made, the more likely that a group like that could be accommodated and the better the service would likely be. We have, in fact, supported Silver Broom activities before to the tune of \$15,000, so there is a kind of general commitment to that type of activity here.

**MR. STEEN:** That is fine, thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo):** Mr. Chairman, I think that following on the line of suggestions that have been made by my two colleagues here, the Member for Sturgeon Creek and the Member for River Heights, are a number of reasons why Europeans might be enticed to come here regardless of what the Saskatchewan experience has been. With all due respect to our friends and neighbours in Saskatchewan, I do think that Manitoba has many different and unique attractions that Saskatchewan doesn't including the inland port at Churchill, the possibility of seeing polar bears, that ride out on the train and all of the northern area which, I think, is considerably more attractive than many areas that Saskatchewan has to offer and, as well, even Lake Winnipeg, the Whiteshell and those areas could be a very popular tourist attraction.

I know that European tourists are coming in large numbers to various parts of North America; I guess primarily because of the monetary rate differential, that their buying power is so much greater now than it was five years ago. Canada is an attractive place for them to come and since many of them are coming on ski packages and for other reasons it may well be possible to entice them to come here if a proper package could be put together. We could, I'm sure, advertise many of our attractions or even just use a slogan for the West Germans and the Swiss — "Come here

and visit your money." They've lent us some money recently and they could come here and visit their money. So I suggest that there may be reasons to look into it; that was rather facetious, but I do suggest that having met some Europeans in a variety of different locations in Canada, they didn't come to Manitoba only because they didn't know about Manitoba.

In conversation with them, I think, there might be some great benefit in promoting it there. As opposed to promoting it in provinces in which our adjacent neighbours and the neighbours in the States adjacent to us, our countryside is somewhat similar to theirs and they may not be that all attracted in here whereas those from West Germany, certainly. I mentioned that I summer in Gimli and I've met literally thousands of Icelanders who come there regularly for the Icelandic weekend in August and they are invariably impressed with their visit here and many of them come back on a five or a ten-year basis. So I see no reason why we couldn't attract Europeans with the proper kind of promotion campaign and it may well be worth it as part of the Minister's future consideration.

**MRS. SMITH:** We do meet with the potential European tour, or at least the European tour operators who do offer potential for Canadian tours at Rendezvous Canada. This is the annual trade show held for their benefit; there will be one in Calgary next month and we'll certainly be there.

Actually there has been a decline in foreign tourists entering Canada just in 1981 over '80. It's not a high decline, but it is a decline where we've been experiencing growth; it's gone down .8 percent. The high air fares seem to be, and the difficult economic circumstances abroad seem to be contributing to this. Now we can, of course, distribute some of our literature through Canada House in London. I think the thought of maintaining a Manitoba House there or in other European centres is on an order of expenditure that probably goes beyond anything we might consider here. I would think that a lot of our specialty markets probably get communicated through word of mouth, either through specialty organizations, people interested in polar bears, for example, or northern wilderness canoe trips and that sort of thing.

Also, I think we shouldn't ignore the fact that probably a lot of very effective advertising goes through our own Manitobans who come from or have distant relatives in European countries, and I think that the prime motive for many European tourists coming here is to visit family, but when they get here the quality and number of special attractions that we have in Manitoba obviously provides a great lure. We will be embarking as a government on promotion of multicultural groups, and I would think that probably if you went to the Islendingadagorinn that you would find a great many of the visitors from Iceland probably had relatives in the Gimli area.

If the honourable members believe that there is a low cost effective way of advertising in 70 European countries and further that we should consider, I'd be interested in hearing your suggestions but, as you well know, advertising is costly and when you're dealing with multilanguages you have an additional factor and I submit that we could spend a great deal of money very unproductively by trying to cover the

waterfront. We're adopting more of a strategic approach and I think at this stage of our development that's the most appropriate way to go.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would like to remind the members that the proceedings are being recorded, and we are having difficulty hearing and I think the person that's asked the question has the right to be heard as well, so we would like to keep the noise down a little.

2.(e)(1) — the Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. DAVID R. (Dave) BLAKE (Minnedosa):** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to mention one or two things. My particular area, of course, as you well know, is located in the heart of one of the biggest tourist attractions in this province, namely Riding Mountain National Park — (Interjection) — just straight south — and my constituency takes in most of the park. There is an overflow area that is becoming more and more popular, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. There is a considerable development around the fringes of the park where there are subdivisions for cottage sites developing at a greater pace every year.

Also in the Sandy Lake area, which is not too many miles to the immediate west, there is a considerable number of smaller lakes in there that are providing a tremendous attraction to people that want to have a waterfront site. These sites are being taken up at a considerable rate, and the homes being constructed, they are not really cottages, they are pretty substantial summer homes being constructed in there, and I just wondered if the Minister or members of the department have done a study in that area to ascertain the tourist development potential in that particular area because many of the lakes have been stocked over the years with fish and are providing quite good fishing facilities in that particular area.

Over and above that, of course, when we were in the Highways Estimates, Highway 250 that we've been urging to have completed runs from the south right into that particular area and there are only a few miles of it left to be completed, as soon as the Budget will allow, that will bring the tourist traffic into that particular area. And as anyone knows, if you're pulling a trailer or a boat, if you can travel on pavement you're not likely to travel over 10 or 20 miles of gravel road regardless of how good it is and once you're on that pavement you're not likely to leave it. So it's taking traffic into the park which is probably congested now and where a lot of it could be maybe diverted into a more scenic and quieter area for those that are seeking that type of summer recreation in quieter areas.

I feel that there is just a tremendous potential in there for further development of the tourist industry and I know the docking facilities in Sandy Lake itself, while there's a good beach facility there and a reasonably good dock, the dock is fairly old and is rotting and requires considerable renovations. I know that they have applied for some grants in order to rebuild this docking facility for the large number of boats and that, that attend there in the summer season. I just wondered if the Minister might give me some indication of what studies have been done or what studies are planned in that area because I know they are now in the process of writing the history and they have applied for grants on the history of the area and what

not, and I feel there is a tremendous potential in there to handle the overflow and those that cannot be accommodated in Riding Mountain National Park and that immediate surrounding area. I just would like her to comment on what has been done in that particular field.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the big study that was done under the Destination Manitoba Program 1 did identify the Riding Mountain Duck Mountain as one of the major destination areas for development. Now, they've identified 10 different types of development that can occur in that area, not all of which, of course, would be a shorter term priority. I can just highlight it for you perhaps.

Right around Minnedosa, there needs to be a lot of general tourism service development — food, fuel, accommodation, small scale attractions, and then in the immediate vicinity they feel that there is a lot of opportunity for the development of dude ranch farmers' market type of activities, vacation farms and so on. A little further into the Riding Mountain area, there is a possibility of developing a new medium-sized western ranch resort with quality accommodations and overnight-day equestrian trails. Now, of course, that starts to give a little more diversification. There is a suggestion that the accommodations could be expanded in Wasagaming, stop off and rest areas along Highway 10, possibly an interpretive program, an upgrading of park facilities; a tourism plan for the corridor between the national park entrance and Erickson, and then a variety of developments along Highway 10, including roofed and campground accommodations, expanded wayside parks — someone was asking about them this afternoon — support for various attractions in the area. You may have heard, it's been quite an extensive presentation made by the Dauphin people for their Ukrainian Cultural Centre on the outskirts of the Riding Mountain Park, just outside the Riding Mountain Park, and that is sort of the general plan for that area.

Now, you talked about fishing and cottage sites. As you well recall perhaps from when we were in government before, we like to see a mix of opportunities for private cottagers and sites that are available for the public, particularly for the lower income tourist who may find a cottage quite beyond their means and yet who still need access to the lakes for recreation. We are interested, of course, in not overloading any particular lake or area so that the very fish and wilderness environment that people seek isn't destroyed by overloading an area. I think the study and the long-term strategy with our shorter term focus under Destination Manitoba gives us quite a reasonable plan and strategy for that area and I'd be interested at any time, if the honourable member has some more specific questions or suggestions, that he give them to me or work directly through the department or encourage his local people to apply for some of the programs that are available because I think that area is one that has a lot of potential and should see quite a lot of healthy development in the next few years.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, I appreciate the Minister's comments and there is no question that, I think, everyone figures development on a scale that will allow people

from all walks of life to enjoy that type of nature outing that so many of us enjoy in the summer. The problem with building cottages and trying to keep them within the means of, as she might say, modest income earners, you run into municipal planning by-laws and building standards that really require a fairly adequate building to be constructed. Now, in order to meet with all of their various provincial zoning by-laws is one of them, but I think that particular area is more suitable for that type of development than is Clear Lake because real estate around Wasagaming and the outside of the park has gone out of sight for some of those of more modest incomes. I know lots are selling just outside the park for \$10,000, \$12,000 \$15,000; that's just for a lot. So you try and put a modest cottage on there and you are looking at probably \$50,000 by today's standards, so that is really getting out of the reach of the type of people that, I think, go into the area that I'm referring to.

And the docking facilities, of course, are required for those that tow in a small boat of some type, bring the family, they all go out and fish all day, they picnic on the lakeshore and they don't have a cottage to go to. That is one of the reasons I mentioned that docking facility, that it is in need of substantial upgrading and I hope the department would take a look at that and provide whatever expertise they might to the people there, whether it be by advice or some technical help. I know we have asked Highways if they have an engineer in the area of doing a bridge site if they would just maybe take a look at the dock and give us the benefit of an unsolicited and free engineering opinion on what it might cost to develop it. I know they have received authority for a grant of \$5,000 or \$10,000 through the municipality under the Lotteries Program for work on that dock, but what it might take, I am just not too sure.

The Minister mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the area between Erickson and Sandy Lake and there is an area there that's a tremendously popular marsh area in the fall and, as it's well known, that area I represent is known as the pothole country of Manitoba as far as Mallard hunting and some other diving ducks, notably the commonly known canvasback. I think there are probably more masters degrees in biology have come out of that particular area than anywhere else in North America. The area is extremely popular and I think with the added facilities, it will probably be more popular, but I know the Tourist Department doesn't maybe promote too heavily the aspect of hunting for maybe reasons not appreciated by us hunters, but that particular sport and pastime brings in a tremendous amount of money to the tourist program as does fishing and sight-seeing and all of the other aspects that we attribute to tourists. We are located in one of the excellent hunting areas in Manitoba and I hope that's not overlooked by the department when they are promoting travel to Manitoba, that they lean heavily on Minnedosa Constituency because it is one of the most scenic and prettiest and has the finest people in Manitoba. I hope that receives consideration when they're promoting the Destination Manitoba.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I was just wondering if you were recommending the fine people to do the hunting or for the hunters. However, jokes aside, the

hunting industry, I think, does get promotion particularly under the supervision of the Natural Resources Department. Our joint aim, I think, is to preserve the best hunting for Manitobans. Now, that might not always bring in the best dollars from across the border, but I think with tourism that a major part of our total program has to be to provide a mix of recreation opportunities to our own people as well as to attract some outside visitors and naturally their money, but we don't see the industry shifting to a complete focus on bringing in outsiders. We think that it's important to maintain these traditional recreation opportunities for our own people.

**MR. BLAKE:** There's no doubt about that and we certainly don't want to deplete the game for outsiders, but if they want to come and hunt our areas, they naturally pay for it. Their tourist promotion is effective enough that they got me down to Iowa, Nebraska, to shoot pheasant last year. That's something that I can't do up here, although I probably could have gone to Alberta, around Brooks, and done the same thing. They have just got a tremendous promotion program for that particular sport because there are particular areas that are suited to it and they promote it very, very handsomely and they do a tremendous business in that particular season of the year. But I wouldn't want to have that many tourists in here that they were going to overrun the local people because, after all, I'm a firm believer in we look after our own. But, as I say, if they do want to come in here and enjoy that facility then they are required to pay for it by licence fees or whatever other accommodation may be charged to the tourist.

I want to have it on the record that the Sandy Lake-Erickson area hasn't been overlooked with the overflow from Clear Lake and I know, from what the Minister has told me, that her department is fully aware of the benefits of that particular area and they will do whatever they can to encourage people to travel in that particular part of Manitoba.

**MRS. SMITH:** I really don't have much to add, except the honourable member might be interested to know we get quite a few inquiries about people who want to come and shoot pictures.

**MR. BLAKE:** I might indicate to the Minister, being a member of the Game and Fish Association and an active participant in wildlife preservation and conservation in Manitoba, that I have, on occasion, when my limit has been obtained to put the gun down and take the camera in hand myself and enjoy it that way.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Inkster.

**MR. DON SCOTT (Inkster):** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to add a couple comments to those that were made by the Member for Minnedosa. I think that when you have a major tourist attraction like you do in Riding Mountain National Park with a number of people coming, there's also the possibility of attracting a lot of people who are coming to make a quick buck off a resource that is there and attracting tourists to the area.

