

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 29 April, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY - LABOR AND MANPOWER

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas):** I call the Committee to order, on Labour and Manpower, page 84, we are on 2.(d)(1) Salaries.  
The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to put on the record, there was some discussion yesterday about the possible legislation on youth employment standards, people working in all night situations, and I know that in previous discussions and in interviews, reference has been made to protection for young women working late hours. I assume that neither the Minister nor his Legislative Assistant nor his Deputy were wanting to be sexist in the references. It was just inadvertent that the point was made to me that in making standards for young people working late hours, that boys were just as vulnerable as girls under the circumstances and that I ought to bring that to the Minister's attention. I am sure he's already contemplating that.

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

**HON. VIC SCHROEDER (Rossmere):** Yes, I don't recall referring to young girls, but . . .

**MR. FILMON:** This wasn't yesterday. This was in some news discussion prior to this and I received a couple of phone calls as a matter of fact, so I made a note of it to bring it up at this time.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Certainly the member is correct. We're concerned about all people, including not only the younger people but older people working by themselves as well.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(d)(1) Salaries—pass.  
The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G.W.J. MERCIER (St. Norbert):** Mr. Chairman, just perhaps a final question. We've discussed a number of areas that the Minister intended to review with the possibility of a change in legislation. Are there any other areas that the Minister is reviewing or has under active or serious consideration?

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

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, we're looking at The Payment of Wages Act. We don't have anything formalized on it but we're looking at the amendment made a few years ago where wages were put behind mortgages and we're looking to see what we can do there. We're looking at and we expect to bring in legislation in this Session dealing with first contract negotiations. We're also considering and expect to bring in legislation dealing with domestic workers to change the

current position where they do not come under The Human Rights Act, Employment Standards Act, Payment of Wages Act, etc.

**MR. MERCIER:** How long does the Minister anticipate it will be before that legislation is distributed in the House?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I would hope that it would be introduced within the next two weeks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(d)(3) Payment of Wages Fund—pass; 2.(e) — do you have an opening statement, Mr. Minister?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Manitoba Labour Board.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, The Board is primarily responsible for the administration of certain sections of The Labour Relations Act, The Employment Standards Act, Construction Industry Wages Act, Vacations with Pay Act, Workplace Safety and Health Act, and The Payment of Wages Act.

The functions of the board can be broken down into two parts: (1) as the Manitoba Labour Board which deals with applications filed pursuant to The Labour Relations Act and Workplace Safety and Health Act; (2) as the Wages Board appointed under Section 2 of The Payment of Wages Act which deals with complaints referred to the board by the Employment Standards Division under The Payment of Wages Act, Employment Standards Act, Vacations with Pay Act and The Construction Industry Wages Act.

The objectives of the board are: (1) to accept, process and adjudicate matters as expeditiously as possible enabling the parties to resume normal labour management relations with the minimum amount of disruption, (2) to assist in the development of sound labour management relations by providing expert information to both parties in matters dealing with The Labour Relations Act.

Staffing: In '81-82 there were seven staff years. We requested nine for '82-83, an increase of two: (1) for an additional board officer position to assist in meeting the increasing workload of the board; (2) one staff year for an additional clerical position to assist in meeting the increasing clerical workload of the board.

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

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, what does the Minister attribute the additional workload of the board to?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** There have over the years been an increasing number of items to adjudicate as well as the Wage Board. The board is performing a function now that it hadn't been performing in the past. It was performing it last year. I am told that there were some real staff problems.

**MR. FILMON:** What is that function that it's performing as the Wage Board?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, as the Wage Board, appointed under Section 2 of The Payment of Wages Act deals with complaints referred by the Employment Standards Division under The Payment of Wages Act, Employment Standards Act, Vacations with Pay Act, and Construction Industry Wages Act.

**MR. FILMON:** Who had performed that function previously?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the initial response given was incorrect. I assumed that was the workload which had been passed on to it as a result of the previous appropriation, the \$150,000 wage fund, that is not the case. This is simply a matter of increasing workload due to more people coming before the board with complaints. There have been increasing bankruptcies; there have been increasing receiverships and there have been increasing problems in terms of wage recovery.

**MR. FILMON:** I believe that the Minister indicated yesterday that this was the section under which the first contract legislation should be discussed, is that correct?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes.

**MR. FILMON:** Can the Minister indicate what are the objectives of first contract legislation?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The objectives of first contract legislation are to attempt to ensure that in the relatively few instances where there are certifications in this province where there are serious difficulties between labour and management because of misunderstandings by either or both parties as to the effect of that certification and where feelings begin to get very high about that, that there be a mechanism which would allow for an imposed first contract which would give a 12-month period during which time the employer and the employees could get to live with each other without that kind of rancor that sometimes — most of the time it doesn't happen — but sometimes this happens during first contract negotiations when you have the employees relatively new at that game and the employer sometimes hurt by the notion that the employees have gone to a union.

It is the kind of legislation that is already law in Quebec and British Columbia and in Canada federally. It's not something that will perform miracles. It has proven to be used very seldom, for instance, in British Columbia and the other jurisdictions.

It is, however, an item that we think complements the other concerns we have that I was mentioning previously with respect to conciliation and that is; that we believe there is a role to be played by the Labour Board in prevention and mediation and this is one other area where we believe that there can be some prevention.

Now that doesn't mean that at the end of the one year the bird will be taught to fly by the government,

so to speak. At that point the parties will be on their own. There's no intention of doing anything other than giving them that one year during which time it is my hope that, if we have the manpower, that we will be able to work with both the employer and the employees to see whether a spirit of co-operation can be developed in the workplace rather than having the very seldom but what sometimes happens now — a long, bitter, ugly strike that leaves the employer in financial difficulty and leaves the employee feeling very bitter toward the employer.

It is, I believe, a civilized manner of dispute avoidance to start off a new relationship between employer and employee. It is not a magical solution as I indicated before. It's not something that is going to solve all disputes nor is it something that we have any intention of using on occasions other than first contracts.

**MR. FILMON:** Perhaps the Minister could guide me in this. Is he saying that a contract is drawn up by a representative or representatives of the government which contains all the terms and conditions that are imposed upon both parties, the Labour Union and the management, where it is the first year of a new certification of a bargaining unit in a business, in an industry?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the Labour Board would take into consideration, of course, any items that had already been bargained between the parties. Those items that have not been bargained, the Labour Board would consider, would listen to both parties and make the decision for the first year.

**MR. FILMON:** What are the legal recourses of both sides to this imposed contract, the conditions of this imposed contract, that is, would the unions still go on strike if they were unhappy with the contract?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, it would be illegal for the union to strike once the contract was imposed and it would be illegal for the employer to lock out the employees. Once the contract is at an end, regular relations would resume and if bargaining had not been concluded, then in the normal course a strike would be legal and so would a lockout.

**MR. FILMON:** Does the Minister think that this will either attract investment or the establishment of new businesses in the province or have a detrimental effect on the attraction of investment in new business to Manitoba?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** We believe that it's not going to have business running from all parts of Canada to come to Manitoba; on the other hand, we do not believe that business will be running away or be afraid of it. The British Columbia Government has had many years of experience with this type of legislation and the Bennett Government has kept the legislation in effect for the past seven years, so I don't imagine they see any difficulty with it.

Our discussions with officials from the people administering the Canadian operation and the British Columbia operation indicate that their opinion is that this specific type of provision has had a significant

deterrent value and has promoted constructive and sincere collective bargaining between the parties without the need of third party intervention. That, of course, is what we're aiming at. We're aiming to have nobody coming before the board. We don't want to have situations where we are going to be imposing a first contract.

On the other hand, if things come to that turn, we believe that in the interests of all concerned this is better than just having that kind of a scrap at that point. That doesn't mean we give up our view about the benefits of free collective bargaining, it just means that in this instance we believe we can improve relations between employer and employee and in the long run it will be to the benefit of all of us.

**MR. FILMON:** I think the Minister sort of paused and then shifted gears in the middle of a statement. He said that he believes that this type of legislation would have a significant deterrent value. Deterrent to what?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** A deterrent from nonconstructive bargaining; a deterrent from bad faith bargaining that sometimes is involved the first time around.

**MR. FILMON:** In view of the fact that the Minister has acknowledged that this type of legislation won't necessarily have businesses or investors running to Manitoba to invest or set up businesses, and in view of the fact that according to the information he's given, only two other provinces, B.C. and Quebec now have this type of legislation; why is it such a large priority considering the fact that Manitoba is having difficulty attracting the investment that it needs for its economic development and future growth and you know, businesses are going bankrupt and all sorts of economic difficulties are being experienced in the marketplace, which have an adverse effect on labour, as well as business simply because of the layoffs, the unavailability of satisfactory employment? I think we're facing significant high levels of unemployment. Why is this such a major priority at this point in time?

Does the Minister not believe that maybe his government should evaluate the economic conditions at the moment, prior to moving ahead so rapidly with this type of legislation?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the member will recall there was an election campaign last fall. One of the specific commitments the New Democratic Party made was that this would be one of the top priorities and we undertook that this would be one of the items that would be passed in the first Session.

We have no evidence and the member has presented no evidence to this committee that this will in any way deter business. In fact we believe that it will not deter business and that it will be to the benefit of both business and labour to have this legislation in effect. We believe that there is no evidence from B.C. that it in any way was negative to the settling of business into B.C. We don't know of any evidence that it has affected negatively business investment in Canada because the Canada Labour Relations Board has the same powers. We don't know of any evidence that particular item has caused problems with respect to the Province of Quebec.

That being the case, we see no logical reason to wait until Session No. 2 in presenting this legislation to the Legislature and we will proceed and again, we believe that there are no negative features to it and we also believe that there are many positive features to it.

**MR. FILMON:** Well, firstly I didn't make the statement about whether or not it would be attractive to businesses. I simply repeated what the Minister had said, which was that he didn't believe that it would have businesses or investors running to Manitoba to invest or set up a business.

Secondly, I think that there are rather significant economic indicators that are in the marketplace today that ought to be taken into account, such as highest unemployment levels in a decade, such as record bankruptcies, such as layoffs that are unprecedented in various major sector industries in the province and so on and so forth. So these are different times than we have had even a year ago or five years ago or a decade ago and, therefore, it would seem only prudent that this government or any government in power would look very carefully at anything that might be a deterrent. And I say might, even if he's not sure, even if he can't find evidence, it might be a deterrent. He ought to look carefully at it and if he is concerned about keeping promises, I can suggest that there are a number of others on the plate that haven't yet been fulfilled and this might just fall in with that category.

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

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that is an interesting comment. Even if there is no evidence that it is going to harm the economy because the member decides so, we should hold back on legislation. The fact of the matter is that it is our opinion that it will benefit us and when he quotes me, I would appreciate him quoting me in total and not just half of a quote. When he says that I said that it wouldn't cause businesses from all over Canada to run to Manitoba, that is correct. I said that. I also said, very specifically, that I did not expect that this legislation would in any way inhibit any business from coming to this province and I would appreciate being correctly quoted if I am being quoted.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, just to complete that statement. It is a little difficult in committee to retain rather lengthy responses and it so happens that was the portion of the Minister's response that I did recall at the time. I appreciate his added words but as well, he is quoting a portion of what I said. The fact of the matter is, even if he doesn't have evidence that this legislation will prevent people from coming here to invest, that isn't only what he ought to be concerned about. He ought to be concerned with legislation that attracts people to come here and I don't think that he is suggesting that this will attract people to come here. I think it is significant that only two other provinces have this type of legislation. I am not so sure that he has given us any great assurances of its effect in those areas. So I, for one, believe that the Minister is acting hastily at a time when prudence ought to be the hallmark of the day, given the economic circumstan-

ces that all of us are facing collectively in this province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I indicated at the beginning that I didn't want to debate this subject matter at length because a bill would be coming before the House and it would be debated fully at that time. I wonder though if I might just ask two or three questions.

Can the Minister cite the number of instances that have occurred in Manitoba that justify this type of legislation?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, I don't have any specific numbers, but we all know of cases where the first time around there were some real problems, some hostility by an employer, some misunderstanding by the employee sitting at the bargaining table as to exactly what their new role was. These types of things have escalated. There is no doubt that they have come about a number of times and this is one preventative measure. I should say again though that people whom we have talked to with the Canada Labour Relations Board and the British Columbia Labour Relations Board have commended this legislation and have said that it does act as a deterrent to bad faith bargaining. So, it seems to me that if we have something positive that we can get done, we ought to do it.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister acknowledge that just as much if not more strife can occur in second contracts, third contracts, fourth or, on and on.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, absolutely, as I indicated in my lengthy answer previously, this is an attempt and if it can't fly we're not going to bring this kind of legislation to bear on a second contract. We're talking about a first contract and at times things happen the second time around to put people on strike and sometimes those things aren't resolved. Sometimes employers suffer badly by it; sometimes employees suffer badly by it. In either case, usually, other members of the public are badly affected by it, but we have no intention of changing general labour law in the province with respect to either the right to strike or the right to lock out excepting in the situation of the first contract. Again, if it happens that we impose a settlement or discover that there are problems in a first contract, if there are difficulties before settlement is reached, it is my hope that we will have the staff available to do some preventive conciliation during the first year. That doesn't mean that we aren't going to do it with other companies because it is out intention to be doing that with people who may have been unionized for many years. If we feel that there's a problem that can be solved by conciliation during the lifetime of any other contract, and if the parties are prepared to have us help them, then we will be prepared to help them providing we have the staffing available.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the point I was trying to make in asking the member about which he has

acknowledged that just as much strife can occur in second, third, fourth, etc., contracts, will the legislation be just dealing with imposition of a first contract or will he be attempting in this or additional legislation to deal with the whole bargaining process to encourage bargaining in good faith by both sides?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are some provisions that are being strengthened in terms of good faith bargaining. There's no other suggestion of some kind of arbitrated settlement other than in a first contract where it is requested. I should say that the experience both with the Canada Labour Relations Board and B.C. Labour Relations Board is that it's basically been preventative. It's been very seldom that a contract has actually been imposed and we hope that pattern continues here as well.