My only concern with the Destination Manitoba

project in that area, at least, is that there should be some sort, or at least I'd like to see within a general perimeter around the park to some degree, some kind of a coding system or not even a coding system, but some sort of standards established for the types of facilities that do go in so that the facilities do not detract and look like you're driving through a ghetto before you get into the park itself.

In other words, you can have the same problems you do outside of some cities in our fair country where you have a rash of commercial developments that are there because of low taxation rates and proximity to a valuable resource and are not necessarily adding an awful lot to the countryside. Certainly, when you drive through that countryside, I'm sure the member will agree with me, it's one of the prettier parts of our province and I think that we should be working with the operators who are there currently and also with any other tourist operators who are thinking of locating in the general district; that there be basic codes established with the municipalities when one must have to or would have to in this case work alongside them, the entrepreneurs who are being involved with it, so that we have something to add to the area rather than detract from the area with a whole bunch of — well, like was in years gone by of shack towns and one thing and another growing up beside a major resource.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(1)—Salaries—pass; 2.(e)(2)—Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(e)(3) Grant Assistance — the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'd just like to ask the Minister, there's no change in the Grant Structure Program, or Grant Assistance Program as it's called? It's still being operated and administrated in the same way?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, yes. That doesn't mean that every request gets automatically approved. If there has been any complaint or question raised about an activity, we do go out of our way to send out whatever the relevant government representatives are and attempt to either help a group that haven't quite measured up to the expectations from the previous years grant, to remedy this situation, and plan a little more effectively, or in effect to evaluate carefully whether or not to continue our grant system, but most of the grants do go through very much as the pattern was before.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(3)—pass; 2.(e)(4) Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement - Destination Manitoba—pass.

The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, is there a rundown of the six programs under this that can be made available to us?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, we have one or two spare copies here which can be — oh sorry there are four. I'll just wait a moment until you have them. As the honourable member knows three of the six pro-

grams were active up until now and three others we hope to have active fairly soon.

The first one, Studies in Planning, a major study was done of the tourism opportunities in the entire province. This was a study that looked at the physical resources, the historical pattern, the particular pattern of settlement, and the opportunities in the area; how they related to major traffic routes and attempted to identify what tourism developments were compatible with an area; then to make that information available for the design of both the long-term strategy and the short-term strategy for the Destination Manitoba program.

Items 4 and 5 have also been in action. Those programs, the attraction and events, local festivals year round, where there's been a fair amount of community input, and we have quite a diversity of attraction and events that are supported under that; particularly for the marketing component of the program. Under program 5, Industry Organization, I did refer to that earlier where the hotel people and the restaurant people and the Tourism Association do receive some assistance with their activities. That's because we do recognize that these peer groups are very influential in helping one another develop in seeking out the innovative thing to do, the best way to market their services, and in fact maintain a good standard.

The programs which should come onstream very shortly are 2, 3, and 6; 2 and 3 are the Capital Development Programs for Winnipeg and rural attraction areas in turn; and the final rural incentive one which provides assistance to private sector operators in the tourist field.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Thompson.

**MR. STEVE ASHTON (Thompson):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One concern I've had with Destination Manitoba, previously at least, largely from my own local experience, has been the delays which have taken place in terms of the hammering out of criteria, of accepting applications — well in fact the whole process has really been a two-year delay. It's been a particular concern to a number of local groups in Thompson, particularly the Mystery Mountain Ski Hill Complex Group which is trying to develop a facility there which would have particular application for tourism not just in the local region but also in Manitoba generally, because we have one of the finest ski facilities in the province there.

One of the problems they had was that they were told to wait for the outcome of the consultants' report. This was a process which had to be followed before any criteria could be set, before applications could be received. Then they found, much to their surprise, that in this massive great document they weren't even mentioned once despite the number of representations they've made to the Minister's Department, this being the previous Minister, and in fact to the consultants themselves. I'm wondering if the indication you've given that projects 2, 3 and 6, or those sections of the Destination Manitoba Project, that they will be continuing fairly soon moving towards some kind of resolution which would indicate that this group would finally get some kind of an answer, an answer they've

been waiting about two years for.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the northern area could qualify as a specialty market. The strategy recommended by the people who did the study was split between promoting general attractions that would appeal to a general mix of tourists and they followed the main traffic routes, the main car traffic routes through the province. That's where you see White-shell, and the Winnipeg Beach, and the Number One Corridor, and the Riding Mountain, Duck Mountain areas as prime destination areas.

The northern area for a general attraction was in The Pas-Snow Lake-Flin Flon area, which does seem to exclude Thompson. However, under the specialty market area, there was a reference to Churchill because of its unusual terrain and wildlife. The Thompson area, there was not a lot of reference to it specifically, except that there's a reference to Northern Manitoba and Churchill in an umbrella way. There where it says, "Create distinct market image for different areas through promotion programs, upgrade lodge facilities, strengthen distinct image of Churchill based on unique historical and natural resources."

Now that can be interpreted to include the Mystery Mountain Ski Lodge. There's a certain amount of discretion left to the department in terms of how to allocate the monies. Now if it were decided to put money into that ski facility, I know the money required is specifically for a hydro line — I think it's about 11 miles — in order to provide the power to turn water into artificial snow so that ski facility can have a much extended life, but that type of program would not only greatly enhance the ski hill for the local residents but it would also provide a facility that could be appealing to residents from out of the province.

I think it's a good example in a way of a tourist attraction that will take a lot of selling, because although I myself I know have lived in the north but I didn't imagine a mountain quite as high as Mystery Mountain is having quite as much potential for ski runs. However, having had a chance to go up there in the middle of winter and see the variety of slopes and really the beauty of the place, and seeing it from the point of view of people up there who could see it as a destination for school groups, for weekend groups, even for competitions from out of province, I began to see the possibilities. It certainly is the type of attraction that might not have jumped immediately to mind as having potential, but with a deeper look at the possibility and some imagination in terms of what the market could become, followed up with a fairly good feasibility study, I think could lead to it being developed.

Some of the considerations that would have to be taken into account were whether or not a declining population in that area of the province would very much affect the market for such a development, or whether in fact some developments of this sort might in fact help compensate for the decline of employment of other types. Now, these are the kind of questions that aren't answered yet, but they would be part of an initial feasibility study for just that type of project; but I assure you, because things weren't mentioned specifically in the overall study doesn't mean that they can't be considered. There is a wide flexibility

under this specialty market area of the program.

**MR. ASHTON:** I thank the Minister for her comprehensive answer. I would just like to add that I would personally recommend this particular project for two reasons. First of all, it draws on one thing which we have quite a bit of in Thompson; that is, strong community support, strong community activity and I note in that regard that regard the amount of fund raising that has already taken place in regards to that complex. It's simply astronomical if one looks at the present situation in Thompson to see the amount of money they've already raised for the project, it's running in the several hundred thousand dollar range.

Second of all, I note the fact that we have another asset in the North, although it's not always described that way, and that is that we have rather cold weather, significantly colder than down south, and I'd note in that regard the fact that this weekend while it was 29 degrees here in Winnipeg, it was snowing in Thompson. Now, that may not seem like much of an asset always; it is certainly an asset when it comes to skiing, although we often find we have the cold weather but not quite the amount of snow to support the ski runs. That's why it is so important to get this power line in and get the artificial snow-making machinery.

So, as I mentioned, this particular project draws on two resources we have a lot of; one is strong community activity and the second is cold weather, so I would certainly recommend it to the Minister and the department.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, the member did draw attention to the delay in implementation of the program. I can't account for all of the delay, but I know that some of it can be attributed to the general pattern that goes on in these federal-provincial agreements; that is that the early phases are devoted fairly extensive studies so that the larger amounts of money that tend to be paid out in the middle to later years of the agreement can be strategically targeted. Certainly, some of the delay has been attributed to that, but I guess we all know the problem of when an agreement is signed, expectations are raised and we may think we're standing on our head at the governmental end, but I'm sure it always seems like a long delay out in the field as the proverbial red tape seems to get in the way.

I can assure the member that we have a will to proceed with this program and we think that it will provide a small, but still significant economic impetus in some of these smaller communities.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one comment. I could appreciate the enthusiasm and the community spirit that was exhibited in the North, especially Thompson, as the member has stated, but I just want to remind the Minister that in our constituency of Minnedosa, with Agassiz Ski Valley in Minnedosa and even Glenorkey, we have the finest downhill ski facilities, complete with chair lifts, tow bars and everything between Thunder Bay and Banff and we're close to most of the million people that live in this province. I would hope that she is not going to

funnel funds off to take people up to that snowbound, 35 degree below weather, where they can ski in comfort at Minnedosa with automatic snow-making facilities already in place. So, I wouldn't want her programs to get at cross purposes in Destination Manitoba.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, one of the phenomenon we're noticing in our modern way of life is that we tend to focus on the declining economy at the moment, but overall, people still are having a great deal more leisure and there seems to be a hunger for a variety of good quality recreation opportunities. I submit that the more ski opportunities there are, the more skiers there will probably be and I think we haven't saturated that market at all, so I can see skiers in the Minnedosa area that master those hills are going to want to go and try Mystery Lake. Believe me, some of them are pretty steep and the Mystery Lake people may even be attracted to come down to Aggasiz and there can be a good exchange in Manitoba. Instead of them eating for free at home, they can attend the local motels and hotels and shop in the little stores and we'll have a self-sustaining type of economic activity here in Manitoba.

**MR. BLAKE:** From what I'm told, Mr. Chairman through you to the Minister, that when they reach that stage, that Banff, Whistler Mountain and various other places become a lot more attractive than Thompson.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Thompson.

**MR. ASHTON:** I would like to invite the Member for Minnedosa to come up to Thompson during the winter. You'll see how attractive Thompson is in terms of skiing.

**MRS. SMITH:** I'll second that motion.

**MR. ASHTON:** I take by his comments that he perhaps hasn't had enough time to really savour the enjoyment of a good day's skiing on a good cold day and the follow-up in the chalet afterwards.

**MR. BLAKE:** Watch the ravens to tell the temperature, because every third wipe of the wings they go like that, when it's 30 below.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A study, I know, was just completed around the end of August last year and then there was an analysis done of the study. The Minister has outlined that the study has given them the opportunity to move ahead with 2, 3 and 6. The problems that we had with Mystery Lake is until we had the studies completed, there was another ski place that was desperately wanting funds, La Riviere area wanting funds, who have some very fine ski hills down in that area. Until you had the study for the department to work with, to be able to make decisions on the basis of tourism benefits, it was just almost impossible to pick one community over another to try to do something.

There was an attempt made on one occasion last year to try and find an amount of about \$15,000 a year

over the next three years for Mystery Lake. I, personally, would have had no objection to that even if we'd have maybe found the money in another area. I have stood on that ski hill in very cold weather myself and probably been in Thompson more than the Member for Thompson, and I can assure you that I'm very, very aware of the Thompson people that gather out at that Mystery Lake ski hill on Sundays. It's a tremendous community thing, but it has to be designation of, hopefully, an increase in tourism to the area before we could show favouritism over one community for another.

The Winnipeg Destination area, as the Minister says is the now we're going to get moving; what plans has there been made regarding a tourist attraction for Winnipeg? There was a presentation made to us on one occasion for a western town on the western side by one developer. There were many people who had very good ideas as to what we could do for more of a tourist attraction in Winnipeg.

Is any of the money being used for Destination Winnipeg for the advancement or the promotion of the Convention Centre? I think the monies in that particular program could be maybe moved around to take a look at assistance to the Convention Centre in some way. The Convention Centre in Winnipeg is probably your second largest tourist attraction, your Racetrack being first. I just wondered what plans they have for Winnipeg and what discussions have been put together for the Winnipeg Destination area?

**MRS. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Chairperson, the status of the report and the criteria and all the rest in getting the programs launched is such that we're just finalizing now the criteria. There is a bank of ideas for all these programs, particularly for programs 2 and 3 and I'm sure that the honourable member probably can remember most of them because they were submitted or identified when he was in fact the Minister.

There is, as yet, no weeding out or focusing on the prioritizing of these projects because without the criteria it really would have been — well there was no basis on which to make the selection. But I can assure you we will look at each suggestion carefully and we will be setting up a board that will be evaluating these different options according to the criteria we've set out. I don't see the Convention Centre having been identified in so many words, but it goes without saying that it's an important general attraction and support to the tourist activity, so I can assure that it will be given full consideration, but it really would be premature for me to say that it will come up as high priority.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The rural destination areas, there were many ideas and presentations on that. Of course, there were many applications brought in on the Rural Incentive Program. Has there been any decision made as to the destination areas that will be moved into? In other words, is there a priority of 1, 2 and 3?

**MRS. SMITH:** They haven't been prioritized in that order, but they have been identified. Eastern Manitoba, the general Whiteshell area; the Lake Winnipeg Beaches — just a minute I'll make sure I've got the short-term and the long-term. The Hecla area, The Pas Tourism Service Centre in Northern Gateway;



Cranberry Portage is in Outfitter's Village; accommodations and services in The Pas, Flin Flon and Snow Lake area; accommodations and services in Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain; attractions on Hwy. No. 10 corridor; farm vacation opportunities in the Southern Parkland; attractions, information services on the Trans Canada corridor — this is just referring to the priority projects for Winnipeg which haven't yet been identified.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Have the guidelines for the No. 6 Rural Incentives; are they in place and ready to go?