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

**MR. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and keep my comments fairly brief but the Minister has raised a question or two in my mind and I would like clarification on two or three of the items. I have to say it's somewhat different to hear the softspokenness of the Minister that we have today and the way in which he's approaching the department. I wonder if he's being very cautious, walking carefully and selective in his words, or whether he's strongly committed to moving on the legislation he referred to or just what his thoughts are. It's hard to get him to put a firm policy position forward as the Minister.

Having had the opportunity to sit in the last four years with the Minister of Labour who knew the direction he wanted go and give Labour the protection that I'm sure the people in the labour movement felt very strongly about was something I think is worth mentioning. Ken MacMaster did an excellent job of keeping that whole workforce and labour movement, I think, working well with management and I think he should be given credit for it. It's very difficult to hear the policies of the Minister who as I've indicated is very softspoken.

One of the things that concerns me is that the Minister is indicating that there's no evidence that would suggest that it isn't going to be good for the Province of Manitoba moving on a particular piece of legislation. What evidence does he have that we should move on legislation? Who does he consult with in management and labour to make the decisions before he's prepared to propose legislation? Because if he's moving on it because it was an election promise, don't let that bother, because if he moves on it it'll be the only election promise that he and his government live up to other than the fact that the Premier gave the Member for Neepawa a Cabinet post. So, you know, don't get hung up about that.

So I've asked two basic questions, really. Who supports it and what evidence does he have for the support of the legislation that he's going to ask the people of Manitoba to live under? Who does he consult with in management, business, and the labour movement to come forward with these approaches? Those are the first two questions.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I've met with members of the Manitoba Federation of Labour and they've indicated that they would appreciate this kind of legislation. —(Interjection)— No, I haven't met with the Farmers Union — I heard that, but I have met on several occasions with the executive group from the Chamber of Commerce to discuss this very specifically. I would say that they would prefer that we not move with it; there's no doubt about that. On the other hand, I've just indicated that in those areas where the legislation is in place, people are saying they're happy with it. I've mentioned this a number of times, I wish the member would address that issue.

If it was so bad, if it wasn't working in British Columbia, why did Social Credit not remove it after the NDP put it in? If it was so bad, why didn't the Progressive Conservatives remove it federally when they were in power? If it was so bad, it would have been removed in Quebec. In fact, it was considered to be good legislation federally; it is considered to be good legislation in Quebec and in British Columbia. Now based on that, I don't understand why we shouldn't bring in legislation that we said we would bring in. We're bringing in the legislation that we felt we ought to bring in and we're hopefully going to be able to do that in this Session.

**MR. DOWNEY:** The point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, he hasn't demonstrated any need for it and that's the concern that I have. How much legislation do we have to sit here and pass on the people of Manitoba when first he's admitted that he doesn't have support from the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce? He talked to the Manitoba Labour Federation, or whatever the name was, but he doesn't have support for legislation other than he's got a dogmatic hangup about moving on legislation that he promised during his election campaign. You know, that to me doesn't make good sound government. I think that if there's reason to reconsider it, I have a hard time in wondering why he's going to force it on the people of Manitoba.

Another question, Mr. Chairman, that I have and I think it's fairly important. The Minister made a comment about one of the pieces of legislation he was considering, and that was in the case of a bankruptcy where the individual who was a wage earner would get first claim on a business if, in fact, the business went bankrupt and would take first claim on money ahead of the mortgage holder. Now, as long as I can remember, and I think this country was built, Mr. Chairman, on the belief if you have a mortgage on a piece of property, or on any goods, or some kind of security to loan money on that particular good or property that you had first claim. I think you're going to shake the confidence of the investment community, the people who now use that as a pretty major mechanism or tool, to give security to the business world. If he's going to move and shake the confidence of further shake the confidence of the business community, I have to question his priorities particularly, Mr. Chairman, as the Member for Tuxedo has indicated.

The concerns that we have in the Province of Manitoba with the massive layoffs, with the numbers of people who are going to have to depend on investors

in this province to regenerate jobs or to reemploy them after the recession which we hope the present government doesn't continue to carry us into a lot deeper than it is, but we aren't seeing many corrective measures. To further shake the confidence of people that are going to invest in Manitoba, I think would not be the way to go. I think he said he was going to consider it, maybe he could clarify that. How serious a consideration is it at this particular time?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** It's under consideration. We're looking at some of the problems that we believe were created when the previous government changed the legislation, and we are looking to see whether we can address some of the problems that the previous government saw with the legislation as it was before. We are looking to consider some of the submissions that had been made previously and to see whether we can improve the law.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister carrying dual portfolios, being Minister of Finance and Minister of Labour, probably would have a pretty good opportunity to discuss with some of the trust companies and the banks in the financial world to get their feelings on this very kind of legislation. It wouldn't be a complicated cross discussion with any other department. He's in complete control of the two departments, I would think, or maybe he isn't, but I would think being Minister of both, he could get that information from the investment community very quickly and have that at his fingertips so he'd have a feel from that side of it.

The other question that I have, Mr. Chairman — it's interesting to see the present Minister operate it, one would question his real feeling for the Department of Labour — where does he stand on the right to strike in essential service legislation and that area of essential services in this province, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The member is indicating that I'm supposed to ask the banks and trust companies what legislation to pass in this province, and it's all fine. I tell the member in all sincerity that we have been consulting with all sectors of society and we will continue to do so. That doesn't mean that we are going to pass legislation that is satisfactory to all. Generally, when you pass legislation it helps some and it doesn't help others and it hurts still others. That is a problem that all governments have, including this one and the previous one.

With respect to the right to strike and the right to lockout, I have no difficulty in saying I believe that employees should have that right in essential services.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Chairman, I asked him specifically in essential services like hospitals, nurses and areas of —(Interjection)— in grain movement, that's correct, the livelihoods of people are affected. Does he in fact, think that's the case? For example, the grain movement or anybody that's in the medical field that life and death is a matter of having people there to care for them. Does he support the right to strike in that area?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the man who is

asking the question was part of a government that for four years didn't take away the right to strike from people in hospitals and other essential services. I would hope that he wouldn't be encouraging this government to do what his government didn't do.

I believe that it would be very counterproductive for Manitoba to say to its hospital workers: you must go to work regardless of whether you are going to work feeling that you should be there. You can put people in jail like they did in Ontario.—(Interjection)— Well, some people are mentioning it out west and I think that's a lesson we should look at.

I also think that there are ways of avoiding the worst effects of that kind of a strike. Under the previous government, the government before that and under this government, we are doing what we can through the Government Industry Committee to attempt to have some kind of policy in place in the event of a strike and as I recall, there in fact was a strike in the hospital field within the last few years and that particular policy I believe, although it was stretched a bit, it did hang together.

**MR. DOWNEY:** In my preamble, in my comments earlier, Mr. Chairman, he makes some comments to me now that we didn't move in four years. I indicated earlier we had a Minister of Labour who I think, did a commendable job in the area of the Department of Labour and did in fact, work well with the management and the labour movement and there wasn't the kinds of needs to move. But I don't think there is any reason not to put on the record that I think those are things that have to be sorted out in the future, the way in which the country has to run in a co-operative way and as I've indicated, our Minister of Labour did that.

I'm hearing tonight the Minister of Labour saying that it's legislation first and consideration of the labour movement and the management committees following that. I don't think that's the way in which it's in the best interest of everyone. I certainly have some concerns with that and I think the record should show that the Minister's priorities are somewhat screwed up when it comes to considering the unemployed people in the province because of the economic conditions that have not been helping anyone.

I think as Minister of Labour, his first concern should be to deal with the people who are being laid off, what their concerns are and how they can be assisted. Goodness knows that the daily rate or the number of businesses that are closing each day, that there are other priorities that the Minister should be concerned about and moving on rather than legislation that he is suggesting would not be bad for the people, but hasn't got any support for it.

If that is the case, if he's telling me now that because we didn't do something then they immediately should or vice versa, I don't know what kind of a Minister we have here. He says we're going to have some kind of a policy. He has to remember, Mr. Chairman, he is the policy maker, and we're at a committee where he is asking us to spend money on the direction that he's going to give the department and the government. I'm sorry he's been pretty much of a disaster, as far as I'm concerned, answering any questions.

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

**MR. STEVE ASHTON (Thompson):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say I'm somewhat surprised to hear that the tune has changed, at least in regard to one item, from the opposition. For the last little while they've been hammering away while we're supposed to follow through on our election promises and we've been certainly doing that.

But there seems to be an area where they're not quite as concerned about us following through on our election promises and it seems that it's in the area of labour legislation, legislation that would benefit working men and women across this province. I must say that I think this is somewhat inconsistent. I think we had a strong mandate for this during the election.

I'm pleased to see the Minister moving so quickly on that mandate in regard to first contract legislation and the whole point, Mr. Chairman, is to improve the labour mechanisms we have in the province right now, the collective bargaining mechanism, to try and make it run more smoothly, try and get more good faith bargaining and this is certainly one move in the right direction.

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

**MR. DAVID R. (Dave) BLAKE (Minnedosa):** Mr. Chairman, everything that I want to say has probably been said, but I'm pleased to see the Minister indicate that he's moving with some caution and looking at all interested groups and seeking the best advice that he can get before he rushes in with this legislation in the pretty unsettled times that we're facing in the business community and in labour and management relations, and especially with the legislation to put mortgage funds a secondary charge.

That's something that I hope he will look very very carefully at and look at the end study results of the unfavourable situations that can arise from such legislation. But rather than belabour it, he has indicated that he is looking at it very carefully and is talking to all the interested groups and those that will be affected by it, and I would urge him to follow that path very very carefully.

I don't know whether the mandate was all that great for him to plunge ahead with that legislation. I don't know whether the Thompson seat was campaigning very very heavily on that type of legislation or not. If he was I don't think the mandate was all that great up there.

But as I say, most of the things that I want to say have been said, so I won't take up the Committee's time any further, Mr. Chairman, in repeating them. I do caution the Minister on rushing ahead without looking at all of the ramifications of serious legislation such as this.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(f) Conciliation Services: (1) Salaries. Have you got an opening statement, Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes.—(Interjection)— no thanks, I don't need any help.

The primary responsibility of the Conciliation Services Branch is to administer The Labour Relations Act as it pertains to Conciliation Services and labour

management contract disputes and other related situations.

The services of conciliation officers are also provided under The Public Schools Act, when there are teacher-school board labour disputes. Specific objectives are:

1. To meet and consult with both labour and management upon request and to assist in bringing about a contract settlement when the two parties have reached an impasse in direct negotiations;

2. To research, advise and direct labour and management to areas of compromise in order to reach accord;

3. To promote good relations in both the public and private sectors of industry through conciliation activities and personal contact with the parties;

4. To encourage industrial harmony and peace in Manitoba.

Staffing — Last year there were seven staff person years; we are requesting eight staff years for 1982-83, an increase of one. The additional staff will be a new conciliation officer position, increasing the staff complement of conciliation officers to five.

It is anticipated that the workload of the branch will increase substantially due to an increasing number of collective agreement expirations, as well as a large number of significant and sensitive bargaining situations.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister care to expand on those last remarks, the reasons for the increase and the addition of one staff man year?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, just for example, Mr. Chairman, in 1981 there were 352 collective agreements expiring. In 1982 we're looking at 503 and the conciliation staff is spread very thin right now. If we are going to get any kind of preventive conciliation done, we really do need that additional person.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I note for the record that one of the conciliation officers, I believe, is Mr. Davage who was commended by the parties to a labour dispute on a settlement that was just very recently arrived at. I just for the moment can't remember the names of the . . .

**A MEMBER:** The Free Press.

**MR. MERCIER:** . . . the Free Press. How could I forget the Free Press?

Mr. Chairman, does the Minister care to make any comment on workload other than the fact that there are an additional 150 collective agreements expiring in this year? Does he anticipate, I think as the President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour indicated that at the end of 1981, that this would be a difficult year in labour-management bargaining.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I can't say that I'm anticipating that it will be a more difficult year per agreement. I think that there will be percentagewise, probably a similar number of agreements that will be difficult to renegotiate and that additional number does put an

awful lot of pressure on the branch and on the officers assigned.

I do have some numbers in terms of 1979-80 as compared to 1980-81, which would indicate a significant increase in assignments. For instance, total assignments in 1979-80 were at 152 and in 1980-81 there were 199.

Now many of those were solved without any kind of a work stoppage but the conciliation officers were asked to come into school board disputes, various private company disputes, etc., and employees involved there was very little difference there. Man days lost in the two years, although I'm not sure that it's significant, were 72,000 approximately in 1979-80, as compared to 122,000 in 1980-81.

Now I'm told that we're expecting in 1982-83 to have more assignments than in the previous year.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I would just raise the subject. It would seem to me that to bring in a new conciliation officer, that it would be very difficult for a person new to the field to be of a great deal of assistance without a number of years of experience and training in this field.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the member referred to one specific member of the staff and we certainly feel that we do have an excellent staff.

We've also in fact at a meeting I had recently that was attended by people from the Federation of Labour, Chambers of Commerce, other trade union groups and the Manitoba Chamber, we were told by all concerned that what they would like to see when we add people to our staff are people who come from the business, who are either union negotiators or management negotiators, rather than bringing in greenhorns whom we have to train from scratch. If you bring in someone from either side of the table into the conciliation service, they understand the role and function and the difficulties that are involved, the stresses and strains, the politics within the union and within management and the many contingencies that arise during collective bargaining. So, I think the suggestion was a good one and we would plan to take that up.

**MR. MERCIER:** Has this new position been filled yet?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MERCIER:** Has it been advertised?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No.

**MR. MERCIER:** I have no further questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That's 2.(f)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 90, RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,691,800 for Labour and Manpower, that's for the Labour Division, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983.

Now, we move on to Manpower Division. Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have an

opening statement for the department. I do have for the first component, Research Branch.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We can go on to 3.(a)(1) Salaries.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Okay. The Research Branch is responsible for conducting studies and analyses in the Labour and Manpower areas for the department in support of effective planning, management and policy development.