**MRS. SMITH:** They haven't yet received Cabinet authorization, so they're not completely in place.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I would only ask because I'm fully aware of how long it has taken to get those guidelines to a situation that was going to be fair to everybody that applied; is it expected that they will be approved fairly soon?

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** There is just one area, I go back to campgrounds again, and I know the Minister mentioned there was no plan really set out on campgrounds, but there was certainly some discussion among Ministers. I must say it wasn't into the department that much, except that I'm sure the staff heard my opinions on it several times, that there should be money for upgrading campgrounds in the Province of Manitoba. I noticed the Minister mentions something about wayside stations along No. 10 Hwy and that sounds that the report is recommending wayside stations similar to what we have between here and Fargo or here and Grand Forks, they're really good stations from the point of view of facilities for people when they're travelling.

Just generally in the whole Destination Program, does the Minister feel that there is some room for upgrading of campgrounds and certainly looking at more stations along the highways or upgrading the ones we have? We have some beautiful ones, they're in beautiful areas but the facilities at the wayside stations along the highways in Manitoba are not as convenient as they are in other areas. So I'm just repeating myself from this afternoon, asking the Minister if there's somewhere in here that these can be upgraded? The Minister of Parks and Resources doesn't have any money for upgrading in his budget and maybe we can find something here to get it going.

**MRS. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Chairperson, in some of the fine print of the Riding Mountain, Duck Mountain plans, it did refer specifically to campgrounds and wayside park facilities. At this point, I haven't got the detail of every area before me, but I can assure the member that we see as a high priority the improvement of our public park facilities.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. I am just very anxious to see the criteria on the rural incentives once the Cabinet has passed it because I'm very aware that the industry out there has been waiting a long time for it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(4)(a) Salaries—pass; 2.(e)(4)(b) Other Expenditures—pass.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Where are you now?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Just finished Destination Manitoba. Did you have another question the Member for Sturgeon Creek?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** No, I just was having trouble finding that little (a) and (b) hidden away there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution No. 48 — Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$18,604,200 for Economic Development and Tourism for Operations for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

We have one article left on 1. Executive (a) Minister's Salary.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the Minister for her co-operation during the Estimates. I must say they went very smoothly until the Member for St. James came in one night, but otherwise things went very well.

I must say that the department is operating basically the same as it was previously. There are some small changes in it and I would say that the structure of the department is one that will work efficiently. Although I must say that I am a little disappointed in the fact that the Minister has some views about the development of economic development in the Province of Manitoba that are a little discouraging to me to say the least, I'm very concerned that the Minister or the policy of the government is to definitely, and I say definitely although the Minister talked around it during the Estimates that it wouldn't be that way, but there is going to be a move to try and direct where industry will be going in the province. There's certainly going to be a move to have more and more government owned corporations within the Province of Manitoba that are either going to be competing with the present industries, or being built up with the taxes of other industries that are in competition to them.

I don't think that's going to be an attraction for other business to come to the Province of Manitoba. The idea, first of all, of the regional development corporation and in towns and municipalities having the initiative to go out and get people to come to their area, or businesses to come to their area as one that has been proving exceptionally well in the Province of Manitoba, and especially in the rural area, because the figures are there. The figures are there to prove that manufacturing had been growing in the rural part of Manitoba and industries from the outside have been very interested in rural Manitoba.

I did go back and read the Ministers statement where she felt that public corporations would be better for the Province of Manitoba than private industry on the basis that they aren't able to move and et cetera and you can control the profits and keep them here. I would have to suggest that the public expenditure in the Province of Manitoba should not be really developed too greatly as far as building companies are

concerned, you may be able to have public investment such as we were planning in the potash industry on the western side of the province, a joint venture with resources. But I would not like to see the Province of Manitoba start back into a manufacturing type of program with government corporations.

The province, although many people in the Legislature don't agree, was operating very well. The perspective that you put out had manufacturing increases which led the country. All of the industry areas that were being concentrated on were moving up. The Conference Board, as I mentioned, said that Manitoba would be third in Canada for the real product increase in the country, we would stand third. The employment until the end of probably the last three or four months of 1981 was holding up exceptionally well, and even at that point we weren't dropping to badly. Since 1981, and with all the problems that come forth because of interest rates and because of high inflation, which I know are serious, but we seem to be dropping much faster than we should be in the Province of Manitoba as far as industry development is concerned and as far as manufacturing development is concerned.

We also have got an Interest Rate Program that at the present time is not according to statistics, and I know there's a very small sample, going to be of benefit to as many people as they probably expected they would. When I say that I mean there's an expectation out there from people in business that are certainly have the feeling that the government is going to solve all their problems. As I said before in these Estimates that the statement signed by the Premier was probably the most stupid statement I've ever read in my life. Anybody that signs an impossible statement is not really thinking too clearly.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't have too much more to say than that. I know the Minister is sincere in operating this department. She's very sincere in her plans, but I would have to say that I have the feeling that she doesn't really know what's going on out there. I have the feeling that we've got a social attitude or an opinion which has developed by sitting around saying this is the way it should be and really not taking into effect as to the way it is. I don't think that the experimentation that is going to be put forth by this department or by this government to build the economy of the province is anywhere realistic as to what we need at the present time.

We dwelt on Alcan for quite awhile one day. I sincerely wish that my colleagues had been here with me, because the Minister and I had a very good debate on Alcan, which leads to the other larger projects which will create jobs. It's very disappointing, very disappointing, that there isn't more encouragement being given, or more hope being given to the people of Manitoba that these projects are being worked on and will come to fruition for the benefit of Manitobans having jobs. The answer that we keep getting from the Minister of Energy and I must say that I know this Minister is not in charge of these programs, the Minister of Energy is, but she is on the committee and she is the Deputy Premier. So we have to say that the attitude that is being brought forward that these negotiations are standing still and it's all right to have them standing still at the present time, because markets are

down is just not good enough. I can't for the life of me see why negotiations can't be carried out with Alcan to the point where they would say, yes, when we decide to move, when we decide to move and expand our capacity, that we must expand by about 4 percent every five years or so, that we will expand in Manitoba. I can't see any reason why that can't be negotiated and laid to rest so that people in Manitoba will know that there has been a decision made for them to come here and build their refinery. I can't, for the life of me, see why the negotiations with the potash people have to be held back for the same reason, and IMC are going to have to have a supply of potash. They know that they are going to need some, and here again, we seem to be sitting back and ending up with a situation where the Saskatchewan Potash Corporation is going to do most of the business in potash and Manitoba's potash is going to be sitting in the ground. We were excited, and so were most of the people of Manitoba, to know the quantity we had and the quality we have and we should be starting to move.

Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Power Grid is really coming to a situation where the negotiations among the Ministers and among the governments are there. To have the Minister of Energy tell his committee, or tell us, that things had not been presented to Cabinet doesn't wash either. All of the recommendations that the Minister from Manitoba took to those meetings, I know, went through Cabinet and for discussion, and when the final paper was agreed by the three Ministers to present to Cabinet, there was a press release made in Manitoba by the Premier to say how close we were to it. I don't, for the life of me, know why that cannot be moved along faster than it has been because under those circumstances and with Alcan, we can have an orderly development on the Nelson with 25 years of construction and a lot of work and the spin-off that approximately \$3 billion would bring to our small industry, and I must say that the Minister of Economic Development, and I repeat the words of the Member for Brandon West to me, has got to make these things move and make sure they're carrying on. I know you can't walk in with a baseball bat and hit them over the head. I don't know how much good it would do, but I think that the Minister of Economic Development has to show some initiative in these areas because she knows more than any other Minister in this province the absolute need for some large projects for our smaller business to grow on. We will grow with projects outside of the province to some extent, but we have the opportunity to have them grow in the province. We have the opportunity to discuss with people what they spend within the province when they have these projects going. So I would only like to suggest that the Minister take hold, and press very hard to have these done.

I didn't hear the Minister's speech on metric today, but I must say that I would not like to see us moving any faster than we have to on metric because it's a cost to manufacturers that is absolutely unnecessary in many areas even though the present Federal Government has said that's what it's got to be. So, it would not be good to agree with the Federal Government that this should be forced upon people or the businesses in Manitoba. Let the businesses decide themselves if they want to quote in metric and let them

gradually move into it on their own. Specification of dates to do this is probably the worst way that it can be done.

And the Tourism, I am very pleased that the tourism monies are available for promotion. I am sure the Minister has been given this chart that I used to carry with me all the time that showed very clearly that the millions when they quit spending money on tourism in 1974, it dropped all the way down. In 1978, we started to do some promotion and advertising, spending more money, and you will notice that tourism went up. While you weren't spending, the tourism went down; while you started to spend, the tourism went up as far as advertising in the province, and I'm very pleased that the Expenditures will carry on in Tourism, and I sincerely hope that the Destination Manitoba can be of benefit. It's a beginning, \$20 million is a drop in the bucket, to get the tourism going in the Province of Manitoba. If it's used properly, it will be a good start.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate the thoughtful comments of the honourable member, and I, too, have appreciated the steady and thoughtful way that he has played the role of critic in these Estimates hearings.

I will sum up quickly from my point of view. I repeat that when we say we wish to have some influence on where industry will locate, we mean just that — influence — and not play a role of directing. We intend to throw that into the negotiating package and not to go in with our minds made up one way or the other but, other things being equal, to play an active role to see whether there is within the economic feasibility of new companies some chance of them locating where the need is greatest in order to have a more balanced development in the province.

With regard to our readiness to have more public corporations, we think where it can be demonstrated that the economic structure of the province can be strengthened and made more mature, that can be a good argument for a Crown corporation. We don't believe in promoting Crown corporations just for their own sake, there must be a good rationale. We do also appreciate the role of the RDCs in attracting industry to their locations and, I think, want to move to improve that. The only change perhaps will be that wherever they can attract industry on their own, we'll congratulate them and have them go their way but where public money is invested, we will attempt to play some kind of a responsible negotiating role with those industries. We believe that the total package of economic development is better if there is both public and private investment rather than an emphasis on one or the other alone. It's the mixed approach that will provide the most balanced growth and the greatest stimulus to the economy of Manitoba.

I do want to congratulate the honourable member in his working with the Enterprise Manitoba Agreements to improve the manufacturing in Manitoba. I do agree that there has been significant gain in that sector and if it weren't that there had also been a drop off in population and decline in other sectors, I would say a job well done, but I repeat that it's our economic strategy to have both public and private investment because we believe that the mixed pattern will create

the best stimulus, both for manufacturing and for other sectors in the economy.

Inflation has been a serious problem. It is an accelerating or increasing problem and we're seeing the results of that today. I can only state my belief that had there been a more mixed approach to the economy in the previous four years, we might not have been in as bad a situation, but I do acknowledge that, some of that, we are not insulated from the other provinces of Canada or the other countries of the world, that we are not able to resist entirely that type of a process.

We have put in our Interest Rate Program. I don't think we have ever tried to raise expectations to make business think that this is a remedy for all their ills. We have stated repeatedly that it's aimed to the smaller businesses; it is an emergency-type program. Government certainly can't solve all the problems although it can do a better job in the long haul given an opportunity to do some careful planning.

The honourable member thought that I, as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, was hung up on what should be and didn't pay enough attention to what is and therefore was not realistic. I submit that's not how I would describe my approach; I think I am realistic about what is, but I also have a sense of what could be. Perhaps, way down the road, I also have an idea of what should be, but the way to get there I think is to focus on what can be tomorrow and the next day and then carefully to innovate and learn as we go. I don't think you'll find us guilty of wild experimentation and irresponsible behaviour. I think instead you may be pushing us to go faster, rather than the opposite. We do intend to move carefully and in a planful way.

Getting down to the mega projects, I know the honourable members wish that their idea of leadership in that field were mine and that they can somehow goad me into going and changing the minds of all my colleagues. Well, I am an active and equal member of that committee, I listen to the analysis, I do my own reading and I weigh the evidence that's put before me. I think the honourable members have tried to suggest that we've killed the Alcan project. I think they don't want to listen to what we have said, that it is still very much a live project and that what we want to do is ensure that the deal we make is not a sellout for now or the future for Manitobans, but a carefully negotiated deal. That continues to be our approach.

We think the environmental, social impact studies should be made prior to site identification and not after; that's a logical approach to that kind of development and not the other reverse order. I know the honourable member was hungry for a success of that project, but we believe that the responsible way to negotiate is from strength and from a realistic assessment of the cost and benefit to our own people.

The same situation exists with potash. The honourable member was content to negotiate with a 25-percent ownership in that project. There is also a slowdown in the world potash price situation and the Manitoba potash is not something that's going to go away. The world market price makes it somewhat less feasible to develop it now; there are surpluses. There are other ways to develop that potash and I assure the honourable member that we will be taking a responsible approach to that project.