The main objectives are:

1. To identify current and future manpower needs in Manitoba for programs supporting provincial economic growth and human resource development policies;

2. To assess the effectiveness and impact of manpower programs operating in Manitoba;

3. To provide information and assistance required for the planning, development and funding of manpower programs in Manitoba;

4. To analyze the impact of federal and provincial labour and manpower policies;

5. To conduct studies and provide information on the labour market and the labour relations climate in Manitoba;

6. To provide research and technical assistance to the department and other organizations.

Staffing, there is no change proposed. It is at 16.5 staff person years. Developments during the year, first of all, there were in-depth reports prepared on labour market topics of special interest, including characteristics of Manitoba unemployed; women in the Manitoba labour market; target group assessment of the core area of Winnipeg. There was work done to identify manpower requirements and training needs, including in-depth assessment of occupational requirements and shortages in specific industries. There was work on occupational outlook and related information for career counseling, which was continued.

The performance and funding patterns of federal and provincial manpower programs were assessed, including reports on activities and funding levels within Manitoba. A comprehensive inventory of federal and provincial programs and services was prepared and operational assessments of various Manpower Division programs were undertaken. The Branch assisted in the development of management information systems for program managers, including computerized management information systems for the Fire College, a fire inspection system and a student placement system.

Work was increased in the area of policy analysis, including analysis of federal task force reports on unemployment insurance and labour market development in the '80s. I believe that was known as the Dodge Report. Preparation of the provincial submission to the parliamentary task force, Employment Opportunities for the '80s, and a background paper on the impacts of technological change.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister referred to the core area and I was trying to find an area that would relate this department's relationship to the

Core Area Initiative because of his reference. Could I ask him, under this heading, to outline his department's activities in the Core Area Initiative?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The department was asked in the early stages of the program to prepare an analysis of who the unemployed were in the core area.

**MR. MERCIER:** I think the Minister must have more information than that.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** There was participation from the department on a number of the committees that were active in the preparation of the core area plan.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, is the Minister or his department not involved in any specific programs?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman, not at this stage.

**MR. MERCIER:** Does the Minister anticipate being involved in any specific programs over the course of the Core Area Initiative?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** There could well be a function when specific plans are undertaken. It depends on what kind of occupations people are looking for and that type of thing.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, there is a significant amount of money in the Core Area Initiative that is assigned to employment and training programs. A substantial portion of it will come from the Federal Government, but as I recollect, there is about \$10 million that was assigned to the Provincial Government for employment and training programs. Is the Minister or his department not involved in that or is it being administered by the Core Area Initiative Policy Group and the staff that they built up?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the government involvement at this point with respect to manpower training and development, the input is coming from the Department of Education. The community colleges group and, I think, there's a fellow by the name of Peter Ferris who is in charge of the program from the perspective of the Provincial Government. We do expect that at some stage when that development comes further along that we will be involved. The Research Department is keeping an eye on it.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I noted that recently the Minister, in conjunction with the Minister of Education, issued a press release responding favourably to the degree of success to which graduates of Red River Community College had entered the job market. As part of the Core Area Initiative, within the Logan Avenue area, there is a proposal to do what really amounts to an expansion of the Red River Community College in that area. Is the Minister supportive of that project?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, just step back a little bit. That particular release was one that was fairly important to Manitoba because we are in the



midst of negotiations with the Federal Government dealing with adult occupational training. There has been some suggestion on the part of federal officials, and I think the federal task force bore it out, that there were some areas of the country where community colleges weren't providing the kind of service that we have here. It is an excellent service and, while the Federal Government is talking about cutting back in some areas, we are hoping to make the point that Manitoba's college system, as most other western provinces, is in fact serving a very important need out there, i.e. students who go through that system do have employment waiting for them on the outside.

Now in terms of my specific support for the expansion of this type of program to the core area, I like the concept. I would have to see exactly before I would say yes or no, exactly what the final proposal will be. As the member knows it was just fairly recently that the Core Area Initiatives group hired a manager to get things moving a bit.

**MR. MERCIER:** That's true, Mr. Chairman, that the general manager was just hired but there has been a lot of consideration being given, I hope over the last five months looking at the specific projects to get under way and I must say I'm a little surprised that the Minister and his department have only been involved to the extent that he says they have. The Department of Labour and its manpower training function has a great deal to offer to the Core Area Initiative. I hope that he would perhaps find some time to look closely at what is occurring in that program and to perhaps have his department participate to a greater degree than they have already.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I don't see anything wrong with having the department participate fully.

I would point out that the basic manpower training in the province, the largest numbers, come through the Red River Community College system. Certainly, where there is any kind of apprenticeship training or that type of thing, we will be very directly involved.

It is my view that until we come up with more specific proposals as to what exactly it is that should be going on in there, the department wouldn't be of any great assistance.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I note that one of the objectives of the branch is to identify current and future manpower needs in Manitoba to assist programs supporting economic growth. Could the Minister expand on the research that has been done in that area, and in particular the areas of economic growth that they are looking at?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the department works with the Federal Department of Manpower as well in surveying areas of need and, in fact, there's a federal-provincial committee that is involved — the Manpower Needs Committee — and it comes under Federal-Provincial Training Agreements, however.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, where does the Minister see economic growth occurring in the province over the next four or five years?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, that is, I would suggest, an area for the Department of Economic Development. The Department of Economic Development as indicated by the Minister is developing a specific thrust in terms of where the economy appears to be going, where we can help with it.

I would expect that there will be a continued increase in the manufacturing sector in the province. I would expect that there will be continued improvement in the agricultural sector. I would expect that if we get some power sales with the Western Inter-Tie, aluminum, etc., we might get some more construction activity. If interest rates improve, then certainly there will be more residential housing activity. There's a number of areas that we're hoping over the next five years to have some improvements on.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, in this section, is the Minister or his department had occasion to look at certain recent suggestions for review of the Unemployment Insurance Commission policies?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman. I haven't had that opportunity.

**MR. MERCIER:** Does this Research Branch consider a provincial position on those matters?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the provincial branch has examined it and I have looked briefly at the results of that examination. It was a few months ago that I looked at it. It indicated that one area that was of concern to me and would be of concern to the honourable member is, that Manitobans pay a substantial portion more into that fund than they get out of it. The proposed changes are going to put Manitoba in a position where we will be worse off with respect to that particular fund, rather than better off.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, that point doesn't really bother me very much. If we're lucky enough to have a higher percentage of employment in Manitoba then the fact that money is going out of the province to other areas where there is a higher degree of unemployment, it doesn't bother me that much.

I do want to say to the Minister though, that I might raise a particular instance. I had occasion to speak to a constituent a few weeks ago who had worked all of his life with a municipal government who, getting on in years and has a health problem and has been seeing not only his family doctor but a specialist, had applied for Unemployment Insurance Commission benefits and received I think, one cheque; then received nothing but these green cards that the computer spits out and has had a great deal of difficulty with the bureaucracy in the Unemployment Insurance Commission; a man who I think is entitled to receive those benefits having worked all of his life and was forced to go on welfare because of this system that is being used.

I suggest to the Minister it might be worthwhile for him to have this area of his department or another area look at that system because it seems, at least in this occasion, a person who has worked all of his life is deserving of receiving the benefits and I guess he's run afoul of the computer or something, but he's been

put in a very difficult position.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I understand the Federal Task Force recommended some simplification in streamlining of regulations. In these kinds of problems, I believe all elected members probably are aware of some similar situations in the past, they will probably occur in the future and it is unfortunate.

I should say though in defense of the present system, I found that when I have referred people to their Member of Parliament, their Member of Parliament seems to have been able to do a fairly good job. They seem to have a direct line to someone in the department, etc., and things can get moving fairly quickly, but that doesn't help all those who don't think to reach their MP or MLA.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That's 3.(a)(1) Salaries. The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Under this particular division, I wonder if the Minister could bring us up-to-date on the apprenticeship program. Is this the section we would discuss that under?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman, that comes under 3.(d).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Member for Minnedosa, did you want to reserve your question for 3.(d), or did you pass? 3.(a)(1) Salaries—pass; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(b) Federal-Provincial Training Agreements.  
Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I won't have a long opening statement. The heading says it all. This branch deals with Federal-Provincial Training Agreements.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, there was an Adult Occupation Training Act Agreement entered into for a three-year period, from April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1981, which is extended to March 31, 1982. Will that be extended a further period of time?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of negotiating that one. It has been extended for now until August 31st, 1982.

**MR. MERCIER:** It has just been extended for that period of time?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, it was extended at the end of March to that time.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, is it the Minister's intention to attempt to extend the agreement further past October 31st, 1982?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we would like to get a multi-year agreement on it, so that we can plan our programming accordingly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(b)(1) Salaries—pass; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(c) Immigration and

Settlement Services: (1) Salaries.  
Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The objectives of the branch are to promote immigrants with an effective attainment of self-sufficiency and ability to participate fully in the social and economic life of Manitoba by increasing responsiveness and accessibility of existing services; to ensure orientation language and citizenship materials are developed and co-ordinated; to participate in the development of a migration data collection system and ensure that ongoing population data analysis is carried on; to provide consultation advice and financial support to the voluntary sector for the delivery of settlement services.

One of the most significant activities of the branch is the preparation of the Annual Immigration Level Paper which is submitted by Manitoba to the Federal Immigration Minister under Section 7 of The Federal Immigration Act. This document provides the basis for determining the number of immigrants that Canada will accept in the forthcoming year.

With respect to staffing, there were seven staff person years approved in 1981-82. We are asking for an increase of one, to eight. The additional staff person would be for a settlement materials officer, who will be responsible for the overall establishment and maintenance of information services of the branch.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the materials or the proposed level of immigration flow to Manitoba for each year was ever made public in past years by the Ministers.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am told that it was made public in previous years.

**MR. MERCIER:** Does the Minister have that information with him, then?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, for the year 1981 for Canada total — I'm sorry, this is for January to September of 1981 — there were 93,990 people immigrated to Canada, 4,078 to Manitoba, which was 4.3 percent of total immigration.

**MR. MERCIER:** Has the Minister made any proposals for 1982?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I am told that the proposal was made in October of 1981. The proposal was that we take approximately 5 percent of the total immigration.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I recall there was an item that was a proposed Manitoba-Canada Immigration Agreement. Is the Minister considering entering into a formal agreement?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, that proposal is under very preliminary negotiation. We have contacted the Federal Government with a suggestion that negotiations begin, but there has not yet been a response by the Federal Government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2) Other

Expenditures—pass; 3.(d) Training and Development  
(1) Apprenticeship.

Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The Apprenticeship Program is responsible for the administration of The Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualifications Act, as well as The Barbers and The Hairdressers Act. The program enables individuals to become trained to the level of certified tradespersons, as well as providing opportunities for persons with experience and who satisfy certain conditions to write qualifying examinations for certificates of qualification in the designated trades. It also maintains and upgrades the standard of services in the fields of hairdressing, barbering, beauty treatment and manicuring by conducting examinations and issuing licenses in those trades.

During the past year, increased activity of trade advisory committees has aided in reviewing and updating apprenticeship training programs and in ensuring significant input from both labour and management in the continuing development of apprenticeship programs.

With respect to staffing, 1981-82 there were 26 staff person years approved and there is no request for change on that. The total would remain the same.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister comment on the success or progress of the Women in Apprenticeship Program?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, there are 23 women currently in apprenticeship: six carpenters; two construction electricians; one power electrician; three machinists; three motor vehicle mechanics; a motor vehicle body repair; painting and decorating, one; two industrial welders, and four industrial mechanics. Now there are several of these people — five of them — who are currently on layoff but we hope that they will be recalled and continue on with their apprenticeships.

**MR. MERCIER:** I assume, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will continue that program.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes I will.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That's 3(d)(1), Salaries.  
The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wondered, there is an apparent lack of qualified tradesmen in the province in many many fields and I wanted the Minister to maybe elaborate somewhat on the apprenticeship training program. If we're going to meet the requirements of technicians, and qualified people that are going to be needed to fulfill all the jobs that hopefully will be available in the next short while in Manitoba, it's going to take a considerable number of trained people, and it would appear that the apprenticeship program should be beefed up considerably now if we're going to meet that need.

As I say, I speak even of the rural areas. Qualified mechanics and people of this nature are of very very short supply and it seems a shame if we have to go elsewhere and bring them in when there's so many

unemployed and underqualified and undertrained people within our own areas. I just wanted to get the Minister's enlargement on the training programs that we have.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. We do have some real shortages and we have traditionally hired off-shore because we're simply not prepared to pay to do our own training. That's really unfortunate and that is something that has occurred across Canada. The Provincial Manpower Ministers and the Federal Minister are in the process of working out new training agreements. The Federal Government is attempting to address the question of critical trade shortages and we're certainly encouraging that. Here in Manitoba the areas of shortages are in the area of heavy duty equipment mechanics; industrial electricians; industrial instrument mechanics; industrial mechanics; industrial welders; machinists; tool and dye makers. These are areas where, as I understand it, they are short across the country and there is going to have to be more direction in getting more people into these trades, into apprenticing and one of the problems we have is that we haven't been able to convince employers lately, and this is across Canada, to take sufficient apprentices to be able - I shouldn't say lately because it's been a problem all along - I don't know whether the newest program will resolve that.

The one concern I have about the new program is that it not throw out the baby with the dishwater. When you start looking just at the critical — (Interjection)— bathwater, that's right. When you look at the critical trade shortages the last thing we want to do is then say well we'll take the money from existing programs and put it into these new programs that everybody's concerned about. We're concerned about the new programs but the old training system, as I indicated earlier, is working very well. It is providing training for people who wind up in the workplace in jobs and I wouldn't want to tamper with that other than specific improvements. Obviously if we're training people for a job that isn't there now, that should be stopped. I agree with the Federal people on that. If we can identify those areas we don't want to spend the money, we don't want to put young people into a program where we pretend we've got a job for them at the end of the line and have them trained and then only find that it's useless for their occupations when if they would have been able to get into an apprenticeship program, especially in the areas that I've referred to, they would at least have a trade that they can immediately put to use.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, does the Minister have any idea of the numbers that are short, say, particularly in the Province of Manitoba, of these various trade qualifications?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman, we don't really have the specific numbers for shortages. We do have right now, somewhere between 350 and 400 people in critical trade skill programs in Manitoba.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, it would seem odd that if we're setting up training programs that we wouldn't know

how many people would be available, or how many would require training in the various fields. So, I would think this information should be available somewhere.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we could get it through our Research Branch. The information would be available; I could get that back to the member.

**MR. BLAKE:** At one time, I don't know whether it's prevailing now or not, but Manitoba Hydro, for example, had an excellent training program and we provided most of all the linemen for Hydro B.C. Once we got them trained here they all left and went to B.C. I assume that's maybe been stopped to some degree. It's hard to fight the climate, I know, but I would hope that those types of training programs are being monitored to some degree to make sure that we have them stay in the province and at least provide some years of service to their employer that trained them.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I couldn't agree more. In fact a friend of mine left the province I guess about 10 years ago for B.C. because of probably the climate and wages. Exactly what we do about that - I don't think we can improve the climate much. Wages is an area, well we all know that B.C. is well ahead of everybody else in the country in that area and in many other areas. This is one of the difficulties we do face. I think that we have to recognize that Manitoba in the last 20 years has trained people that have left the province. I suppose the only consolation we can take on that is that we have also stolen a lot of trained people from other areas and other countries.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well that's fine, Mr. Chairman, I guess by that he may be getting a lot more trained ones from our sister province to the west because of the . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(d)(1)(a) Salaries—pass; 3.(d)(1)(b)—pass; 3.(d)(2) Canada-Manitoba NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT Agreement, (a) Salaries.  
Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Chairman, I don't have anything on this.

**MR. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister is continuing the programs that were previously implemented. I think the previous Minister looked after this area quite well.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes. I should explain that, Mr. Chairman. That money is in the Department of Finance under the Canada-Manitoba NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT Agreement Programs. The 1981-82 adjusted vote was \$1,392,900, the request here is for \$1,482,900.00.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(d)(2)—pass; 3.(d)(3) Selkirk Training Plant, Salaries—pass.  
The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, yes the Minister should comment on that. How long has that program been

going now, about 10, 11 years, 12 years?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm told that the member is probably right. It would be somewhere between 10 and 12 years. If you would like, I could give you an opening statement on it.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well, you could give it to my after. I just want some information, I'm not going to belabour it here tonight, but I just would like to know how many people have been trained there and how successful it's been.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Very successful.

**MR. BLAKE:** Are the ones being trained there going into the labour force and staying there or are we just running sort of a semi-welfare shop there?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I'm told that it has indeed been very successful. It has put a lot of people who didn't have employment skills in a position where they have actually had work after they've finished in the year 1981-82.

For instance, the number of trainees who went on to employment during the fiscal year was 26 — there were 40 in the program at the beginning of the year and there were various numbers in and out — there are some who withdraw in the middle of it; there are others who don't get employment. But we are told that this is one of the very best programs in terms of getting people, who would otherwise probably not be employable, into the work force, so we have every intention of continuing on with this program.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, if someone on the staff would just put down some statistics along the nature of what the Minister has said from the start of the program each year as it progressed until now, that will be fine. I won't wait for that information now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.(d)(3)—pass; 3.(d)(4) Youth Employment Program.  
Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes. The Youth Employment Program has been revised for 1982-83 consisting of two phases; to have the objective of stimulating the creation of extra employment for Manitoba's unemployed youth.

The first phase called the Career Internship Program, is designed to enrich job opportunities for students by encouraging employers to develop career-related work experiences and to provide training and opportunities for specific skill development. This component will begin early in May and will run to September 3rd, 1982 and will be open to all full-time post secondary and secondary students in Manitoba. Non-profit organizations, community groups, municipalities and local government districts will be eligible to participate in the program.

All of these employers will be eligible to receive wage assistance at the applicable minimum wage for students under and over 18 years of age, who are hired into approved positions. This assistance will be available for up to three students per employer.

As well, small businesses and farmers employing fewer than 10 employees will also be eligible to participate. For each approved position created by these employers, assistance will be provided at the rate of \$2.00 per hour, regardless of the age of the student.

In cases where a disabled student is hired to fill an approved position, however, the employer will be eligible for the full Minimum Wage Assistance.

The second stage of the program to be called the Career Exploration Program, will commence in November and run to the end of March, 1983. The focus during this phase will shift to the creation of employment to unemployed youth and will involve a similar wage assistance. Details are still being developed and will be announced later this summer.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, is the amount of money that's allocated to these programs, which I believe is \$2.9 million, does that cover both programs?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I had asked the Minister previously in the House I think the day he introduced this program, could he indicate whether there is an allocation of funds between non-profit organizations and private sector employment?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, there isn't, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MERCIER:** There's no allocation? It's first come, first served?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's first come, first served, although we may have to put a limit on the numbers for municipalities and universities, that type of thing, so that we don't have too many of the students going into those programs. As I understand it, there have been a number of people quite enthusiastic about taking up the program.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, when he estimated the number of the jobs to be created by the \$2.9 million in his statement, was he assuming the subsequently announced minimum wage increase?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I should also add, that although I wasn't aware of it during question period, the application forms were actually sent out yesterday and I'm hoping to have them available for distribution to the members tomorrow. I'm planning on having application forms, or at least a handful to each member of the Legislature, as well as some information with respect to where students should apply in the particular district that the MLA represents.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister who refers to the first part of the program as the Career Related Work Experience for Students, I don't think anyone on this side or any member of the House is against helping a student get a job in something that is career-related.

I think however, the experience of all of us probably is that we were never able to get a job that related to

our ultimate careers, not as politicians but as in our other vocations, whatever they may be. Perhaps one in a hundred or one in a thousand were ever able to get a job that related very directly to the career to which they aspired.

Can the Minister — and I think particularly with the economy being what it is, with bankruptcies, layoffs and with the possibility that the increase in the minimum wage may affect job prospects for some younger people — can the Minister indicate how severely or hard he will be interpreting this requirement for work-related experience? Because I think the practical problem is going to be is the kids are going to want a job and they're almost going to want to take any job to make some money to help them get through school in particular.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, we don't expect someone to sign an oath saying that they're planning on going into a specific career in order that they qualify. On the other hand we also expect, based on the enthusiasm with which the program has been met to this point out there — we've sent out more than 700 applications already and they're only sent out on demand — we believe there's no doubt that the uptake will be complete fairly quickly, so then that question wouldn't arise. Once we've spent the money, we've spent the money.

**MR. MERCIER:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman. I think the concern on this side will be that all of the money is used to provide young people with jobs beginning as soon as possible and that this requirement or condition will not be used to reject applications when there are jobs that could be made available.

My other concern, Mr. Chairman, I think others will raise it too, is that under the programs of our government, the records that we have indicate that in 1978-79, there were 4,289 employees hired; in 1979-80, there were 3,932; in 1980-81, there were 4,679 and in 1981-82, there were 5,009 and that is confirmed in the Minister's Annual Report that he tabled in the Legislature. All of those jobs, particularly last year, 5,009 employees hired, was for a program of \$2.9 million, equivalent to the Minister's funds this year. Could the Minister indicate why only 2,000 jobs will be made available for young people under his program?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I would refer the member, first of all, to the 1981-82 Provincial Auditor's Report, when he referred to the Private Sector Youth Employment Program and I quote, "The degree to which the program's objective has been achieved is virtually impossible to determine. Accordingly, I am concerned because it is not clear what the department's efforts accomplish." He goes on to say, "The audit was conducted by program personnel. " I'm sorry, he's referring to questioning the independence of a particular audit and he did recommend that the audit procedures be reviewed and he was informed that, in fact, would take place. There was an input-output study done, as I am told, that indicated that it was very difficult to determine how many in fact of those jobs would have been created without that particular program. The concerns that he raised were such that we decided - and it wasn't solely based on

that - that we should try to focus these summer employment programs.

The member is right. Most of the time, students are happy just to get a job, but if in addition to that, we can also target a job which provides training, then it seems to me that we have accomplished something for the employer and something for the employee that can stand that person in good stead in later life.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, is the Minister then saying that these 3,000 people who will not get a job under this program, the Minister's program, who got a job under the program last year, he expects them to still get a job in the normal course of events with other employers without any benefits from this program.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would expect that there will be students employed in the summertime as there always have been in the past. A large number of students in the past, were being employed, not through the government program but simply outside of that program for the summertime and we certainly expect that will occur again this year.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I guess we will have to wait to see the unemployment statistics later on in the year. I think I fully expect that we will see those 3,000 young people unemployed, particularly in view of the economic circumstances in the province at this time.

Does the Minister have any figures which would compare the degree of subsidization of an employee under the program last year compared to the program this year?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

**MR. MERCIER:** Does he have any figures to compare the degree of subsidization of employees under the program last year compared to this year?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, last year the subsidy was \$1.50 an hour. This year in the private sector, it is \$2.00 an hour.

**MR. MERCIER:** I think other members have some questions.

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

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate if the cost-per-student employed is up 150 percent? That is, we are getting as I understand it, only 2,000 jobs, 2,000 students employed for the same amount of money as was expended last year for 5,000 students being employed. The Minister has indicated part of the answer by saying that the subsidy is now \$2.00 versus \$1.50 which accounts for 33 1/3 percent increase in cost per student. Where does the rest of the money go in the program then?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the other portion of course was that those working for municipalities, etc., have their wages subsidized up to the minimum wage, which will be part of the time at \$4.00 an hour, part of the time at \$3.55 an hour for those over 18.

**MR. FILMON:** So, on the private sector side, the subsidy is \$2.00 an hour and on the public sector side, it's up to \$4.00 an hour. Is that what the Minister is saying?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, and there was also one other difference and that was that last year's program was an average of nine weeks' approval and this program is for 12 weeks. That, itself, increases the numbers significantly.

**MR. FILMON:** Is 12 weeks the minimum?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, that's an average.

**MR. FILMON:** Was the 9 weeks an average or a minimum?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, it was.

**MR. FILMON:** Then, it may well work out that . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Could we give time for the Chair to recognize you because you are being taped by Hansard.

The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. FILMON:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to rush the Minister or Hansard Services. If the program allows for up to 12 weeks, then it is conceivable that the average length of employment time will be less.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, it allows for up to 16 weeks, but the average we expect to be 12 on this program. Just in terms of those jobs, we don't know exactly what the numbers will be for 1981, but for 1980, for instance, although the preliminary figures showed in the area of over 5,000 jobs - and it was a significantly large number - but there were 3,950 for which claims were paid. The same thing will happen for 1981. We don't have the numbers there now, but there were approvals for over 5,000 students in 1981, just over 5,000 students. Payment, if it's based on the history of that program, will have been for under 4,000 students.

**MR. MERCIER:** The annual report indicates that the figures that show — and the Minister's annual report would be signed — shows numbers of employees hired, 5,009 in 1981; in 1980, 4,679. There is an asterisk which says: "These figures are estimates. These claims for reimbursement are still being received from the employers for 1981." There are no asterisks beside the 4,679 employees hired in 1980. In any case hired in 1980.

One question which I want to ask the Minister is, what 000 is the division in the \$2.9 million program? How much is for this first phase this summer?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I believe there was \$500,000 for the other program.

**MR. MERCIER:** \$500,000 is for the second component? For the \$2.4 million this summer?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** I'm sorry \$733,000 for the

second program.

**MR. MERCIER:** For the \$2.1-some million for the first phase this summer, how many jobs does the Minister estimate will be created of the 2,000? He estimates 2,000 for the total program.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** About 1,500.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, as we go on the figures get worse. With the distinct possibility — and I've asked the Minister earlier today to review the impact of the increase of the minimum wage particularly on the young people, and I hope he will do that — but just being out there on the street talking to people, parents are already telling me that their children are being turned down for jobs at various establishments because of the increase.

When you combine that with the economic distress of the province, and now we see a reduction of 3,500 jobs for young people in this program compared to last summer, it is a very very bleak situation for young people in this province, Mr. Chairman, and I don't think it's something that we on this side want to accept.

The Minister seems to be imposing, for whatever reason I don't know, some ideological position that the previous program apparently involved the private sector too much, because it was a complete program in the private sector. It shows in comparison to being a much more efficient job creation program for young people with the 5,000 jobs created and here we have a situation this spring and this summer with much worse economic conditions. I'm distressed, Mr. Chairman, to hear the Minister estimate there are only 1,500 jobs available under this program because of the conditions that he has imposed and the amount of monies he's made available. That means there are at least 3,500 young people who are not going to get a job, plus the number of others who won't be able to get a job because of the worse economic situation in Manitoba.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, the member in his statement makes the assumption that the former program was one which created that number of jobs rather than — and there is no evidence as the auditor found that it in fact created those jobs — that was a concern to us and we wanted to make sure that a program that we set up would create those jobs.

I should say as well, that we are monitoring the situation — I shouldn't probably use the word "monitoring" because it annoyed me over the last few years when I was in opposition when I heard that everything was being monitored — but we sincerely are looking at what is going on and have no intention of standing idly by if there is something serious happening out there to our young people this summer or next winter.

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

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I think I have to reiterate the concern of the Member for St. Norbert in this regard, that if the Minister is saying that he has no concern for the ability of the private sector to employ these students regardless of the availability of the

program, again having spoken to employers and students who were employed under the program last year, I have to say that he's wrong, that many of the jobs were in effect created to fit in with the program because people felt that there were things that weren't essential to be done in the business but because of the availability of the program they would cost-share it with the government.

Now the Minister is saying that he'd rather have the government spend the full shot in a significant portion of the jobs that he's creating so that it is sure that the jobs are new ones that are being created because they are being created by municipalities and other public sector employers and that way he's paying virtually the full shot — that is up to the minimum wage — in order to ensure himself that they are being specially created to take advantage of this program and therefore, we're getting far less total students hired and paying more for it for some reason that doesn't appear to be very defensible.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that there was a suggestion by the member that jobs were created to conform with criteria of that program. There were no criteria, i.e. if you applied you were entitled. So I just want to make it clear that that was where we felt we could improve the program.