The same applies to the power grid; we are not willing to make a deal that we will regret in 10 or 15 years. We believe that we must negotiate from a position of knowing what the long-term effects are going to be. We would be most remiss if, 15 years down the road, we'd found that we had bought into a deal which gave the lion's share of the benefit to the provinces to the west of us and didn't give a fair return to Manitobans. I think that's the only sensible way to enter into negotiations. We are not intending to be greedy; we're not intending to make every situation completely — how should I say — we're not out for the moon, we're out for a good realistic and well balanced deal.

I can understand the honourable members wanting the large projects. It's tempting, I think, to look at Economic Development in terms of large projects; for one thing, it is much easier to focus on them and see fall-out for smaller scale opportunities. I think the Federal Government is facing the folly, I think, of having developed a similar approach. I think they have hung their entire economic strategy on a reliance on large energy projects. If they all went through, it could give a very significant impetus to the country. But if there were not another kind of planning going on that would look at the long term and ensure that when the initial impetus in those projects had disappeared that we had something in place that would produce a stable and secure economy for Canadians that we might find we had committed the folly of the previous decades of selling off all our resources as quickly as we could and relatively cheaply without ensuring adequate benefit and long-term stability for Manitobans and for Canadians.

Just a final comment about metric. There is a short-term cost to manufacturers to convert and if the Minister had heard my speech this afternoon, I think he would have recognized that I wasn't defending the method of implementation of the metric system. However, I was defending the benefit of it in the longer run. I think the very manufacturing industry that he wants me to promote and which I want to promote requires sophisticated technological change. We need people who can deal with computer languages; they change almost yearly and become more and more sophisticated. Learning metric compared to learning new computer languages is child's play. There are many inherent gains in a development of ability to handle the metric system in our development of trade and our modernization of industry, so I submit that the long-term gain surpasses the short-term gain.

Again, tourism advancement, yes, some gains can be secured from advertising, strategic advertising I submit, rather than scatter gun advertising. It's an industry that needs a variety of promotional activities though and I think when we've put together the Destination Manitoba, all the program expenditures, that we'll see a winning package. We will see the development of some significant major attractions, the upgrading of our facilities and, in general, be able to pump a lot of life into that very interesting and important activity.

I think I have covered all the points raised by the honourable member and I think I will conclude.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to allowing the Minister to maintain her salary at the level that it is, I thought I might make a few comments. Actually, I am going to find it difficult to contain my enthusiasm for the events of this evening and to try and be negative about anything that may be happening right now in view of the results coming to us from our neighbouring province to the west. Perhaps we will be getting some additional tourism from the west as people start visiting Manitoba who may not feel comfortable in Saskatchewan in the future or perhaps the results of the improvement in the economy will manifest themselves in new tourist dollars being spent in Manitoba from Saskatchewan residents in the not too distant future. But I did wish to place on the record my own grave and serious concerns about this Minister's approach to the Economic Development portfolio in this government.

It seems to me that all of us, on both sides of the House, can very definitely support her desires to have a great many valuable social programs and to offer a high quality of life and all of those things that are necessary and requisite for people to enjoy life in Manitoba. But it seems to me that this Minister, despite her protestation to the effect that all of her colleagues were concerned about all aspects of the government, not just Economic Development, doesn't understand the root problem and the source of concern that those of us have. It's not in terms of her desire to achieve social change and to offer more social benefits for the many people in this province who ought to expect those benefits from the government, but it is her lack of concern about creating a climate that will attract investment.

Despite all of nice sounding statements that she's made, Mr. Chairman, I am very concerned that so many of the things that she stands for and her government stands for, and that she has indicated as being priorities will be disincentives for people to locate here whether they be large investors or whether they be small investors, whether they be from without the province or from within the province, I don't believe that given the kinds of priorities that she has enunciated and the kinds of programs that she has set as being her top priorities that very many people will be attracted to take their savings, their investments, out of their mattresses, out of their shoes, or out of their Canada Savings Bonds and place them into creating economic development and jobs in this province. As an example, I believe the figures are that this last issue of Canada Savings Bonds that the Federal Government put out at some 19.25 or whatever percent it was in that range attracted over \$13 billion of money to be tied up. I might indicate that's not large, that doesn't represent large blocks of money, because people were limited to \$15,000 a piece in purchases and even in small family groupings, we'd be talking in terms of having \$45,000 or \$60,000 tied up in bonds, but that represented an increase, I believe, from just over \$3 billion the previous year. So there was an additional \$10 billion of potential investment money taken out of the general flow of investment in this country and put into Canada Savings Bonds.

When this Minister indicates that she has concern about limiting profits because people are getting too high a return and indicating that there aren't enough

good corporate citizens around, and that there aren't enough people who are investors and in business who are concerned about the social needs of the province, rather than the economic development of the province, I think that those kinds of statements and that kind of response is, if anything, going to discourage anybody from taking their money out of Canada Savings Bonds or, as I said, the mattress or the sock and put it into this province where we need it desperately to create the kinds of economic developments, that the job creation activities that all of us want to see. Because after all, in the final analysis, all of the social programs that this government or any other government has as its priorities are not possible to be accomplished or achieved without the returns of taxation from the economic growth that we have to have in this province.

It just isn't good enough for this Minister to indicate that she and her colleagues have a wide and broad range of concerns and sense of responsibility. She was a little critical of us for saying that each of the Ministers must have been in a water-tight box and only looked after his or her own area. The fact of the matter is that I don't think any of us were uncaring about the concerns of the other Ministers in terms of Health, Education and Social Development, but if each of us recognize that in a team everybody has one position for which they are responsible and then is a backup in a team sense to all of the others, but if somebody isn't playing first base and in fact is roaming the field because they have greater concerns about other aspects of their government's initiatives, then you're not going to get too many people out at first base. If somebody else is running around the diamond rather than pitching, then you're going to have concerns because all of the backup in the world doesn't help if somebody isn't playing their position.

This Minister's position as Minister is as Minister of Economic Development and I can appreciate her desire to back up all of the others, but I think that it's very important for her to play her position first and foremost. By running often and talking more about the concerns that she and her government have about all the other aspects and, in effect, by default leaving Economic Development floundering and I fear that it will be if there isn't some very strong motivation, announcement and expression of interest made by this government and this Minister, then we will not attract anybody nor induce anybody to take their money out of whatever sources they now have it placed and put it into the kinds of job creating, economic development activities that we need in this province.

There are many other things and perhaps there will be other opportunities in the debate during the course of this Session to place on the record the various things. The Minister has been very open and very honest about her feelings; they are on the record in magazines, in newspaper articles all over the province and beyond at the present time. I think that many of them are going to come back to haunt her and haunt this government when it comes to attracting economic development. For instance, in one article recently she's quoted as saying, "Capitalism is in its late stage" and that isn't helping Manitoba's economic development. I think the negatives of the capi-

talistic system outweigh the positives, but while we're critics of it, we can't abolish it. What we want to find out is how we can transform it. Well, I think things like that are just simply going to grease the skids under those businesses that are already having difficulty operating here and force them out of business rather quickly despite all of the positive comments about government involvement and government initiatives in the business creation, because the creation of business of good, sound economic business in this province is still going to rest with the private sector, those so-called capitalists that the Minister doesn't seem to have much respect for. I think that it will cost the taxpayer considerably more money after this Minister is through with her economic development initiatives because they will, in fact, drive out the very people who have built this province and this country.

I will leave that on the record, Mr. Chairman, and say that we'll go off to some more pleasant activities this evening and leave the Minister with her salary intact.

**MRS. SMITH:** Mr. Chairperson, we are engaged in a debate which brings to the problems that confront us different perspectives and I guess a difference sense; one, of how the system works; and two, of what we think are the legitimate goals of government and of an economic system. I respect the honourable member for presenting us with the economic, political philosophy that he espouses. I know he believes it holds together and that it offers the best prospects for sound growth in the years to come. As he well knows, I approach it from another angle. I don't think I have ever said that capitalism doesn't have a role to play, but I have said there are some things it does not do or does not do very well. Therefore, a mixed approach is important and it is the role of government to ensure that kind of a mixture is, in fact, in place.

It is easy to lure people into believing that they are going to benefit if there is economic growth. The actual fact, Mr. Chairperson, is that some people do and others don't. We believe it's the responsibility of government to plan so that, if times are tough, all share the load and no one has to suffer at the level of meeting their basic needs. When times are good, by the same token, all should benefit. Our approach to governing the province is not quite represented by the team play of a ball game where people specialize in different places. There is a sense in which people must specialize and play a special part on the team, but a ball team is not exactly a Cabinet and a Cabinet such as we are operating recognizes that people bring different types of information because of their departmental responsibilities, but then they sit down with the common philosophy and the common approach and decide which priorities should be followed. If the honourable member finds my willingness to look at the connections and find an integrated approach to the task of government, running off and commenting on everything under the sun, he's entitled to that perspective.

In my opinion, the fact that I see the connectedness of these different factors does represent the way I view government and the way I view the task or the responsibility of being a part of that government. I believe that Economic Development and Tourism are

vitality connected to what my colleagues are doing in other departments and they give me the same respect and consideration. It's because our approach is an integrated one that we perhaps are difficult for the Opposition to understand or appreciate, but that's their privilege. Our privilege at the moment is to put into action the philosophy as we understand it and that's what I have done my best to interpret and that's what I will do my best to promote in the months ahead.

As for whether we will attract investment, I'm finding that investors, as I had said earlier in the proceedings, are increasingly experienced with investment on a global scale. They are meeting governments, states, with a wide range of political and economic approach. I don't find them thrown by the concept of planning; they are used to it. I don't find them thrown by the willingness of our government to lay everything on the table and to deal with them openly and from a position of strength and problem solving.

I will endeavour to continue with developing our approach and monitoring its effectiveness as we go along. We are open to learning as we go and, as I said earlier, our approach will be cautious and careful and I expect we will have a much more thorough approach to the problems next year, but we believe that there is strength in that approach. The one position from which we won't swerve is that we believe that role of the government is to plan and work for every member of the community to take part in both the difficult things and the good things of the society, and that if we are dealing with an economic system that does that imperfectly, then it's quite within our right and our responsibility to moderate that system.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Thompson.

**MR. ASHTON:** I just have a few brief comments, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to commend the Minister, in contrast to the previous two speakers, for her new direction and particularly her new direction in regard to Economic Development, because I feel it's going to have a tremendous impact in constituencies such as mine, the northern constituency of Thompson. I think that the debate has been somewhat useful during the Estimates on this particular department because it's clarified the distinction which a lot of people in the north have always felt has existed between the two parties represented here tonight, a distinction they've always felt has existed, but I never quite had clarification perhaps until just recently.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, it isn't the intention on this side to say any more. We have expressed our opinions and we are not going to be voting against the Minister's Salary as obviously the gentlemen who walked in are suspecting. Whenever it's over; it's over.

**MR. ASHTON:** Mr. Chairman, being a great believer in democracy, seeing the majority of the people want to — committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order. Under Executive 1. (a) Minister's Salary—pass.

Resolution No. 47 — Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,504,900 for Economic Development and Tourism for Executive

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise

## SUPPLY — HEALTH

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon):** Continuing with the Health Estimates, Item No. 3.(h) Dental Services.

The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface):** On the salary, Mr. Chairman, just before 4:30, I was asked to give some information on the 89.5 staff man year that we have which is the same as last year. I already stated that there were two vacancies. Now the explanation, that includes funds for 76 clinical field staff based in the regions to provide central public health services in general and dental clinical services to the Manitoba Children's Dental Program. Of these 76, 28 are dental nurses, 28 dental assistants, 8 dentists, a dental hygienist and the 11 support staff to provide equipment, repair, clerical and administrative services. Then the central office staff of 9 staff man years provide direction in administrative services to the overall program including:

(1) The distribution of the equivalent of 4.5 term staff man years to the regions to employ additional staff when available on a part-time basis to accomplish program objectives;

(2) Purchasing, warehousing and distribution of equipment and supplies;

(3) Administering grants to agencies who provide dental services on behalf of the department;

(4) Reviewing claims of private dentists for both social allowance, health services clients and referred services under the Manitoba Children's Dental Program;

(5) Consultation services to public and private agencies and the general public.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry):** I thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister advise whether there are any dental nurses working in the offices of private dentists in the province; that is, dental nurses who in fact graduated as dental nurses from the bursary course at Wascana College?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have made a survey to see where we stood and there were 80 dental nurses graduated from 1975 to 1979. With the change in direction of the dental nurse program in 1979, a large number of the dental nurses were unemployed. Some were employed in private dental offices at a lower level of their training as dental assistants. Others left the field of dentistry and some left the province to seek employment. As of March, 1981, in Manitoba there are 60 nurses; 28 employed by the department, 17 employed in private dental offices, five housewives, three student dentists, three student hygienists, one teaching at Community College and three employed in other occupations. There are 13

Saskatchewan residents, three Alberta or B.C. residents and four unknown records for a total of 80.