**MR. FILMON:** I suggest the major criteria was that it was cost-shared with the government.

The other question that I have is, what has the limit of 10 employees in a firm got to do with the likelihood that the employment is going to be career-related or any other factor in the whole mix of events?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** It has absolutely nothing to do with it. I'm sure that larger firms could indeed, give as good training as the small firms. It was a decision that we took in order to ensure that the jobs would however, go to small business as opposed to larger business — and I recognize that you can have some concerns with 20 or 30 employees that are not either very profitable or considered to be very big — but it was one of the criteria we chose.

I should say that in 1981, without that criteria, just to allay the fear somewhat of the member — and I believe the Member for La Verendrye had raised concerns that maybe there wouldn't be people applying from this sector that had under 10 employees — 87.3 percent of the people working under this program last year were working for organizations with less than 10 employees.

**MR. FILMON:** I'd just add to that discussion, Mr. Chairman, that it's my experience and from dealing with a wide range of employers, there is less likelihood that time will be spent by employees in small firms training staff, than in larger firms where there is a broad range of people and the likelihood that people can be assigned to train summer staff or additional staff, or we have some experience with Work Internship Programs we find that the larger organizations can afford the time of staff to do some training, whereas the smaller ones invariably just give them menial tasks and say, here, go do some filing, go do that. They don't have time to assign.

When you only have five employees, if one is spending time assisting, training experience of a newcomer, then that's 20 percent of your staff power that's lost to training and it's much less likely that in a small organization there will be any training function or factor involved; whereas in a larger organization of 20 staff, if one person is devoted to assisting and training and orienting a new person, then that's only 5 percent of your staff complement and I would suggest that's going to work against one of the goals of the program.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Well I don't know exactly how to respond as a former person out there, who was eligible for the programs as an employer. I tend to think that small businesses can indeed provide good training. I should say that because of that and because of the fact that we used a previous government program about four years ago, I'm just convinced that the auditor is right in the sense that there are a number of people who are hired through these programs, who would have been hired anyway.

I know that when our firm hired an individual, it was done before I was in office and it was done on the basis that we got something that went - I would have to say that it all went into our pockets. You know, it was a benefit to the employer and I guess there's nothing wrong in benefiting employers, but I couldn't say that there was anything socially useful about giving us a little more money, by subsidizing the wage of one of our employees for a few months and then afterwards, of course, that employee I believe was put on full-time.

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

**MR. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye):** That intrigues me. Isn't there something on the form that says he wouldn't have normally hired this person if it hadn't been for this program.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Not on that particular form, no.

**MR. BANMAN:** I wonder if the Minister could inform the Committee what the turnaround time on the approvals of the applications is going to be.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, once the application comes in, it shouldn't take more than three days to be sent to be assessed.

**MR. BANMAN:** But I guess the question I'm asking, once the prospective employer sends in the application form, how long will it take until he gets a yes or a no.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The employer should know whether or not the position has been approved in three days.

**MR. BANMAN:** Another thing that I want to just mention briefly here is, I'm glad to see the Minister is moving on this, because we're reaching the eleventh hour of many of these things, but I just want to reiterate what the Member for St. Norbert was saying.

I think this year you're going to see a record number of high school students and university students that

are going to be looking for jobs and I speak now - I know in my particular area, I know that in the small business and I'm under 10, but I know the number of people that are coming through the door looking for jobs and we've never had as many people coming in. One of my competitors down the street put an ad in the paper for a washrack - and I'll say 'person' here, because that's what they have to advertise it these days - and after 37 applications coming in two days, they had to stop taking names because they couldn't keep up with it.

So, what I'm saying to the Minister is there is a number of factors that he will have to look at very seriously. He is reducing the number of potential jobs for students in Manitoba by a sum up to 3,500 jobs, as the figures point out from last year. You've got the worst economic conditions; you've got another problem which is going to hit him and that's the minimum wage.

I sure urge him to get that study going to see how it's going to affect part-time employees, because I know, speaking of the gasoline business, the margins that the dealers are faced with, they're pumping on very tight margins and normally where you would have had two people on the pumps, you're going to try and get away with one, because you just can't afford to have two people on there.

The margins just aren't there for gasoline and you can talk to many of the operators and the tragic thing of this is that we're playing right into the hands of the larger oil companies, because what you're going to do is you're going to set up more and more self-serves and close a lot of the smaller retailers. That's a fact of life and having been in the business all my life, I guess some people would say you shouldn't speak about because you've got a conflict because you're in that business, but I think that is one area you have to have a very close look at, because what's going to happen is you're going to see a lot of these small stations close down because they're going to move to self-serve, and it's been pointed out every area that you have that happening, is you lose a number of small entrepreneurs, as well as you cut back on the number of man hours involved in that particular field of endeavour.

So, I just caution him. I hope he watches this very closely and is ready to jump in with another program or reinstate the old program as it was before, because I'm telling him that there are a lot of people out there looking for work and there are a lot of high school kids, as well as university kids, that need these part-time summer jobs, and that are going to be anxiously trying to find some money so they can put themselves through school in the following year and have some spending money.

To close it off, I just want to say that we have to appreciate also that when we're looking at career-related things, and I understand from the Minister's comments, they won't be too sticky on that, because that I think is something that would hurt the program. You've got people out there like tourist camp operators - one called me today; he's wondering what's happening. It's very hard to get somebody who's going to be working at a tourist camp where it's career-related and here is an individual that will not hire somebody if this program is not in place. So, I



have a couple of examples without belabouring the point that much longer.

I just want to say that I hope that criteria isn't adhered to very stringently because it's sure going to cut out a lot of the smaller entrepreneurs who are looking at this program, looking at having some benefits in their operations, so that they can continue to service the public in those areas.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Phil Eyler (River East):** Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the member has indicated that there may be some concern about that specific employer, the tourist camp operator. It may be that something can be worked out for that type of occupation. I wouldn't want to comment on a specific case, but as I said previously, we are undertaking to watch the program and the youth unemployment rate and we are not going to allow some kind of a disaster to happen in the province.

**MR. BANMAN:** I just caution him and I know he's aware that the fine tuning of this program will have to be done within the next month or month-and-a-half because you can watch the program and if we're into the middle of June or middle of July, you won't be able to fine tune it after that. He's going to have to watch it very closely over the next couple of weeks to see what is happening and make sure that, if he is going to make some changes, they are made very quickly to accommodate the students out there that are looking for employment.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I acknowledge that if we don't make decisions fairly quickly that the summer goes by and if there is a necessity then I would expect that other decisions will be made shortly.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 3.(d)(4)—pass; 3.(e) Employment and Youth Services, (1) Administration. Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** There is a wide range of services here. First of all, there is an Employment Services Office which is a centralized student summer employment registration and referral service. It also offers a job-search workshop and placement service for high school students seeking part-time employment during the school year.

The STEP-in-Government and Northern Summer Education programs, summer employment programs that provide a meaningful career-related work experience; Hire-a-Student Job Centre program which provides a summer job placement and referral service for youth in rural and northern communities in the province, and that is the group to whom the students will be applying out there in your communities; the Volunteers in Public Service Program establishes volunteer components in selected provincial departments and agencies in order to supplement and improve the quality of services; Manitoba Northlands Travel Program awards travel grants to school groups from northern and remote communities to encourage educational travel to other Manitoba locations and I

should say on that one that we have received a large number of good comments from school divisions on the program which is an ongoing program.

There were 27 staff person years last year and we are not requesting any changes.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, last year I believe the rates of pay for students employed for the summer within the Provincial Government were increased significantly. Do the Estimates include any further increases this year?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is an 11.5 percent increase this year.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I assume the Minister is continuing the Hire-a-Student Job Centre program in some 42 centres throughout the province?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, we are. That is where the students out there will be able to apply for the various jobs, including the Internship Training Program.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, last year I believe the number of students participating in the Manitoba-Quebec Work Exchange Program was increased from two to four. Is there any further increase this year?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, inflation has increased it to ten.

**MR. MERCIER:** Is the Minister continuing the International Student Exchange Program for economics and commerce students?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes.

**MR. MERCIER:** Has the number of students increased in that, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, it's the same as last year, six.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, under the STEP-in-Government Program in 1980, I believe, 50 disabled youth were placed in government positions and an attempt was made to increase that last year to a minimum of 75. The Minister might be able to advise me of the exact number which were placed and the number he expects or hopes to place this year.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** We are hoping to place 85 this year. Last year, there were 82.

**MR. MERCIER:** And the Volunteers in Public Service Program is continuing?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, it is.

**MR. MERCIER:** Is there any increased funding for that?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** It is being maintained at the same level.

**MR. MERCIER:** No further questions.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 3.(e)(1)(a) Salaries—pass; 3.(e)(1)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(e)(2) Youth and Student Employment—pass; 3.(e)(3) Canada-Manitoba NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT Agreement—pass; 3.(f)(1) New Careers: Salaries.

Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** The New Careers Branch provides training and job placement to trainees employed in government departments, publicly funded agencies and in the private sector. The branch acts as an intermediary agency providing a bridging service for unemployed and unskilled persons who require temporary income support, skilled training and job placement generally.

Jobs available for trainees are mainly of a paraprofessional or technical nature with the length of the training ranging from six months to two years. Academic upgrading is directed to the needs of the particular job and the requirements of the employer. In turn, the training agency employer is committed to hire the trainee upon successful completion of the program.

Staffing: last year there were 64 staff person years, of which 12 were regular staff positions and 52 were for trainees. We are requesting the same number for 1982-83. New Careers North last year had 73 staff person years, of which 9 were regular staff positions and 64 were for trainees. We are requesting the same number for 1982-83.

There were some new developments in 1981-82. There were some new procedures implemented including a percentage split of funds among publicly funded government department and private employers. Funds for these three sources of employment bodies have been divided approximately one-third each. This ratio responds to and reflects the applications received by the branch. We will continue to allow for flexibility in order to be able to respond to requests from employers and applicants for training.

Implementation of orientation workshops for supervisors of trainees while training on the job with eventual employee organizations has proven successful and these will continue.

We have successfully launched another training service program as a result of negotiations by the Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council with the Provincial Department of Community Services and Corrections and the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to establish an Indian Child Welfare Agency. New Careers was authorized to provide a special pre-service training program for 17 Treaty Indians to train as child and family service workers. New Careers was also authorized to develop a two-year on-the-job and classroom training program to follow the pre-service program.

On July 23rd, 1981, representatives of Canada, Manitoba and the Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council participated in an inaugural ceremony at which Manitoba officially recognized the new Dakota-Ojibway Child and Family Service, the first of its kind in Canada.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, on that last topic, as I understand it the 15 workers received some three-

month pre-service training and that this is a two-year program training workers for the Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council and that will be continuing.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes.

**MR. MERCIER:** Is there any involvement of this area, Mr. Chairman, in the Core Area Initiative?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** No, there is not.

**MR. MERCIER:** I take it generally, Mr. Chairman, that the programs which had been embarked upon particularly last year, are mainly being continued and there is no real change taking place.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** That is correct, there is no present intention of the change in the direction.

**MR. MERCIER:** I have no further questions.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 3.(f)(1)—pass; 3.(f)(2)—pass; 3.(f)(3)—pass; 3.(g)(1) Career Resource Centres: Salaries.

Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, the centres focus on five areas to assist individuals to make career choices. There's dissemination of information; testing and assessment; counselling; referral to training after determining which programs would be the most effective in assisting in the attainment of an individual's career goals; then of course, referral to the appropriate agency for placement. There were a total of 14 staff person years approved last year and we're not asking for any changes.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister explain the increase in the expenditures from \$190,000 to \$250,000?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, the major reason for the increase is that the total provision for the Dauphin Centre is included in the South request, while in '81-82 about half of the total for Dauphin was provided under Career Resources North. If I could just add - if you look at the next appropriation it's down from '81-82 to '82-83.

**MR. MERCIER:** Again this is a continuation of last years programming.

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

**MR. MERCIER:** There's no further questions.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 3.(g)(1)—pass; 3.(g)(2)—pass; 3.(g)(3)—pass.

Resolution 91, RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,755,600 for Labour and Manpower Division, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

No. 4., Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets.  
Mr. Minister.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we're

requesting \$15,000 for compressed breathing air systems; \$56,700 for fire-training communications equipment; \$13,300 for welding testing equipment, for a total of \$85,000. The compressed breathing air systems are to complete the program to provide all mutual aid districts with compressed breathing air systems for refilling firefighters breathing apparatus. The fire-training communications equipment is to provide assistance again to mutual aid districts in obtaining consistent and compatible technical communications equipment. The welding testing equipment is additional equipment for the welding testing center to accommodate the increasing numbers of welders being tested. Yes, that's it.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** No.4.—pass.

Resolution 92, RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$85,000 for Labour and Manpower Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

Item 1(a) Ministers Salary—pass.  
The Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I have a question of the Minister on behalf of the Member for La Verendrye, who I think is in the other committee. He is concerned about making available an option to union members who, because of their religious beliefs, do not wish to have their deductions made for union dues but rather that these dues could, by mutual agreement between themselves and, I suppose, the employer have an equivalent amount paid to some recognized charitable organization such as the Red Cross or other organizations. He believes that such legislation exists in other jurisdictions and wonders if this Minister has any intention to bring forward such legislation.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any present intention. I would be willing to listen to people who had submissions to make on it. It's an area that I believe has been batted back and forth in Manitoba over the years. Quite frankly, I'm not quite sure exactly what the legislation is right now, but I do believe that there are provisions. I'm told that, in fact, individuals at the present time if they appear before the Labour Board and satisfy the Labour Board that, in fact, there are conscientious, religious reasons, grounds for not wishing to pay the dues that they can be exempted and paid to some other institutions on behalf of the member.

**MR. FILMON:** Well, perhaps I could have the Member for La Verendrye further contact the Minister just to clarify it. I believe that he does have some people on his constituency who are interested in such provision and perhaps he could get the details from the Minister as to how they might apply to this.

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Certainly. I do understand from staff that at least in one case recently this was done.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, firstly I want to thank

the Minister for his short answers - unaccustomed as he is to short answers.

Secondly I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that in reviewing these Estimates and seeing the continuation of a number of programs started by the previous Minister, I think indicates that the previous Minister of Labour did a good job in his four-year term in this post, when we see the success of so many of the programs as they effect the working men and women in this province.

We have seen the success of the payment of Lost Wages Program, Mr. Chairman, and particularly when we see up to March 31st of this year there is some \$157,000 paid out to employees who were unable to recover their wages from their employers. So that is a very significant program to the individuals involved.

We see other programs like the Women in Apprenticeship Program operating successfully and being continued. There is no question that the previous Minister was very cognizant of the needs of working women in this province and his administration and the continuing Estimates this year bear that out.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, this Minister of Labour has a very difficult job. Before I get to that I just want to say, I indicated at the beginning there will be legislation coming on perhaps some controversial subjects and I didn't want to spend too long on that and merely repeat a debate that will take place later and I don't intend to comment any further on that. We'll have to deal with that legislation when it comes forward.

But on the other hand, this Minister is a part of a government that has experienced 138 percent increase in bankruptcies in this year compared to the beginning of last year — extremely high unemployment levels — and he is going to have a very difficult job because of those economic circumstances. That is why, Mr. Chairman, we're particularly distressed I think, at the information we've received tonight on the youth sector employment program.

The fact that under the funding that's been provided by the Minister and the requirements that he has imposed on the program will only mean that there will be a maximum of some 1,500 jobs for young people in the province this summer compared to 5,000 last summer, and considering at the same time the economic circumstances which I believe will result in less employment opportunities for young people, it is a frightening prospect for young people this summer, Mr. Chairman, because there is going to be, we suspect, a real lack of opportunity for jobs for young people, and that is a very serious situation.

The Minister wouldn't admit it. He prefers to believe that these jobs will be created in any event. I suppose then, Mr. Chairman, we'll have to wait and see what the job statistics are this summer, but I hope that I am proved wrong. But I think because of the limited value of the program he's brought forward, there will be very high unemployment among young people and I hope he will, when he sees that happening in the statistics, will realize the errors of his program and will move as quickly as possible to correct them so that the same number of jobs as has been provided under our programs in past years will be provided for young people this summer.

Mr. Chairman, I think that is the main area of criti-

cism over the short term. I hope the Minister will also accept my suggestion that he undertake a thorough and complete review of the implications of increasing minimum wage to resolve the controversy that exists over that program and to determine if it is possible whether or not it will result in a loss of employment.

There have been allegations that some 1,200 jobs will be lost for young people, or people in the food and beverage industry, we hope that is not the case. But I think it is important that that kind of thorough study be undertaken with representatives from both employee and employers in as much depth as possible to once and for all ascertain the implications and the different ways in which the minimum wage can be increased, with a minimum effect on employment opportunities, again particularly for young people.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do thank the Minister for his openness and his frank answers to the questions and we will be looking at the unemployment statistics. Hopefully his position will be borne out, but we warn him that we don't think they will be and that we were going to see, according to the information that's come forward, I believe anywhere from 3,500 to 5,000 less jobs for young people in this province because of the program that he has brought forward.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a) — the Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether the allocation of half his salary to the Department of Labour indicates that he is spending approximately half his time in that portfolio?

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

**MR. SCHROEDER:** It depends on the time of year, Mr. Chairman. There have been times when I've spent 100 percent of my time on Labour for a number of days running, but there have also been times where for several weeks I've spent practically all of my time on the Department of Finance because there have been so many meetings, Finance Ministers meetings, the First Minister's Conference, the bargaining sessions with MacEachen from Finance, that probably I have spent more time on Finance than I have on Labour up until now. But I do expect that it will probably turn around and once the Budget process has been completed by the end of May, that probably the majority of my time would be spent from then on for the rest of the year in Labour.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a) — the Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to also compliment the Minister on his fine handling of these Estimates. His contributions to the discussion and debate have enabled us to complete the Estimates process I think with a minimum of disruption.

But I have to indicate that, as has been expressed earlier and as he will obviously have gathered from the tone and tenor of discussion of some particular aspects of his Estimates, I hope that in his interest, or in the interest of some slight improvement in the economic circumstances, or some philosophical princi-

ples that he wishes to incorporate as Minister responsible for this department, I would hope that he is not jeopardizing the real crucial concern of many thousands of Manitoba's young people who, I think legitimately, have some expectations with respect to labour in this province and that is, that he is not in these interests — by following through on some of these what I consider to be questionable policies — he is not damaging their opportunity to have real meaningful employment in this province, particularly with respect to this summer and in the longer term.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution No. 89, RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,680,000 for Labour and Manpower, General Administration for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

Committee rise

## SUPPLY - HEALTH

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon):** Committee will come to order. We are continuing with the Personal Care Home Program.

The Honourable Minister.

**HON. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface):** Mr. Chairman, I am not going to keep this here too long. I just want to give you a general idea, especially the rural thing, we have done the same thing with the city and also the north. The first one, I will move it a bit so you can see what it is. The first map, and I will remove this fairly soon, is just to give you a general idea. In rural Manitoba, this colour here is that it's overbedded. So, you see, but that is the acute hospitals. This is not personal care homes, this is acute hospitals, and this one is right on. No, excuse me. This is still underbedded, but it is the same thing; after the program there will be some replacement but only replacement of beds, no extra beds. This one here is underbedded by only three beds though; and this one here, I haven't got the figure, that's another one that is underbedded. This is St. Annes and this is Teulon, Brandon is underbedded. I don't know exactly by how many. St. Annes is underbedded by 3 and Teulon is underbedded by I don't know how many. All the other are overbedded. That is the acute hospitals; that's not the personal care homes.

I don't think that this is that serious. If you are going to have any hospitals at all in the rural area, well then, of course, you are going to be overbedded, but that should indicate to you also that some of these beds now that are overbedded are being used for personal care beds; remember that.

So, when you are talking about constructing new hospitals, we are spending quite a bit of money in the rural area but not to construct new beds - I am talking in this field, in the acute beds - but to replace the hospitals and modernize them and so on.

Now, the yellow is the beds that you should have. This colour again is overbedded and the blue is underbedded. —(Interjection)— I was told I was colour blind before, I guess they were right, turquoise, in between. So, you see of course, you have the region here; you have Parklands, the Interlake,

Central, East and West. Mr. Chairman, you see some of the areas here that have been - I know you can't all see the figures, but this at least gives you a general idea where we need personal care homes - and this is after the program. There are a few minor adjustments. There are 10 more beds here and there are 20 less beds here, but it is still overbedded. For instance, this one here is 97 should be the beds according to our guidelines, there are now 100 and when we are finished there will be 120. This is the Virden-Reston area.

So, what we try to do, of course, by looking at this, it's not that simple. First of all, we had to look by regions and some regions, you would think that this one is underbedded; and then you have this one here, it seems, if anything, it's overbedded and this is one of the areas - I am expecting a question for Steinbach any time now and I wasn't trying to evade the question yesterday, but I felt that we should wait until I have a chance to explain. You see, there is the region and then a smaller area and then, of course, the community itself. The community itself, the Member for Rhineland was talking it would be so nice that you wouldn't move people around at all and that's true, but we have had this kind of direction and now what we must do is try to do the best we can with what we have. For instance, the Member for Rhineland - mind you, he caused me an awful lot of trouble, I had time to cool down a bit because I think he's fortunate that I didn't have a chance to answer him and it was 4:30 because I was all set. He got me a little bit excited, but I will refrain, unless he absolutely wants to and then we will have a debate - nevertheless, he caused me a lot of trouble because I spent the whole time, between 5:30 and now, in here looking at all the files to see, when he was on this side of the room, when he was talking about building more personal care homes and when he was talking about building St. Jean Baptiste and all that and I couldn't find a darn thing, Mr. Chairman.

Now, the situation is difficult. St. Jean Baptiste came to me, St. Malo, Elie and they have a point. They have nothing in their area at all. It is kind of a community, when you look at the religion and you look at the background and you look at the culture and that is right, but at this time I could not accord this a priority and I will come back to - I think we can stretch things a bit when we are talking about personal care homes and talking about enriched senior citizens homes which I hope will fill the bill; we will certainly look at that. I think that we have demonstrated during this debate that both the Opposition and the government agree that we should look at new ways to progress and not necessarily be tied in the old ways and say that's the only thing that is going to function.

So, in this area, St. Jean in this area, but there were too many beds in another area. Now, a danger that one community like, for instance, Pembina that came in and they want this and they want that and they get all the places around here to support them. They say, yes, we agree to have our beds there in their region, but as soon as that is billed the other group, who has already said, yes, give our beds to this area, they want to come back and say, we've got nothing and the overbedded community are still coming and they say, we want to support them, but it doesn't work like that.

It's just during the campaign - this fellow wasn't elected anyway - he went out and we met in a certain

place and he made a talk about all kinds of things during the campaign. I was the guest, I went over to support him. The first thing I knew he was making commitments that they were going to get personal care homes if we were elected and, if we were elected and he didn't get his personal care home, he was going to resign. I just said, make damn sure you're elected before you resign. Well, he wasn't elected and that made it a little easier. So, you see, we looked at the whole area.

Now, to the Member for Steinbach, I want to explain the rationale for what happened. When we put some of the plans that we have, we have Steinbach in here. There are 106, it should be; they have 167 and they were going to increase by another 13. That is the reason why we cut down. We said, all right we wouldn't have built anything there, to be honest with you, but those beds had to be replaced and that is the case. So, now they are going to lose seven beds actually, but they're going to have a brand new facility and they're still overbed. When there's time to build somewhere, we're not going to look necessarily in Steinbach, we'll look at other areas where, if together, they can justify it, either in their hospital or maybe an enriched senior citizen home, we look at that; or if there's enough, well then it'll be a free-standing personal care home. That is what we're trying to do, we're not trying to take anything away from Steinbach. If you look at Steinbach I don't think that Steinbach can cry too much, because we're doing quite a bit. I think that there's another schedule, you look at the money that we spend in the hospital also. So nobody from that area will jump with joy and turn cartwheels if they don't get exactly what they want, but that is the rationale for it and I certainly stand behind this decision that we made.

So you have an area now, that is still in the area, Steinbach is there. But look, if we would avail Steinbach more beds, what have they got here - nothing. It's the same thing, but if you want to refine it a bit they're way underbed. So what we did, that should be increased; there was 46 that should be in that area, they had no beds at all. Now that's Pine Falls and Lac du Bonnet and they should have 46; they will all have 50 between the two places and they will be slightly overbuilt, by the end of the time they'll be about right; 50 because they're not all in the same place and because 20 and 20, as we had intended, 20 was too small, a bit too small to be viable because that is kind of a free-standing place.

I think that this is very informal and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to bring this thing here, it's been done before; I think it serves a purpose. I know that you can't see everything but sometimes, when the Estimates are over, I welcome people to give me a call. We'll try to organize that. If there's quite a demand we'll try to organize that and do it with a group together because, of course, I can't give all my time to the Member for Rhineland. I must speak to his constituency - (Interjection) - I don't think I'll meet with him at all, just with the others.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I would welcome, if there is some, so I can get rid of this monstrosity - I shouldn't say that, they worked very hard at that - but in the meantime, if there's anything that you'd want to ask on this please and then we'll get rid of it, we'll go

ahead with the other.

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

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland):** Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for bringing that to our attention and I think that has been helpful. I appreciate the time that he has taken to provide us with this map, to show us where there are no facilities whatsoever, and where facilities may be needed and where there are maybe more facilities than what are required. But I wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether the Minister has taken into account that in some of these communities, if it's a population of 6,000 or whatever, that out of that 6,000 you may have 3,000 senior citizens because it's a community in which senior citizens want to go to retire. In some of these other areas it's a young community and senior citizens move out of that particular community and go where they were born and raised, and that's where they want to retire. I wonder if that's been taken into consideration.

I would just like to point out to the Minister that we have many many applications in Winkler at the present time for a senior citizen's home from all over the place: that we were born in Winkler, we went to Saskatchewan or we went to Alberta or B.C., now we are at a retirement age and we want to come back to Manitoba to spend our retirement in the particular areas in which we were grown, where are our friends and relatives will be. I think that we should take things like that under consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to add another point to this. The Minister knows very well that in 1973, when I was first elected, I started talking about personal care homes when they came in with a program, I grant you it was a good program, I never knocked the program. I always said that never ever were you going to meet the demand and I don't think that you ever will be able to meet the demand, but I would like to say that under the previous administration we started something where we let private individuals go into home care, building their own facility and getting people to come in there and they were going to look after them. I think that's a good program, another one, Mr. Chairman, that would be a good program. Most of these people own their own home at the present time, but they can no longer look after it; they are not capable of looking after it. They have money; they could sell their property; they could buy a condominium someplace, somewhere along the line and we should make it possible. Mr. Minister, we should make it possible for these people to invest in that type of condominium. We should give them every assistance that we possibly could. We should put a nurse in that type of facility that would look after their needs under these circumstances and it really would not cost the government all that much money, but we could look after some of these elderly people. There is a huge demand over there that we will never ever be able to meet or fulfill but we could come up with some programs, Mr. Minister, that would take us along the road and would take us a long way in meeting the need, using the money that these people have to invest if they were to sell their own home.

Getting back to St. Jean, however, we have an

entirely different situation over there. We have an entire area that has no facility of any kind whatsoever. These people want to be looked after in the community that they grew up in, where they know people, and where they could be amongst people that they feel at home with; where they could see the priest that had always been servicing them for the last while and could come and visit them rather than be spread all over Manitoba, St. Boniface, St. Anne's, St. Pierre, Morris, Altona, wherever. We need that facility out there and I'm sure that the Minister must realize this, that there are communities who have not been looked after at all. I hope the Minister is going to address himself to some of these problems.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it's clear that the last member doesn't really understand the situation because there are so many things that he doesn't understand and this was the purpose of that, to show that, if he can question.