Non-Manitoba bursary nurses are now migrating to the province from Saskatchewan and are employed in both private and public programs, but we don't know how many of them are in Manitoba at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** There was some concern, not long ago, Mr. Chairman, that there was difficulty, particularly in the Westman region, delivering the Manitoba Childrens' Dental Program, that is the government administered program because the workload apparently had been underestimated and the required or acceptable level of staffing with respect to dental nurses and dental assistants had not been met or maintained. Has that situation corrected itself? The Minister has already advised me that there are only two vacancies in the staff many year establishment, but has the situation in Westman region resolved itself insofar as workload and staff pressure is concerned?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the best we can say on that is that it's under control at this time, but there is not too much leeway.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, this question may well be premature, but the Minister is no doubt contemplating it anyway. He'll be considering all the ramifications to expansion and extension of this program and to the nature of the delivery system, whether it continues to be a complementary system involving both the government administration and the MDA administration. Is the Minister at this point in time looking at the caseload and the workload that will be generated by the age expansion he's talking about, and indeed, by the continuing age expansion that he's projecting for the immediate years in the near future from the standpoint of clinical staff in the Government Service, e.g. dental nurses in particular, is he looking at and considering the possible requirements of more dental nurses in a return to the bursary program that was in place prior to 1980?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, this placed me in a bit of an awkward position. There's no doubt that we've made a study of it, we've been working quite hard and we have an idea what direction we want to go, but I have a commitment to the dental profession that we would not close any doors at this time. Now, I think I can say that we certainly intend to use some dental nurses. I would hope that we can get together and recognize the dental nurses, and agree on some of the work that they could do. I think that might be a tall order, but I think if the Dental Association realized that they are not the enemy, nobody is going to take anything away from them, if they can realize that there is a role for the dentist, and the dental nurses, I think that can be done. I'm optimistic that can be done.

Now, as for what people do, as I said, I would like to get away from one program administered and delivered by one group, and then the other, I would sooner have a mixture. I would think that, right now, I must be honest, we're looking at it in a direction of a mixture of the groups together, working together, not one in the other, something else. We haven't got the details yet. I'm not going to run all over and hire and

recruit all kinds of dentists at this time. I would like to, first of all, offer to the Dental Association to see what they can do, because, I think, they're not quite as busy as they were awhile back, and things are a little tougher in the economy. I think everybody is noticing that, and that is one of the things we want to do, but I certainly feel that we will probably have to make some arrangements. This is why we have to discuss, and we have to come with some agreement, if possible, with the Dental Association as soon as possible. It might be that we will negotiate with Saskatchewan again to have some places in Wascana.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Phil Eyler (River East):** The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I am not certain at the time that I was Minister that the twenty-some-odd or somewhat less than 20 dental nurses who were working in private dentists' offices were working up to the full capacity and full capability of their training which they took at Wascana College. In fact, I am under the impression that they were doing perhaps 80 percent of what they were trained and qualified to do, but they were not doing fully and totally the work that they had been trained and qualified to do under their course at Wascana. This, of course, was because of an unacceptability in so far as the Manitoba Dental Association, the dental profession, was concerned with respect to unsupervised work in the mouth on certain particular procedures. Has that situation changed?

I am simply seeking to bring myself and the committee up-to-date on this, Mr. Chairman. Are any of those 17, I think it is, dental nurses who are working in private dental offices in Manitoba actually working to the full capacity or capability for which they were trained as far as the Minister knows?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I suspect that the Member for Fort Garry is right, although the practice, as he well knows, will change from one office to the other. There are some dentists that would not recognize them at all and others feel that they are capable. I can't help but think that it was because of the way it happened, the battle probably between our party and the Conservative Party at the time that it was more of a confrontation between the groups. I hope anyway that this was the case and we could remedy that when both groups realize that all we're asking them to do is work together. That's why I said that I am optimistic. I think that when that is done and I'm ready, if we could reach an agreement so we wouldn't have to change every time there is a change of government, although any government has a mandate to do what they want, but I would hope that we would establish something solid that we wouldn't have to do it and it wouldn't be one party favouring one group and the other, the other one. I think if we could do that and we're starting with good intention. We're not thinking we're going to go back to what we had in 1977, that's going to be just the one program.

Now, there is a lot of hard work ahead of us. We've got to discuss with these groups. We've got to try to work together and I'm sure that we're not going to agree on everything. But if we can have this understanding, I think that a lot of that will go away. There

won't be that fear that you're going to do away with these people to try to do away with the opposition, that you'll have the whole program for yourself. I'm talking about both sides now, which is the normal thing to do. So, if there could be that kind of understanding in defining certain things clearly, I hope, maybe I'm an optimist, maybe I'm naive, but I think it can be done. I know at one time, years ago, when they talked about dental nurses I'd been told, well, if we could have agreement on other things, I think that — I'm not going to say that the whole dental profession told me that, but this person was on the executive at the time. I'm not going to give you any more so you can recognize — I don't want identify this person, but he told me that it would be very easy to recognize a dental nurse providing there are certain things.

I hope that this will be done and I am sure that I'll have more to report during the Supplementary Estimates, because we can't wait forever. Some of these decisions will have to be taken soon, but I made a commitment to the past President that I wouldn't spell out the whole program this time to give him a chance, where I'm not against the wall and neither are they. We're going to make a real effort to solve this, to try and please everybody. Well, first of all, to get the best program we can have. I'm sure that I'll be able to report a little more when I have to defend the Supplementary Estimates.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I certainly look forward with interest to the Minister's further statement on the subject at the time that he brings in his revised Estimates for this program, Mr. Chairman. I wish him good fortune in the co-operation and the alliance that he's seeking. Certainly, that was the objective of the previous government.

The conclusion one can draw on this particular question at this juncture then, Mr. Chairman, is that at the moment, the main challenge remains the reservation that the dental profession has with respect to accepting the unsupervised work of dental nurses in the mouth in particular sophisticated dental procedures, a situation which is not permitted under the by-laws of their association at the present time. It is one in which the Minister and his officials are working with the Dental Association now.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's correct. It's certainly one of the main things and, of course, the Dental Association are talking about standards. That's what I meant and I'm sure the member read between the lines earlier, before the dinner hour, when I said that we were trying to achieve the best standard possible, but not necessarily the Cadillac type, because we might not be able to afford it. So, I think this is something we'll have to look at together and one of the other concerns also, and I hope that we'll be able to arrive at something on this, is the utilization rate and the service in schools for at least part of the — you know, we're going to review the whole thing — at least for part of the students, maybe the youngest ones. So, that's one thing that we're looking at also.

I think those are the two concerns; recognizing the dental nurses for what they can do, the type of supervision that they could do, or the work they could do on

their own and certainly providing these services in the schools, in certain areas anyway. So, if we can solve those things, we're scot-free I think.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the initial Storey Report was primarily centred on the question of utilization under the MDA plan as against the government sponsored plan, the government administered plan. The second Storey Study was really a study of the health quality of the children who had been treated in the program and the results from the point of view of the procedures and treatment given by the MDA, as compared to those administered under the Children's Dental Plan, administered by the government. Does the Minister have any conclusions with respect to the second Storey Report that he is prepared to make public at the present or in the near future? The final study was completed some time ago and a report was prepared which was not made public because there was considerable subject material that required to be discussed between the previous government and the Dental Association. I can tell the Minister, or he probably already knows, that it was our intention to hold a joint press conference at some point late in 1981, involving the Minister's office and the presence of the MDA to release the main conclusions and recommendations of that report. Is he contemplating the same kind of action?

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Unless I'm really forced to, I would sooner accept any remarks, which is certainly the right of my honourable friend to make at this time, because I want to preserve the good relationship that we have at this time. I will state very flatly that I don't think that this report is that meaningful. I think that in many instances when you have figures like that you can make it say pretty well what you want. If I start commenting on that, whoever you favour, the other side is going to dig in and I don't think it's conclusive at all. I can make that statement.

If you want to favour it, if you want to favour it, you certainly can say quite a few things, good points. You could use it to foster your way of thinking and if you don't, you can do the same thing. So, at this stage, it might be that all hell would break loose, that I might have to debate it in the public arena Sunday, but I don't intend to do it now. I'm not going to base myself that much on some of the work. It's a new concept that I want to go, not compare one to the other and I think it would not serve any productive or any positive — what I would have to say, one or the other group would find it to be negative. I don't want to take the risk of muddying the water, of spoiling the relationship at least that we have in the initial stage. So, it's not that I didn't look at it very carefully, that I didn't read it, that I haven't any opinions on that, but I haven't got any opinions that would want me to choose between one or the other. I would much sooner work together on the one plan, so if the committee doesn't mind — certainly the member could make a statement that he wishes; it's not up to me to give him permission, but I personally would choose not to comment on it at this time.



**MR. SHERMAN:** I accept that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the MDA plan zeroed in, in part, on the number of remote communities in the north that had previously not had dental service available, certainly on a regular basis, to school children and young children and the government plan, the MCDP similarly covers some remote communities, particularly the bay line communities. I presume that those services into those remote northern communities like Cranberry Portage and Coal Lake, Sherridon, to name a few and then over on the bay line side, Cormorant, Jenpeg, Pikwitonei and communities similar to those is still in place. I presume that the service to the 30 school divisions, that we have referred to in earlier discussion today, includes the service into those remote communities which don't really qualify as school divisions, but nonetheless have always been part for the past several years of the service and have in fact been recognized as among the most important and essential parts of the service because those communities suffer the disadvantage that many southern communities do not suffer. That is, generally, an inadequacy of this kind of service. So, I am assuming that there has been no change or reduction in that service into remote northern communities?

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon):** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, there are no changes there. The Dental Health Services will deliver the program to Cormorant, Jenpeg, Ilford, Pikwitonei, and Thicket Portage and the Dental Association to Pelly Trail, Boundary, Pine Creek, school division and school district of Sprague. Those are the ones that were turned to the MDA on September 1st, 1981 and there's no contemplating any change. These are the areas that I mentioned earlier where there's more flexibility because of age. You're going to go there and there is somebody else that you are going to see, even an adult. I think that would be done.

Where we have problems is the grant that we make to the Swampy Creek Tribal Council because we've had recruiting a dentist for that area, so that's the problem. The others are working quite well.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The MDA includes, for example, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, Snow Lake, Gillam, Cranberry Portage, etc. Is that correct?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that the committee would want me to enumerate all the school divisions, but there are six northern communities. I think you were zeroing in on the northern communities and that's the Manitoba Dental Association. It is Gillam, Frontier, Leaf Rapids, Cranberry Portage, Coal Lake, Sherridon, Snow Lake and Lynn Lake and the school district of Sprague.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, one of the objectives of the previous government; certainly one of my objectives in working with the MDA, working through the province's Director of Dental Services, Dr. Cliff McCormick, and other officials in the department with the MDA was, because of the objective of getting more dental professionals into rural communities in

Manitoba, we concluded in discussions with the MDA that involvement of the MDA in the Childrens' Dental Health Program would provide an incentive for graduates of our dental college here and indeed established practitioners to participate in the delivery of service into rural and northern communities and indeed in some cases even encourage the establishment of practices in rural and urban communities. There was some progress made in that respect, particularly in southeastern Manitoba in the area of Sprague and the Vita region. Could the Minister report to the committee on the status of that kind of an objective? I'd like to ask him perhaps just a couple of specific questions that he might address, Mr. Chairman.

One, can he give the committee an idea of the size of the graduating class this coming June from the Manitoba Dental College? How many dentists and how many dental hygienists will be graduating? In the last few years, it seems to me it's run in the neighborhood of 30 to 35, perhaps 22 dentists and 10 hygienists. How many of them have indicated their intention of staying in Manitoba to practice? How many of them have indicated or demonstrated an interest in establishing in a rural Manitoba community? Is the MDA succeeding, in fact, in attracting some of its membership and particularly some of the young graduates to rural practice in Manitoba? Would the Minister have that kind of information available from his officials, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I can answer part of that or try anyway. There are approximately 25 to 30 dentists that should be graduating, and 20 to 25 dental hygienists. Apparently they're not committing themselves, certainly not at this time. I can tell the committee this, I can share this information with the committee, that in discussing with the Dental Association or their representative that I wanted to start from the start, not necessarily that we're going to go out and try to recruit people and put them on salary. I have no hang-up on that at all. If we could do both, if we can help somebody in establishing a practice and then give him as much of the work that can be done with some protection, some assurance that this will be done — we can't just put all our eggs in one basket — we're ready to do that. There's no hang-up that we want definitely to control and have people on salary. Now that is one thing that they will look at.

Another area also, especially in the city, and I could never understand how that couldn't be done if everything else is, except I would hope and I think I might convince them that it's a lot easier for one person or two, to displace one person or two, to say fine, I'm going to work an afternoon or so many hours a week in a school instead of bringing all the schools and having the parents bring all these schools, especially the younger children, so that's one of the things I ask them to report to me to see if that could be done.