First of all, he's talking about they answer all their requests. I say to him if you answered all the requests you'd need 125,000 beds because you would have to have available a bed for each person over 65 years the minute they want to move in. I say we cannot do that - listen you've had your time. That is completely impossible. The former Minister of Health certainly didn't address himself to that and I don't intend to do that either. Now, you know, that's odd coming from, the type of person who says we're spending too much money. Then when we were talking about need was saying, well okay wait until we have the money. Now, all of a sudden, there's all this enthusiasm to build more and more. I say that we are trying to fill the needs, not the requests, the needs, and there is only one way. We have talked about that in other areas; we have talked about that during this debate, there is only one way of doing that, you will always have waiting lists. It is healthy, it is good, it is necessary, so you will always have waiting lists.

Now, I said that he didn't understand because he said, well, the Minister forgot that there are so many people over a certain age. The guideline doesn't stop at four for 1,000; the guideline is filled on exactly all these things and the use of guidelines to determine bed requirements and there is no scientific base, but it is something that is pretty well accepted, something that started in the '70s or so. This is the guideline, for the edification of my honourable friend, four acute care beds per 1,000 population; 1.2 extended treatment beds for 1,000 population; 90 personal care beds per 1,000 population, age 70 and over. So, that is all taken into consideration.

Now, these are not my guidelines. This is a guideline accepted by the Commission, accepted by the former Minister and former government, accepted by the one previous to him and accepted by me now. I am sure that all those three different governments were looking at it continually to try to refine it. I don't think anybody can accuse us of being a rich province, I think that we can say that we are a have-not province when we are comparing to some of the other provinces, but I say this, and I repeat what was said by other people of other parties, that we take a backseat to no one when it comes to health care and especially care for the elderly. This is the province that started insur-

ing personal care and there are still some provinces that don't, so that is the idea.

Now, I said there were 90 personal care beds per 1,000, but that is also refined. You look at population by sex - and it's not discrimination and I won't have the Women's Lib after me - I think it only stands to reason that between a certain age the women, in the childbearing years, need more beds, acute beds. Then, the Native population is considered in that because they need more care, so all these things are taken into consideration. You are not going to be absolutely right, but that is about the best you can do now, the best information that governments have at this time and that's what they base themselves on.

It is true what they said about St. Jean Baptiste. I mentioned that myself. It is true about St. Malo; it is true about Elie and I am sure there are others and that will come. But the first priority, am I going to start by filling here, close to these areas, and build more beds when they are already overbedded and leave this thing going; is that what the suggestion is? Is that what the suggestion is, that we go ahead and overbuild where there are overbeds just to satisfy one community? There are all kinds of small towns that have the same predicament, the same thing, and we can't satisfy them all. That's what I say, at least not overbuild and overbuild and overbuild in areas where they might have a few people that might have to go out of town. But what guarantee should every single community - there's some here, there are some in the city the same way. Some from the cities have to go in the rural area to personal care homes because they can't find a place. So, we are addressing ourselves to that, but it is impossible to do it all and do it all in a day. I think we have come a long, long way.

There is another point I want to make. I have instructed - I take full responsibility for that - the Commission to phase out hostel beds under our program, and that is one I would hope the Member for Steinbach listens to because that concerns that area also. Some of these personal care homes were built before they were insured. I think that I should give the members, I'm sure some of them are interested, the different levels of institutional care.

The acute provides primarily for the diagnosis and short-term treatment of patients for a wide range of disease or injuries. That's in the general hospitals and so on.

Extended treatment provides primarily for the continuing treatment of patients with long-term illness or with a low potential for recovery and who require regular medical assessment and continuing nursing care. There are not that many of them and that is another direction to go, also.

Personal care provides primarily for a person's long-term supervision and assistance with activities of daily living, basic nursing care under the supervision of a registered nurse and usually with a medical component. But that personal care is also cut down and divided into four different levels. The first level is hostel and that is the minimal dependence on nursing time, very small time. These people, many of them, we are trying to replace as much as possible with home care because they don't need that much care; they need a little more. Then, the level two is a little more.

Now, I don't think anybody here will argue with this

principle and this direction that we are going when we say that when we are limited, when people are on the waiting list, we are not going to start in certain areas, under our plan, that we'll say, okay, we will insure the hostel, people that need only hostel care and they are hostel beds and we are not going to close them down but they will be phased out, they will be replaced. Then, when we have all the people in three and four taken care of, if we want to enrich it. That is one of the problems that you see in these personal care beds, that some of them have too many hostel and any time we move, in Steinbach, we are converting them. Whenever we make changes we will convert as many as possible in level three and four because, if we are going to have a program, it is going to be for all Manitobans. It is not fair to say, in one area, people in level one care, we'll take care of you and be an insurance service and in other areas that need third and fourth level care, you are not going to have anything at all. So, I don't know if I am making myself clear, but this is what we are trying to do.

Once we do this, we are looking at it now, how fast can we go? I said to the honourable member, and if he feels that is not enough money, I would like him to stand up and say, you spend another \$1 million or \$20 million. —(Interjection)— You're saying that as if that was way up there. We are committing, at least in principle, more than that. There is 153.4 now that are under construction, that are approved; \$3.4 million for planning and, if these things all go to the limit that will be another \$88.1 million and then, in the functional program, a potential of 112.2. Then, during the time, you are meeting the needs and the requirements of the fire commissioner and you are building up your hospitals and so on. So, I think that is pretty rich and then, Deer Lodge besides that.

Deer Lodge, if that goes through, it will be \$30 million. I hope it goes through because the feds will pick that up, but that is peanuts compared to the operating costs we will have after so many years. I think we'll have a good deal but, nevertheless, the operating costs will be there and eventually we'll have to pay for it.

Now, another point that I want to make, because I'm addressing myself mostly at the rural members now with this, that you have also many acute care beds. When we figured the rate and the need, the guidelines, there is - well, I'll give you the figure. Acute care: the City of Winnipeg has 3,216 beds, non-Winnipeg 2,398, for a total of 5,608, that's acute. But, you have to make an adjustment, 594 of those beds in the city, that has to be deducted because those are people from the rural area because of the teaching hospital and specialites and that has to be added to the non-Winnipeg. So, therefore, the beds available for use, there are 2,491 for the city; 2,986 in non-Winnipeg; and there are also 131 in the city hospitals, especially the two main, St. Boniface and the Health Science Centre, that are for non-Manitobans. Now, we try to get the full cost from them, but even then they are occupying beds. So, now you have beds available because you've had to deduct this 131 which are occupied by people who are not from Manitoba. You have in the City of Winnipeg 2,491; the non-Winnipeg 2,986 for a total of 5,477. Now, the beds required, as per guidelines, in five years - and what I'm

saying now is after this program is finished, there might be others - now, the beds required as per guidelines the totals are 4,309 instead of 5,477. So we are overbed; I want to remember that, in acute beds we're are overbed.

Now, if you look at this the beds available for use in the city is 2,491 and the beds required per the guideline is 2,498. So there are seven beds - practically dead on - seven underbedded in the city. So that means, the members of the rural area remember this, the guidelines would give you 1,811 acute beds and you have the equivalent of 2,986. So that is just to give you an idea that we're not that bad off. Those are the acute beds and some of these beds, overbedded, are being used by people that have been panelled and actually, for all intents and purposes, are in personal care beds. So that is one of the concerns.

Now, my friend talked about other programs. I think he heard - certainly we mentioned that before we were in the Estimates and this is a commitment of this government - what he's describing, if he knows it or not, he's describing enriched senior citizen homes that the last three governments have talked about and that we hope that we can do more than talk about and we've already started to work. We have an interdepartmental committee. I've had a meeting with the Minister responsible for housing; we're going to look at that.

Now, that might change the whole concept, because right now you have senior citizen homes; they're your home, what you were talking about; they're not buying them, it's not condominium but they're renting, they're their homes. They are very happy in there. They have company and they have activities together. There are people of the same age, but then they are not somewhere in a corner somewhere, they can see youth and the kids go back and forth from school and they are in the centre of the activity. They are very pleased and the relatives are pleased because they know that mother and dad are taken care of. But comes the day where these people are still very happy, are still very capable, they are far from senile, but they find it very difficult to get their meals ready.

So, therefore, they panic and they want to be in there. Their children panic; they are underfed; they are not well fed; they want to put them on a waiting list; that is not a proper waiting list. They are afraid of what might happen in the future and that's the kind of security we want to give them also, if we are assured that they'll be taken care of when the time comes, not to panic. But there is this tendency to say, oh, they can't take care of themselves.

Now, what we want to do is make it possible for them to stay in these beautiful homes that they like a little longer, to be at home. Our aim is not to put people in institutions, that's the last thing we want to do. We want to empty the institutions. That's why you won't see us build all kinds of beds. I'll show you how much we're overbedded in acute care beds and not too long ago all the members from this House, on both sides, were saying, build more beds. There was a change in funding, the Federal Government of the time would only recognize the acute beds so everybody built acute beds because they were 50 cents dollars. Instead of it giving us that flexibility to build more personal care homes and bring programs such

as home care and these programs in there.

So, what happened then is if this enriched senior citizen will go, if this is the program that goes, then you would build more senior citizen homes but you allow probably a cafeteria. That's one of the reasons we want a no-profit organization - you know the policy difference between those two groups. The non-profit groups would be the sponsors of this and they would have the restaurant at no profit at all. The government doesn't intend to subsidize the restaurant but these people have money, some of them have money. They would pay, they would get a good deal, because it would be at cost and they will have the cafeteria. Then we would concentrate, whatever the need will be, home care in there, that's exactly what you meant when you said there are going to be nurses and there are going to be different people in there and that is exactly what we want to do.

Now, we think that eventually, and we want to look at that, there will be a possibility, because you will have some service there, some health care, some nurses, you will have the meals being readied - and that is not a policy. It's a policy of maybe to take care of St. Jean Baptiste and Elie and some of these areas. They would have their homes but we might have a few of these beds, personal care beds. You know we're not tied to any formula and that's one of the things that we're exploring.

But then the member goes a step further. He's talking about people with money; they want this, they want that. I'm very surprised to hear the member speak like this because free enterprise, private enterprise could take care of that. We're not against that, but we certainly don't intend to make that an insured program. There's nothing to prevent my friend, myself, the former Minister, and the former Minister of Highways, the Member for Pembina, to get together and say, okay, we want to retire. We'll get together, we'll build this condominium and we'll have whatever. I'm not ashamed of people that have money that want to spend it in a certain way, there's nothing wrong with that, but don't mix this up and don't ask the government to subsidize these people, to take care of them. Furthermore, when we talked about personal care homes, it's not a question of need, but we will not pay so much and let somebody . . . There was a proposal made to me today of an enriched senior citizen home, but they wanted underground parking and they figure, well, some people have money so we would like to have them there because they'd like to have this company, so, we will build units a little larger than the other. We said no way, the Federal Government, CMHC would not allow it, we will not allow it, because if it is something that'll be subsidized or something that'll be a Federal or Provincial Government program well then it'll be uniform and we're not going to have two different classes of citizens. We won't encourage that in a certain area. So, Mr. Chairman, I hope that I've answered the question of my honourable friend.

I'm very proud, not only of our government, I'm proud of the way this province has been going. Listen, I think we take a back seat to no one. I recognize, in fact my words were that this will be somewhat like a Throne Speech that you pretty well feel that you have to put in a word. I'll accept this even if you stretch things a bit. You go a little too far well I'll challenge



you, and I'll try to answer your questions, but I don't intend to make this same speech after every single member speaks. If he wants to get it off his chest and be able to send Hansard to somebody, that's what it's all about, and that's your duty. But then, go back to page so-and-so and send them my answer because I don't intend to answer every single one of them with all the same speeches that I'm making now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, the Minister has just said a lot of things that I very definitely do believe in. He's just —(Interjection)— my colleague says he worries about me. But really you did, Mr. Minister; you said a lot of things that I very definitely do believe in, and I do believe very strongly that if we go out and meet with some of these people, if we explain the facts to them, that they will understand and they will begin to realize and recognize that there's problems here. There's maybe a much larger problem than what we are anticipating over here that has to be looked after.

But what I'm saying to the Minister is this, that for heaven's sake, when these people want to come in and have an audience with you, try to have an open door and if you can't accommodate them this week or next week, maybe even a month after or two months after, give them a date on which they can come in. I would like nothing better than if I could have the Minister for one day, take him through my constituency, have him meet with people and say we've got a problem here, we've got another problem here, we've got a problem here, we've got a problem there.

So, let's go out and meet with these people; let's talk to them; let's explain to them that there's problems in other areas that are probably more difficult, or maybe this is the most pressing problem over here. I see that some of your areas and I think one of them is Thompson over there, where you have no facilities whatsoever. You also have very little senior citizens over there. —(Interjection)— but anyhow, whatever, we do have a lot of senior citizens in our area who are needing, who are wanting. I hope that the Minister in his wisdom will be able to find the time to listen to the concerns of these people and hear their presentation, and thus will give him an opportunity to say either, yes, I recognize the other problem; or no, I don't think you have a problem or there's a much more immediate problem in some other area. But at least to discuss this problem because the way that we are at the present time they see it only from one side that we have this problem over here, we have such a waiting list that we don't know how to deal with it. I hope that the Minister is going to be open to meetings, when we request meetings, to come in and discuss the problems in our particular area as far as the senior citizens of this province are concerned.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I don't disagree with that. I think I've made that quite clear that I'm ready to meet with everybody and anybody, but not together, that's impossible. I'm ready to go and when the time permits I'll even accept the invitation of my honourable friend providing he feeds me.

But let me say something; politically it would be good for you and I, but if you really want to meet the

needs of these people I'll say again, if they want that information it has never been denied to them. The members of the Commission who know this much better than you and I, are only too pleased to sit with them and explain that, and that has been done, so I wouldn't want people to leave here with the idea that those people are kept in the dark - it's not true. I know that sometimes you want to talk to the top. You can talk to the Minister. If the First Minister's not around, fine. I recognize that and it is our duty, and I'm ready to do that. But when you want to know the facts and you want to understand it, the Commission has always been there and these people have had this explanation. But, they are not satisfied, they want to go to the Minister because they want to push and they want something, and that's good; you need those kind of people. Then there's got to be a happy medium and the government has to say well wait a minute, you know, this is as far as we go at this time. So I have no objection to that at all. In fact, I've stated that from day one.

**MR. BROWN:** Well, I'm very glad to hear the Minister say that because I think that really basically what is at the bottom of this whole thing is, how can we accommodate the problems that we have in each different community that we face? I know that mine is not the only area; there are 57 other areas that the Minister has to contend with, but each one of us have our own peculiarities. Each one of us thinks that our problems are the most severe and that they should receive the first attention; I recognize that. So, if we can recognize one fact, that we're out here to service as many of the senior citizens who are in need as possible, then we will have accomplished a lot of things.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin-Russell):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really impressed by the Minister bringing the map and that to the Committee tonight. I think it's good information. The former Minister exposed us to that type of thing and I wonder sometime maybe the Minister could find the time to take that on the road around the province - I tell you it would answer a heck of a lot of questions.

In health care when we're spending \$913 million and the problems that my desk-mate raised are all over this province. There's a lot of information on those two simple maps. Sure there'll be a lot of questions raised from time to time, but it is certainly very meaningful to me and I've learned a lot as to where this Minister intends to carry the health system and where he intends to go with it. Those maps - I think if he had some time to send it with some of the staff around the province and let the people know, you know, this is where we're going that it will certainly answer a lot of questions that are raised to us; because I don't think there's a day goes by that I don't get, personal care home beds, the hospitals, I've got all kinds of problems. The Minister is familiar with them because he's answered letters to Gilbert Plains and Grandview. I see on the map that some of those green circles there which is the jurisdiction now that's part of Roblin Constituency.

May I first of all, Mr. Speaker, commend the Minister on his paper that he presented to us on Deer Lodge Hospital and his five-year plan. I'm sure he's a veteran; I'm a veteran; there's a lot of veterans around here and there's a lot of veterans still around the province, in fact, I spoke as I came in the south door this evening to the honourable gentleman that's on the desk there, he's going in for a gallbladder operation or something, a very learned old gentlemen sitting there guarding that south door, again those concerns. But the Minister, I think has done a pretty good job and I know he faces the problem of the operational costs when the province takes over the operation of Deer Lodge. Well the feds he said are going to pick up the Capital cost. I think we will learn real quick from Seven Oaks what it costs, but I'm sure that if the Minister would have the time, he'd send - maybe he's already sent a copy to the legion branch there in Northwestern Manitoba.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I already have.

**MR. McKENZIE:** You have, well I'm pleased to hear that. The other thing I wonder about, I got a note today from Rossburn that they're opening their hospital next Friday. I don't know if the Minister got a note about it or not, maybe he hasn't seen it yet, but I look forward to it because that's one of the complexes that came from this former Minister. It's a very slick, new building and I look forward to being there to see this complex in Rossburn. It's very exciting as I watched it develop since the election. I'm not familiar with the interior because the construction was going on.

Well, Ethelbert is no longer under my jurisdiction, but the former Minister put a little health plan into Ethelbert that certainly served the needs of that community by putting the health nurse in that little clinic and using an ambulance service to Dauphin. I'm sure the Minister may be familiar, that has certainly taken a lot of pressure, because every time I check back on Ethelbert to find out, they're really pleased with the system that's in place there today and I just want to comment on that very briefly, because of the fact.

But the other problem that's really getting me in trouble is the conflict between the Health and the Fire Commissioner's office, where we have the Fire Commissioner's Office - and I have the problem with Grandview - it's two or three years old now where they're demanding that these services be put in place and I think they have a right.

The Department of Labour in Gilbert Plains, I think, is facing the same problems. There's an old hospital and while I see it in the Minister's five-year plan, it's certainly going to be looked at, but those hospital boards are really concerned, as I stand here tonight, Mr. Minister. They wonder how serious those problems are, because there's patients in those hospitals and yet they are holding in their hands reports from the Fire Commissioner's office that tells them they'd better clean up their act or certain things have to happen in certain days. I have letters here from Grandview and Gilbert, they've been asking me for months. I understand the Minister's problem, he's busy dealing with the doctors and the portfolio has changed. It's a huge task and I well understand that he can't meet them at their convenience and the Legisla-

ture as well is in Session, he's got his Estimates before it, and I wonder what liaison goes between the two departments. But that's the one that creates the real concern out in those hospital boards is those Fire Commissioner's reports, they've got them in their hands and they're most uptight and would like to know how bad it is, or how quickly they have to make these changes and then the safety of the patients in the hospital is all part and parcel. Nobody sitting on a board today wants to be - it's like sitting on a fuse, anything could happen tomorrow.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman. I don't know but letters that's going out to my hospital boards in Grandview and Gilbert Plains, the Member for Dauphin gets copies of these letters. Is he your special assistant? These are not in his constituency at all and I don't get copies of letters that goes to his constituency.

**A MEMBER:** Can I see that?

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well I'm sure the Minister has a reason for it and I'm not going to quarrel about it.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, let's just briefly reminisce. He was here in this Chamber and I was here when Medicare came in, and we saw the plan laid on the table and the costs that was going to be involved, and it's gone from what was it, \$25 million to the Federal Government, \$25 million for the province and I haven't been here that long, maybe 15 years. Now Manitoba's share is \$913 million.

While we went through the cycle of a deterrent fee of some \$2 and then that was changed that the deterrent fee was taken off and so it was said, in a lot of quarters, is free Medicare. I'm telling you, a lot of people still think out in the country it's free and that's, again, a job that us politicians are not getting the message out to the people. If people understand the cost of the health care, nobody in this Chamber has the courage to stand up and oppose Medicare. It's an excellent system and it's worked well, but it's becoming terribly expensive and that's why I think the debate is so important tonight, when we're in this Capital we're dealing with some maybe \$600 million, is a lot of bucks. So naturally, we each and everyone of us I think, want to know, I would like to know and I see those green labels over there and I think that's part of my jurisdiction, and maybe I can speak with the Minister privately after going to take a look at the map privately, but it shows even me, Mr. Chairman, how ignorant I am, as the Member for Roblin-Russell, until the Minister brought this map out tonight, as to where they were going.

I don't see any problems with the Minister, any Minister bringing that kind of information into this Chamber, especially when we're expending these kind of dollars, to make sure that we take the message back to our people and they have a good understanding of where these bucks are going.

I know the problems he faces of trying to deliver these dollars in the health care system and I wish him well and like the Member for Rhineland said, if he can find the time to bring his staff out to my constituency I'll be more than pleased to put on the steaks and take them around. I'm sure I'll see him in Rossburn likely next Friday and we may even start from there, but I

wish him well. I tell you the phone never stops ringing Mr. Minister on this health delivery system, I guess it never will. We're locked into it now and, as some young students I spoke to the other day, you know our concern today and the Minister of Education is sitting here, with this conflict that's going on and the problems in the health delivery system, we're spending all these dollars. Who would want to be a doctor and who would want to be a Minister of Health today, dealing with all these difficult problems. I'm sure this Minister will do justice to this province, he's been there before. I've been really pleased with the former Minister, because I told him a couple of programs he put in, Ethelbert and Rosburn and I wish him well and I'm sure that he'll deliver the best way he can.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before we proceed, if I could direct the members' attention to the gallery on my left. We have a group of 35 visitors of the Teachers' Exchange Club, under the direction of a Mrs. June Sprott.

On behalf of all the members of the Legislature, I welcome you here today.

The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I will try to answer a few of the questions of the member. I will try not to be too long. I know others want to participate. I saw the Member for Steinbach who has been trying to get up a couple of times, trying to get your attention, Mr. Chairman. I would like to give some information, though.

Before we leave this, I want to make it quite clear and I think the members here should recognize the work of the Commission. I think the best piece of luck I ever had is the time that I spent as Chairman of the Commission. I realize with the work there, there is no doubt that it has helped me later on as Minister of Health and I want to say that these people, those visits with these groups over the last year, they had 620 meetings. There were not 620 different people, but there were 4 meetings with 80 different groups and then 3 times with another 100 groups. So, I think that we should recognize the good work and the dedication of these people. I would like to thank the member for this kind remarks and for the advice and the question that he's asked.

One of the concerns that we have, of course, is the Fire Commissioner's Report and I could report to the members of this Committee that we have a very good rapport between the Commission, the Fire Commissioner and the Department of Labour. Now, it is an uphill struggle. Things were in bad shape, but we are spending \$5 million a year on that and we are catching up. It takes a while and we are looking at the priorities, trying to do the most. Of course, you are never satisfied until everything is taken care of, but I'm satisfied that the members of the Commission are handling this right and I don't intend to interfere at all.

To give my honourable friend an indication, this is his area here. This is Grandview and Gilbert Plains that he was talking about. It is now underbedded, as you see the blue; there are 40 beds and there should be 57. When this whole program is finished there should be 70 beds there, so they will be somewhat overbedded, but then, the majority, there will be a

bigger percentage of older people. I can also inform the honourable member that Dr. Johnson, our Chief Medical Director and also medical consultant and also the Chairman of the Manpower Committee on Doctors, is travelling to Grandview next week to discuss the question of doctors with them.

As far as the little copy that he saw where these people were copying some of these letters that he had or letters to the board, I am not saying that's not true. I am not hiding that and if I wanted to hide, I'd put a blind copy. It would be very easy. The explanation is that for - what reason, you'll have to ask him. What reason the board asked him or he inquired about some of these areas, I don't even know what constituencies they're in. The member had written me also and therefore the same information, I sent it to the people that were concerned. That's an explanation and I certainly don't apologize for that and I will keep on doing the same thing. I guess he could say the same thing also that on his copy, he saw copy Mr. Wally McKenzie, so that is the explanation. If somebody brings something to my attention, it doesn't matter who, they will get a copy and they will have a blind copy when I answer and that is the reason.

I think that's about the main cover. I thank him for his remarks and I would like to give somebody else a chance to speak.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Then I can ask the Minister, I can raise the question about Dauphin, Swan River and now get copies?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes.

**MR. McKENZIE:** The other thing then, very briefly, these boards at Grandview and Gilbert Plains have been waiting to meet the Minister since December, and I hope that early after we get through the Estimates, he will find the time because they have matters that are of great concern to them and I hope he will be able to sit down with them.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, if we ever get out of here I intend to go through the province to visit as many personal care homes and hospitals and meet with the boards, the administrators, the staff, as many as I can in different trips that I have. I am very anxious. It would be much more pleasant than staying in this place, especially after 22 or 23 years in this House. I think I would like to get on the road. —(Interjection)— my wife joins you. She thinks I have been here too long, also.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister knows, I am interested to know some of the rationale and he has given some of the rationale for the reason of cutting down the size of the personal care home facility which was to be constructed in the Town of Steinbach. I would ask the Minister at this time whether or not, during the last six months, the architectural drawings and the consultations between the Health Services Commission and the Board of Resthaven Home in Steinbach were based on an 80-

unit complex.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, that is correct. On an assumption of an 80-bed, that's correct.

**MR. BANMAN:** I was under the assurances from the former Minister that the 80 units would be constructed and they have been working on that. When was the actual change made? In other words, has the board been notified that they will be reduced to 60 units?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would like to explain something. I am sure that the honourable member knows, having been a member of the Cabinet of the previous government, governments are elected, governments are defeated and they have a certain mandate. Certainly we all make decisions that affect people for a long time, but especially something that is not, such as this, constructed. I think that they might have been and I am not debating that. I can, if the member wishes, but it is not my intention. I don't think there is anything to gain on this.

I think that probably it would be right to feel that there is an approval in principle, nothing else, because even in those days, year-to-year the government of the day, of any day, has to come in and approve these things, approve it in principle, whatever you call it. Pretty well what I'm saying now when I say to them we will give you money to go and plan, it is some form of an approval in principle because we wouldn't spend that money if we didn't intend them to develop something. That's correct.

If my honourable friend, and I will try to be charitable and not start a debate on this, remembers in 1977 that there was a freeze on things that I had approved in this House as former Minister, and I have never denied the government of the day the right to do exactly what they thought was right and this is what we have done. There is no doubt that they were working on the assumption that it would be an 80 bed hospital, but that was caught in time; that would have been going in the wrong direction. I'm also not going to impute any motives to the government of the day or the Minister of the day, why that was allowed. That was their responsibility and their business.

My responsibility was to see that we follow the guidelines; my responsibility was to see that we try to give services where services were needed and that we try to spread these facilities in all regions, that we don't just overbuild one region. As I'm saying here the —(Interjection)— Yes, the beds, we should have there is 106 and they had 167. The honourable member thinks that I could justify that because it was in principle, except that I'd build another 20 beds, no; replace it, yes and try to get away; to phase out the hospital beds, yes.

I am not preventing free enterprise or anybody else to go in the hospital business, but until the day when we have a universal program, if we can ensure hostel facilities and hostel care across the province, well then we will accept that. I just want to make sure, I was asked a question and I want to make sure that —(Interjection)— Okay, I don't mind.

Mr. Chairman, my point is this, I'm not criticizing anybody and I'll tell you how this was found. It was

that this thing was over-bedded and every recommendation that came in, I looked at the area and said, well you know, you've got 106 beds, what the guidelines recommend, the beds that should be in place; you already have 167; you want a brand new one and then you want to add another 20. So that certainly is not the guidelines; that wouldn't have been responsible, it's not because it's Steinbach.

Before we leave Steinbach, I think the honourable member should remember the dollars that will be spent in Steinbach, in giving them a brand new facility and also asking them to phase out some of the hospital beds, which is fair enough and then — what's the other — the upgrading of the extended treatment at the Steinbach Hospital. I don't think Steinbach are doing too badly by the province.

**MR. BANMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could confirm that the number of units at the Resthaven Home are 66 now, and that in fact we're going to be six less than we had before with this new facility.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I've already stated this in this House, that it's a renewal, there's 106. I can confirm that also, that the