Then also besides that where we could make it worthwhile, not this year but probably next year or the following year, we intend to follow with another election promise and that is to provide work and help with the purchase of dentures for the senior people. Now, I might say at this time that, and I think that the committee will accept this as good news, we're not just look-

ing at the situation where we'll help in the purchase of dentures. We think this would be dangerous because we don't want to be in a position where we are going to have created an incentive for people to have their teeth removed so they can have false teeth. So I think that we will do a little more than that.

We've asked the dental profession to look at that. So that might be another area where we might be able to help somebody get established in the rural area or a place where normally they might feel there's not enough work. So we hope to work very closely with the dental profession on that and, as I say, there is no hang-up that we must have everybody on salary at all. It won't be fee-for-service for the work that they do for us. It will be on sessional indemnities — (Interjection) — Yes, and of course any referrals, that would be on fee-for-service.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, is there any volume of dental equipment that was purchased by the government for the MCDP a few years ago that's stored in any schools or warehouse facilities around the province that is not being utilized at the present time?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, my information is that yes, this is the case. There are some in schools and there are some that are stored away in warehouses.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Would the government consider a program of making that kind of equipment available to young graduates who might want to get established in rural practice on a reduced cost, or interest-free loan basis so as to help offset the very formidable cost of establishing oneself with equipment in a new practice?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I've had no trouble with that. I would sooner see it used that way than stored away, but I couldn't make this commitment at this time until we know exactly how the program will be delivered. We wouldn't want to do that and have to go and purchase more equipment. I imagine that the cost is much higher at this time. We would have to find out if it is needed in the program.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(h)(1) — pass.  
3.(h)(2) Other Expenditures — the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I just have a couple of questions on this, Mr. Chairman. Under Other Expenditures, we have a breakdown of the funding as it is disbursed to the Manitoba Dental Association, to the Churchill Health Centre, the Swampy Creek Tribal Council, the St. Amant and for the continuation of the Fluoridation Program. Could the Minister give me that breakdown in dollars please, give us I mean, the committee?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm trying to get the information. I imagine that the question was both years in comparison, or maybe would the member help me. Has he got last year's book? Well, you give me last year and I'll give you this year. Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba Dental Association for this year is \$1,907,200; Churchill Health Centre, 65.3; it was exactly the same amount to the Swampy Creek Tribal Council; 16.5 to St. Amant

Centre; and 10 for the continuation of the Capital Incentive Branch for fluoridation equipment.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Okay, do you want last year's?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Oh, excuse me. I should have included also 753.9 for the operation of our own, the existing program under the Manitoba Children's Dental Program, and there doesn't seem to be that much difference. That would be 4,577,300 compared to the total of last year which was 4,257,000, so there is a 320,000 difference.

**MR. SHERMAN:** 753.9 is the government administered program for this year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Excuse me, I'm told that the actual cost last year, not what was voted, this 2,564 that you see in front of you was voted but the actual cost was 2,023,100 for Other Expenditures. So it was underspent by close to \$500,000.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Right. In the 753, is the cost of the government run program for this year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** 753.9, right.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Okay, thanks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(h)(2) — pass; (h) — pass.

That completes the items to be considered under Resolution 76, therefore be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$41,273,800 for Health, Community Health Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983.

#### **MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Continuing with Item No. 6, Manitoba Health Services Commission — the Honourable Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, as we agreed we would like to go line-by-line. We'll start with line 1, Administration. Then, we'll skip the next three lines and we'll go to Pharmacare, which is line 5; Ambulance Program, line 6; Northern Patient Transportation Program, 7. When we've finished this, we will adjourn for the night. We won't look at Personal Care, Home Hospital or Medicare this evening.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If that's the understanding, does the Minister care at this time to give an opening statement on Administration or are there questions? That being the case, does the Minister wish to make a statement at this time or are just prepared for questions?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, not really. I can't direct all the members of the committee, but the Health Critic for the Opposition on this folder that I sent this afternoon, I think that probably we could deal with Administration on this. I has what was voted last year under Administration, what we're asking for, the increase, the story on staff man year also is included in the folder, the folder that I sent this afternoon.

While the members organize, I have a short statement that I will make then. The Manitoba Health Services Commission has the legislative responsibility to plan, organize and develop throughout the province a balanced and integrated system of hospital and related health facilities and services commensurate with the needs of the residents of the province, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health. The Commission's program responsibilities include the Hospital, Medical, Personal Care Home, Pharmacare, Ambulance and Northern Patient Transportation Programs. The Manitoba Health Commission's net program costs for 1982-83 total \$828,806,500.00. Hospital costs are the largest expenditures of the Commission representing 59.8 percent of the net program costs; Medical costs represent 21.7 percent and the Personal Care Home Program, 15 percent.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister supplied me with a statement of this year's administrative costs breakdown. That is the projected breakdown for 1982-83 including the amounts to be requested for the specific categories ranging through the whole range of administrative responsibilities and their comparison with 1981-82. I don't have any questions on that list, Mr. Chairman.

One of the biggest increases, of course, comes in the area of postage and express and that's self-explanatory to anyone living under the efficiency of the Canadian Postal Service and the cost of it.

There is a slight increase in the amount being budgeted for professional consultants. I am wondering whether that's a sum that has been fixed on the basis of already having engaged professional consultants for specific projects or whether that is a calculated guess? The Commission is seeking \$340,000 for professional consultants as against \$331,000 in 1981-82. Not a significant increase, Mr. Chairman, but I guess the question would be, was the \$331,000 spent in 1981-82 and is the \$340,000 being requested for 1982-83 a fixed amount or a calculated guess?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would say, Mr. Chairman, that it's an educated guess at this time. I think that the explanation is that the quantitative inspector is also for the capital program that I will announce tomorrow. Those are included in there. I think the rest is . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman,

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Last year on this, there were professional consultant — there were 308 spent last year. There were 331 voted, the 308 were asking for 9 — not overspent. It's a little more than that, but because, as I say, of the programs and that, the rest is pretty well the same.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, by professional consultants, does the Commission mean quantity surveyors and vice versa?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There is provincial auditors. Last year, there were 40 voted, we're asking for 41; quantity surveyors 264, we're asking for 250. Now, the vote in

1982-83 voted and refunded surveyors comprised of Health Sciences Centre Phase One, 140,000; Dauphin 40, six for rural route project 37, one Winnipeg Project 25, miscellaneous studies eight. I'm trying to find out if we spent the full 64 last year and I'm told, yes.

The medical assessor is the same thing, 13,000; Dental Review Committee, we go from three to four; Medical Manpower Committee and Medical Appointment Review Committee ten, the same ten and ten; chiropractic, optometric review, nothing this year; it was 1,000 last year, but the main increase is special project studies, etc. There was nothing last year; there's 22,000 this year. That's where the big difference is.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister refresh my memory and advise me whether the \$50,000 voted for publicity in 1981-82 was spent or not. If it wasn't spent, it was not because I didn't believe in it. I can't recall whether we followed through with that commitment or not.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The information that I have, I'm told is that very little of that has been spent, but with the change that we will have this year, especially with the . . .

I'm sure the Minister intended to spend his last year, that's about the only thing I can say to that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, in the staff man years category of administration, I note that the Commission is asking for an overall increase in staff man years of 11, requesting 697 as against 686. In the divisional breakdown, there is no request for any increase in the Construction and Operation Planning Division, 22 SMYs in 1982-83 and 22 in 1981-82. Can the Minister confirm that there still is a requirement for, and an ongoing search for, at least two personnel in Construction and Operational Planning and that those positions have not yet been filled and that this is the reason why there is no requested increase in SMYs for that division?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, yes. I should say for the advertising in the 50,000, one of the things mostly that we'll use this money with is we're trying to get better records as to the population, where we'd want a spot announcement asking people to register and so on. I think the larger part of the money will be spent there. As far as the planning, out of those 22, 12 of them are construction. That will change. Then, 10 planning; there are eight positions filled and two that aren't filled. The two that aren't filled will be transferred. As I've said, we're trying to co-ordinate the planning for both, not the construction, the other. I think those two will be transferred to the new planning division that we're trying to organize in the department, and two of the eight that are presently filled will also be transferred. When we talked about planning previously, I said there would be four from the Commission that would be transferred plus the other position that we had to make the — I think we had 10 altogether, so these are the four — two unfilled and two filled, that are with the planning at this time, will be transferred.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Those two that aren't filled for whom candidates are being sought, are what positions, Health Economist and what, architect or design professional or what?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Economists and health planners, mostly. The architect will stay with the construction crew at the Commission. It'll be separated. Definitely they won't work together, but it's not quite the same thing. They'd be health planners and economists, the best people we can find, of course.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is there an active search going on to try to locate a design professional for the Construction and Operational Planning Division or is that not the case, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We're not quite that advanced, yet, with the study. We're working on our capital program, our Estimates and so on, but there's a paper that's prepared and it had been sent to the Treasury Board. It should be presented to the Treasury Board fairly soon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** On the executive side, Mr. Chairman, there's one additional SMY being requested, I note. Can the Minister explain the breakdown of work load for the Deputy Minister at the present time, Mr. Reg. Edwards? Is Mr. Edwards — I know he's functioning de facto as executive director of the Commission, but does the additional SMY requested on the executive side reflect an intention to change the executive component of the Commission?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman. This is the person that was brought in on term or, you might say, trial basis under the former administration as a staff writer in the information and we're setting up the position at this time. Apparently, it's worked quite well.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is Mr. Edwards dividing his time, half between the responsibilities of Deputy Minister and half between the responsibilities of Executive Director of the Commission?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** He hasn't got too much free time, but he's now commuting between the two and he's getting good help from Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Anderson, Mr. DeCock and others, of course. It's working quite well, but we're looking at the same thing, I guess, that my honourable friend was looking at to see if we'll continue the Commission, as such or if it will become just a department of the Department of Health or if there will be some kind of a change. There hasn't been any changes yet.

I'm not going to make the statement about the Commission. My honourable friend knows it as well as I do. The only part that I want to raise is the present Commission board consists of nine members that were appointed by the government, December 6, 1978. There hasn't been any change. I'm still working quite closely, for instance, with mostly the chairman and we will be reviewing the concept of the Commission board versus a line department during the year and I will be in a better position to report on this

aspect when our review is complete.

Now, also the possibility of changing that into — maybe, keeping the same format — but changing that, instead of a Commission, more of some kind of an advisory committee which actually, when we provide all the funds, it ends up being anyway because the control rests with the Minister and the government.

**MR. SHERMAN:** What about the Cadham Lab, Mr. Chairman? Is consideration being given to separating it out from the Commission independently and putting it under the department or is the consideration being directed to the total Commission insofar as any change of that type might be concerned?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** At this time anyway, we don't want to change things piecemeal. If we do, we'd want to know exactly where we're going, so we would study the whole thing to see if we're going to change anything at all or change the whole thing or whatever, but we don't want to start that until we have a better idea of what's going to happen.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I imagine, if the Minister is at any time, officially or unofficially, discussing this subject with his colleagues from other provinces, he's getting the same advice as I got. Half of them tell you to keep the Commission and half of them tell you to fold it in to the department. Those who tell you to keep it are the ones who folded it in and wish they hadn't done it.

Mr. Chairman, there are six SMYs additional being requested for . . . Could the Minister identify those positions by at least region if not by community, hospital?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** You shamed me into it. I guess I'll have to give all the information — let me find out what it's all about before.

The 1982-83 additional staff man years will work towards the following objectives; to provide rural communities with the increased programmatic scope that will allow additional diagnostic procedures to be performed on site. This will result in reduced turnaround time reporting and in the case of decentralized microbiology, reduce the travelling time of fragile organisms; to repond to rural and northern Manitoba physician service requests which become more complex and demanding as the physician's rural practices develop and expand; to respond to the needs of newly established physicians in smaller rural communities such as Cartwright, MacGregor, Benito and others. These needs include access to diagnostic procedures that cannot be made available without additional manpower. The province has continuing difficulty in obtaining or retaining medical manpower to practice in small communities. In order to retain these physicians in those areas, it is necessary for the division to provide a physician with the diagnostic capabilities, and they require a laboratory X-ray.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are those positions itinerant positions or are they going into specific — (Interjection) — I beg your pardon? — (Interjection) — itinerant positions.

Mr. Chairman, finally on this component, I note the fact that there are three staff man years that are being

requested to accommodate initiatives with respect to the Pharmaceutical Committee and the Pharmacare program and two for ambulance training officers. Where will they be located? In what categories of the administration will they be located? What do they come under in terms of the administrative breakdown of the Commission or will there be sort of separate new divisions established for pharmaceutical consultation and for ambulance training?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The information that I have is that this will be under insurance, under Ken Brown and the insurance.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 6. Administration.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There was another question. The ambulance training officers will be under Administration. There are two of those, as the member stated.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 6. Administration—pass; 6. Pharmacare program — the Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise the committee of the rationale for the increase in the vote request for Pharmacare in 1982-83? It's approximately 40 percent greater than 1981-82. Is this entirely due to the increases in drug costs and supplies and in the dispensing fees that were provided in the new contract with the pharmacists or are there other explanations for it? It's a 14.9 million vote as against a 10.9 million vote, unless the 1981-82 program was underestimated.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The member is right on all counts. There was an overexpenditure of 1.379 million, added to the 10 million, and there was also, because of the volume increase, 8 percent for 944.1 thousand, a total of 2,323 and we are asking for a 13 percent increase for the increase in price, also. That amount is 1,675,300 and that covers the 3,998,400 increase we are asking for.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Are the deductibles remaining the same in 1982-83, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, there has been no change there, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister provide the committee with the 1980 actual figure of registrants who used the program and the 1981 actual figure? Perhaps, the 1981 figure will still have to be estimated, but presumably there should be an actual figure now for 1980 and there might even be an actual figure for 1981. In other words, can he give us an indication of the extent to which utilization of the program has increased in the past year, if indeed it has increased. Certainly through the first six years of the program there was a consistent increase in the numbers of registrants, year by year, and the committee would be interested in knowing where we stand in total utilization of Pharmacare now.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Instead of 1980, I'll start in 1979 because that's the year that the deductible was

increased from \$50 to \$75.00. The registrants using the program in 1979 were 80,428; in 1980, 83,593. Now, both 1981 and 1982 are estimated at this time as we are looking closer to 1981 than 1982, but 1981 is estimated at 90,280; estimated for 1982, 97,502. Now, the costs for the same year, 1979, \$8,452,700; 1980 was \$10,336,600; 1981 estimated, \$13,106,000; 1982 estimated, \$15,995,000.00. Now the average cost per registrant in the same years; 1979 was \$105.09; 1980, \$123.65; 1981, \$145.17; 1982, \$164.04.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you. Where do we stand on the contract with the pharmacists, Mr. Chairman, relative to dispensing fees? The last increase, I think, which raised the dispensing fee from \$4.00 to \$4.25 covered the period April 1, 1981 to December 31, 1981. Are we still operating at that level or are we into a new contract or are we on the threshold of negotiating a new contract?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm not sure if I heard the member say that the last he had was October 1, 1980 to March, 1981?

**MR. SHERMAN:** April 1, 1981 to December 31, 1981.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Now, April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983, that is now \$4.80.

**MR. SHERMAN:** \$4.80 and that's a new one year agreement, is it?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right.

**MR. SHERMAN:** April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right. I think I should give this added information. Apparently the former contract was to expire at the end of December and it was extended under the same rate to March 31, 1982, but now we have another one-year program starting April 1st to the end of March.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Okay, thanks. So, that fills in the January to March gap at the same rate that was in effect.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** \$4.25.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Yes. Does the Minister have comparative figures there, Mr. Chairman, for the average cost per prescription, anything approximating an actual on 1980 and anything approximating an actual on 1981?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, 1979 was \$8.15; 1980, this seems to be the actual, \$9.25; 1981 estimated, \$10.50.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, no changes I presume under the lifesaving drugs program, that's still a special program, really independent of the Pharmacare Program. Have there been any changes in that area?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I don't think there's any change, but I think that's under the Department of Health, not

the Commission.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That's all right, Mr. Chairman, thanks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 6. Pharmacare Program—pass; 6. Ambulance Program.

The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there's not much provided in the monies requested in the Estimates for anything of any significance in the way of initiatives in ambulance programming although the Minister did announce, in his opening statement on the Estimates, some plans for expansion and reinforcement of ambulance services? At this point in time, I'm not aware of any significant increase in the provincial grant to the City of Winnipeg insofar as additional support for ambulance programming is concerned, but I think the Minister made some reference to that in his opening statement.

Further to that, there has been a report on ambulance services in the province prepared under the supervision of Mr. Jerry Chapman, former Director of the program, and I believe that report is in the Minister's hands. Further to that we, in the previous government, had been moving to establish an ambulance training program that would be divided really into two categories, rural and urban, one of which, the rural, was to be centered around three or four specific regional rural locations in which trained ambulance programmers and supervisors and instructors would be installed to conduct upgrading and training programs for ambulance attendants in the surrounding areas and communities within those regions. That was one part of a two-pronged program.

The other was the assurance that the previous government gave the City of Winnipeg that additional funding would be made available to help expedite their plans to improve the City of Winnipeg ambulance program, and particularly the response capability, in the areas of emergency and, specifically, in the areas of cardiac arrest and cardiovascular resuscitation techniques. There has been ongoing discussion between the City of Winnipeg Ambulance Program and the City of Winnipeg Fire Department, involving City Council, of course as the Minister is well aware, of a hoped for fusion of the two services into a combined ambulance emergency response team. So far, those efforts have not borne any tangible fruit, but there was money in last year's Budget under the Ambulance Program appropriation in this part of the Estimates, in the Commission expenditures, to help the City of Winnipeg undertake whatever responsibility it felt it had at the initial stage in either getting that kind of a program going or doing something else to reinforce the City of Winnipeg ambulance capability generally.

Could the Minister update the Committee on where he is headed and where we are headed in 1982-83 in this respect? The print indications don't reflect very much in the way of additional funding over 1981-82. There's certainly not much leeway there for a great deal more than coping with increased costs. I'm sure the committee would be grateful if he would elaborate on his statement with respect to ambulance services that he made at the beginning of the Estimates.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the explanation for this, Mr. Chairman, the last year voted was \$2.093 million, but this was underspent by quite a bit. There was only 1.4 that was spent, so that makes quite a bit of difference. Now, what I announced is pretty well following on with the intention of the former Minister, that is that \$282,500 was set aside for the City of Winnipeg to help with the amalgamation of the fire department and the ambulance. This was kept for awhile. There wasn't too much done because this was an internal problem for the City. I think the Union of Ambulance Drivers were not too much in favour of that. That was a responsibility of the City. This has been settled or is just on the verge of being settled. As I say, I informed the Mayor that this money would be available anytime he wants it providing they've gone ahead with that. That's to help with the training.

Now, the committee that my honourable friend set up that he was talking about on the Education Advisory Committee for Ambulance Services that was chaired by Dr. Penner and I'm told that he did a hell of a job and that's the information that I get. Mr. Chairman, this is being looked at by the Commission at this time and I'm waiting recommendation from them.

As far as the Chapman Report; I have the report now. To be quite honest with you, I've just received it a few days ago. I haven't had a chance to look at it. I have just glanced at it, but when I look at it, seeing that we were responsible for the report, but this is a report that we're not, we want to make it quite clear, taking over responsibility from the City of Winnipeg for the ambulance. So, we feel that before this is made public and we will make it public, of course, but before this is done we expect we would like to send it to the City and ask them to make it public, if they wish, or tell them that we feel that it should be made public. We feel it would be only proper, seeing that it is a Commission by us, but before them that they should have a chance to receive it first and that should be done. I think there was a letter dictated if not sent to the company. The report, that should go very soon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that explanation about the funding situation, particularly with respect to the underexpenditure from last year. Certainly, that provides a considerable leeway, in terms of the amounts reflected in the print. If last year's voted amount was underspent by some \$700,000, then that indicates that this year's requested vote is approximately \$1 million higher than the amount spent last year and that will provide for some initiatives, indeed.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated in his opening statement that there is a 13 percent increase, I believe, in municipal ambulance grants and funds for the City of Winnipeg, generally. Did the Minister's remarks in that vein indicate that there is an actual 13 percent increase in the municipal grants, or does the 13 percent apply to the overall increase? How do the grants contemplated for 1982-83 compare with those that have been in existence?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It is a 13 percent increase in grants for all the municipalities involved, all the province.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Could the Minister comment, Mr. Chairman, on the contemplated Rural Ambulance Training Program? Has the current government looked at or continued with the concept that was being explored by the previous government for establishment of fully qualified instructors in various regional centres to train rural ambulance attendants and drivers?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it was felt that this would be looked at in conjunction with the Penner Report, the study and whatever recommendation the Commission has to make to me would come at the same time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** When does the Minister expect to be able to disclose his position with respect to that report? Does he expect to be able to do that within the next few weeks?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would think so, providing I can find the time. It's at the Commission. It is finished. The Commission is studying it to make recommendation. Just let me verify to make sure — in three weeks.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the committee would appreciate knowing what the situation is with respect to the ambulance service in the Town of Selkirk. As the Minister is aware, there has been some disagreement in the past involving the Town of Selkirk, the R.M. of St. Clements and the R.M. of St. Andrews with respect to the responsibility for operation of an ambulance service in the Selkirk area. Up until the time the previous government left office, services had been provided in that area by Selkirk Ambulance Services, a private operator, but there was ongoing discussion and in fact disagreement as to the ambitions and objectives of the three municipalities where that service is concerned. I know that agreement with Selkirk Ambulance Services actually expired in 1980. I think it expired at the end of calendar 1980, but the permanent conclusion and the permanent redirection of ambulance services in Selkirk was not resolved at the time the previous government left office. Where does this situation stand at the present time?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, as the Member for Fort Garry knows, this is a per capita grant. It was never meant when this started, when we were in office prior to '77, that we would take over the responsibility of running an ambulance. It was very flexible. Municipalities could get together, pool their grants and work together. They could use it for different things. Mind you, it had to be approved. I should say that this is an internal problem. The former Minister did not want to get involved I imagine and I don't want to get involved either. This is something that they have to settle. I'm told that there are in effect three municipalities pooling their resources but not working together. St. Clement and St. Andrews are making their grant. I should have said that, as the member knows, there's two ambulances, one run by the hospital. St. Andrews and St. Clements make their grant to the hospital ambulance. There's a private ambulance and the Town or City of Selkirk makes the grant that this is. We're not going to give any more money. This is something that

they'll have to solve themselves.

If we try to solve that, then we'll be in the ambulance business and we have no intention to do this at the time. At no time did we say that we accept full need, you know I'm talking about we collectively, the three last; this government, the one previous to that and the one before 1977. It was a grant to help and they still have a responsibility to run the ambulance and we certainly don't contemplate any change or getting involved with an internal program at this time.

**MR. SHERMAN:** But, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister satisfied and are his officials at the Commission satisfied that the hospital base service is not being paid for or subsidized or financed in any way out of the hospital budget? Selkirk General Hospital that is.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes we are, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 6. Ambulance Program—pass; Continuing with Item No.6, Northern Patient Transportation Program — the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise the committee whether the printed voted amount for the Northern Patient Transportation Program for 1981-82, amounting to \$1,579,000 was pretty well on target? Was it underspent or was there an overexpenditure in this area?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Increase of \$685.1 thousand that we're asking over printed last year is made up of — in 1981-82, there was an overexpenditure of 327.2 and because of price increase, we're asking for a 13 per cent increase, which is another 357.9. That makes the total of 685.1.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, in 1981-82 there was an underexpenditure of 327.2.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** We spent 327.2 more than they had and we're asking for another 357.9, which is a 13 per cent increase.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, at the time that this Item was being examined in last years Estimates, the Minister's colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs and Environmental Management, the Honourable Member for Churchill was highly critical of the Northern Patient Transportation program and raised a number of complaints as to the kind of service that was available to northern residents and the kinds of response that were provided northern residents who were depending on this program. At the time, I advised him that the numbers of complaints or criticisms that we had received and that the Commission had received with respect to the program were indeed limited and minimal, but he was very vocal in his criticism. He felt that there was not enough local input, there was not enough local involvement, that a number of patients were being forced to go through arduous train rides and bus rides and were being denied access to the air ambulance and that the Commission should be looking at the whole northern part of the province with respect to the service in

general and individual citizen complaints. I wonder if the Minister, who I might say was not actively engaged in that criticism, has had the same kinds of complaints from his colleague in the five months in which he and his colleague have been on the government's side of the House.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, first of all it is my ex-colleague. I don't see him so often now. I might say that I understood his complaints, being from the north I think we'll always have that; I think that they will always want to better the program. Part of it was legitimate, no doubt, and it always will be, but I might say that I was quite proud of this program. It is one of the programs that we had set up before 1977, I think in 1976. It came under, in fact, the department; I think it was his own department, if I'm not mistaken. Then we were getting a lot of complaints from the Department of Health, so with the permission of Cabinet of the day, I set up a committee. We worked quite closely with them; they did very good work; most of them are still on the committee. It was a kind of a commission, a fact-finding commission. They made recommendations; we increased the amount of money. It was a very limited program and it's been going up, maybe not that rapidly, but it's been increasing year to year. I think there has been quite an improvement and I was quite proud of that. I recognize some of the people that I appointed about five or six years ago who are still on this committee which serves now as an advisory committee.

The Commission met with the members of this committee not too long ago. There were some complaints. Some of the complaints are mostly dealing with the aircraft; the aircraft wasn't fit to accept certain kinds of stretchers; they didn't have the proper oxygen and so on. This was recognized by the Commission and the Commission had made a commitment to look into it to see if that could be improved. As far as enriching the program, which most of the members from the north would, of course, demand that the same as we of the city will request other assistance. That is understandable, but we have to be careful. I think it is doing a service. We're reviewing it all the time, but right now there is no intention of changing the program, maybe improve it somewhat, certainly look at the complaints that we are receiving to see if we could improve the situation of the aircraft, but there is no intention of enriching it to cover a lot of other things that aren't covered at this time.

I've had some inquiries and some complaints by the Minister of Northern Affairs, nothing that serious at this time. I don't know if he forgot about it; I won't remind him.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I think he'll probably only remember it every four years, Mr. Chairman, on changes of government —(Interjection)— it was the MLA for Churchill who was the most critical of it.

The four local committees who administer the program remain as they have always been. Is that correct? There are committees in Flin Flon, The Pas, Churchill, and Thompson.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That's correct.

**MR. SHERMAN:** They still make the decisions on spending priorities with respect to elective cases?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** They review all the elective warrants and make the decision on those. There has been I think, if I remember off the top of my head and staff will shake their head if I'm off base. I think there's been a problem in one of the areas because of the clinic. People were all working together in a clinic at the time and I think that there has been some difficulty of some people, instead of referring to a specialist in the area, of referring to the city and that changed the number of trips. That was something we were looking at also. We hope to be able to rectify that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The decision as to whether a patient who was to be transported to the south for hospitalization or medical treatment shall be transported by air or by rail or by bus is made essentially by the doctor in the case. Is that not correct? It's not a decision that is made by the Manitoba Health Services Commission. It's made by the doctor and the local committee.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The emergencies are all by air. The decision for the elective warrants are the committee, not just the doctors, the doctor but the local committee also. It's the same thing as was done before.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Has the Minister had any complaints about local involvement or access or communications between the persons resident in those areas and regions and the membership of those local committees? I must say that I found in my time as Minister that there seemed to be, insofar as I could determine, a pretty fair, open avenue of communication from the local citizens in those regions to those local committees, but since complaints and criticisms were raised at the time by the Member for Churchill, I was naturally concerned about it. Can the Minister confirm that he feels that those avenues of communication are pretty good?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That kind of a stupid suggestion to check with Jay Cowan, I don't intend to check with Jay. No, but the program is working quite well. Most of the complaints are with the plane itself and the equipment, like I said before. Of course, there are people that will want us to enrich the program and the discussions that I've had with my colleague was mostly that he feels that we should enrich the program. That's pretty well some of the complaints that he was making before, but it's a question of priorities and it's a question of the money being available and so on. We certainly can't see anything, not this year anyway.

We'd like to rectify the situation with the ambulances if we can. That's one thing we'll try to do immediately.

**MR. SHERMAN:** The ambulance now is a Cessna Citation, not a MU-2. The Minister has referred to some difficulties with the aircraft, but it was converted in order to accommodate stretchers and IV equipment and virtual intensive care nurses, certainly emergency care nurses. The Minister has made two or



three references to difficulties with the aircraft. Are the difficulties with the aircraft in its physical capability to contain an emergency medical evacuation crew or are they with the manoeuvrability of the aircraft in terms of getting into certain northern landing strips?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, I don't think it is landing; I think it is the plane itself. For instance, it was converted, but they could have done a better job. The door wasn't enlarged and it won't take certain stretchers; that has caused a problem and then, it's not equipped with oxygen; you have to bring the oxygen from the hospital, even the proper hooks or something to make sure that it's solid and secured properly. That leaves to be desired. I think we might have to look at the question of the door, I don't know if anything can be done. —(Interjection)— Somebody just knocked the wind out of me, I'm told that it costs about \$200,000 to enlarge that door. So it might be that we should have a stretcher in certain areas to make sure that if there's a change of stretchers, do it inside before you carry the patient out. We'll look at it anyway and look at the situation of providing, if we can equip at least some facilities to make sure that the equipment and the supply of oxygen is secured properly. We'll look at it. There's no commitment, but apparently these complaints are justified.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, is the Advisory Committee still in place and functioning the way it always has in the past? I think it was made up of representatives from the commission, from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and perhaps some other bodies. Could the Minister recap that?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it's set up pretty well the way it was before they formed the Advisory Committee. They represent different areas and they're also in their local committees. Maybe as chairman, I can give you the position to local committees, but some of them might sit on local committees there's this Advisory Committee comprised of membership from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Manitoba Medical Association, the Manitoba Health Organization, two administrators from a hospital north of Manitoba, Department of Health, Manitoba Health Services Commission and one citizen member from North Manitoba.

Now the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Redekop in Thompson; Manitoba Medical Association, Dr. Shnider from Flin Flon; Manitoba Health Organization, Mr. Pat More from The Pas; Mr. Beaudin from Flin Flon; Mrs. Russell, Manager Emergency Health and Ambulance Service, Manitoba Health Services Commission; Dr. Hildes, North Medical Unit, Churchill; and Mr. Fenwick, Director of Thompson Region Community Services and Correction, pretty well the same.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman. As in his recitation of the membership of the committee, I may just have missed a point or two.

Is the committee still a seven-member body? Are there more than seven on it? —(Interjection)— It's seven. Are there no vacancies on it at the present time,

is it full? —(Interjection)— It's full at the present time.

Could the Minister give the committee the breakdown of the vote for 1982-83 for the four Northern regions, and for the Winnipeg region, and the two categories of the Winnipeg region's service, Mr. Chairman, so that we could have comparatives with preceding years? Has he got that information?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, yes, I'll give the regions and I'll give first the 1981-82 vote, then the 1982-83. Churchill \$40,000 to \$45.4 —(Interjection)— right. Flin Flon \$123,800 and this year \$230,000; The Pas \$177,200 to \$244,300; Thompson \$572,200, this year \$683,700; for a total in 1981-82 of \$916,200; and 1982-83 a total of \$1,203,400.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** \$1,203,400, right.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right. Now the Winnipeg region, also elective and administration \$92,200, and this year \$127,400; Emergency Program, \$570,600; and \$933,300.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** \$933,300.00?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** \$933,300.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Right. Thanks.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The total for 1981 was \$1,000,579; and this year \$2,264,100.00.

**MR. SHERMAN:** \$2,264,100, yes. Thank you.

The major differences, Mr. Chairman, would appear to be in the funding request for the Flin Flon region, and the Emergency Program out of Winnipeg region. Does this reflect anything in particular that the Minister could comment on, Mr. Chairman? Were there particular shortcomings in the Flin Flon region, or are there now expanded capabilities and capacities to serve that region? With respect to the Emergency Program in the Winnipeg region, could he advise the Committee of the reasons for the very substantial increase amounting to approximately 50 percent in that program?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The only thing that I see, Mr. Chairman, is the large increase, for instance, in total warrants in Flin Flon 1978-79 it was \$1,172 and it went up to \$1,315; then \$1,429 and 1981-82 projected \$1,984.00. So that's quite a big increase and it's the same thing.

For instance, Winnipeg, the air is 400 at 382, went down 376, then went up to 606; and the ground was 460, that went down — the air went up, the ground went down — 460, 432, 380 and 380. The total 860 in 1978-79; 814 in 1979-80; 756 in 1980-81; in 1981-82 projected 986, so it's the volume that makes the difference.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I am just wondering whether the substantial increase in the Flin Flon region reflected

an effective lobbying job by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Chairman, by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon. It may well have been, but I didn't want that to go unnoticed if that was the case.

But that's a substantial increase on the Emergency Program out of Winnipeg and the Minister is advising the Committee that is simply just a matter of increased volume but it's a little difficult to appreciate fully why the volume of the program should be 50 percent higher in one year than in a preceding year, particularly the immediately preceding year. Is there any explanation that officials of the Commission have for that very dramatic increase in volume?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess it's more the people feel the same as my colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs, and there is a number of reasons why this is done. Some of them are, people are demanding more and so called better medical services as a right so they want to come in and some of their doctors refer them to the city, to larger teaching hospitals more often. Physicians are responding to the public demands and demands placed on them by their peer review in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, that is a proper work-up and follow-up of the patient, includes diagnostic tests that are not available in the North such as ultrasound and so on. There's more pregnant women that are coming in than were before.

Physicians in Winnipeg — that's another point — don't always realize that patients from the North have a long way to come at a significant cost and ask them to come back for numerous appointments when referral back to the physician in the North could be appropriate. This is some of the things that the Advisory Committee has been looking at. That has been one of the concerns.

The increasing volume of air travel is contributed also by pressure from the patients that travel by air. The physicians identified it as more of a social problem than a medical problem. That is, to come from Thompson to Winnipeg by ground may necessitate three days loss of work for an employee. I guess the Committee and the physicians take these things into consideration; by air it will only be one day. A mother with a young child may spend 10 hours on the bus one way, while the aircraft takes 1.5 hours. Those are all valid, I think. The increase in the use of the government aircraft could possibly be contributed to increased referrals of expectant mothers to the south for the delivery. The scheduled airline would not take them on board after a certain length of time. The airlines have decreased the number of scheduled flights perversely to all northern points, thus necessitating even hospital-to-hospital transfers as opposed to true emergencies. So, there is a number of things that we have to be looking at with that committee as much as possible.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Those all seem valid explanations, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to have them and I'm glad to have them on the record for the Committee. In other words, there is a demonstrable and recognizable impact here of the high-risk maternity program, for one. On the basis of these indications, I suppose one could project that as the high-risk maternity program

becomes more established and more intensified that this requirement for available air service in the emergency program for Winnipeg region under Northern Patient Transportation will continue to require additional funding. Is that a fair projection to make at this juncture?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are trying to provide more of these facilities and care and equipment and so on, in closer to the North and I think that this is a good reason I think, that where we will have to look at the study of regional hospitals, you know, it might be still a transfer but maybe a regional hospital where the distance won't be that long, if we can't equip every small rural hospital with all the latest equipment and of course the staff to be able to take advantage of that. But I think we'll have to, as was done in the past, look at the situation of establishing a network of regional hospitals. That would be one of the reasons why we'd want to do that. It seems obvious.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Niakwa.

**MR. ABE KOVNATS (Niakwa):** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask one question of the only New Democratic Minister of Health in the world. Concerning the C.A.T. Scanner which is at the Health Sciences Centre, would that be under Hospital Program and would be discussed at a later date; or would it come under the situation at this point? The Cat Scan at the Health Sciences Centre.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I guess as the best, if I'm the only one, Minister of Health. What is it — not Socialist, there's a few, there's Liberal . . . remember I've been everything, there's a Liberal Democrat in Japan and there's a . . . I've got lots of company, anyway.

That could be discussed tomorrow when we look at hospitals.

**MR. KOVNATS:** To the Honourable Minister, all I said was that it was the only New Democratic Minister of Health in the world. Now there could be other names, but I said New Democratic Party members. And I don't hold it against the Honourable Minister for jumping from the Liberals to the New Democrats, back again; you know, I've always respected him for that. But at this point I would say that the Honourable Minister should be looking to make another change, because there's nobody left.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I've grown too old and too fat, too contented; I can't jump anymore.

**MR. KOVNATS:** To the Honourable Minister, I would not agree, too old and too fat and too contented. That was what the Honourable Minister said. Too fat, never, never, never. Thank you very much.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have much more to examine with the Minister on this particular program but I would like to ask him for his position with respect to the method in which the program, in

terms of air evacuation and air service operates; that is, the establishment of Winnipeg as the central point and the focal point for the operations of the air evacuation system with the Cessna Citation. There have been some questions raised in the past, and I think quite legitimately, by some northern residents and some of their representatives in this House as to whether it couldn't be arranged that the Medi-vac plane and the Medi-vac flights be operated out of a northern base rather than from Winnipeg.

I think there are a number of very strong reasons why that would not deliver the most efficient service. There are a number of very strong reasons which would demonstrate that would make an inferior service and would provide residents of northern communities with less in the way of quality service and programming that they are getting under a program based out of Winnipeg for a wide number of reasons, not the least of which are associated with the actual details and problems of servicing and maintenance of the aircraft itself, but I would appreciate the Minister's position on that subject because it has come up under previous governments and presumably it will come up under this government. I'm not urging him to consider changing the base for the Northern Patient Transportation Program to the north as against Winnipeg, but I would like to know where he stands on that question.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly have an open mind on that. The last discussion that the northern committee and the Commission had, their concern wasn't too much where it was stationed providing that it was properly equipped and that was the biggest complaint. I would imagine that it would cost quite a bit more money if it was set in the north and you might have trouble keeping the pilots, because you would have to have pilots there at all times and maybe it would be used mostly just for ambulance. Now, they're getting more use out of it, but I have an open mind; it's not something that I've spent too much time worrying about at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That completes Northern Patient Transportation Program.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Did we pass that last?

**MR. SHERMAN:** Northern Patient Transportation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I move the committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise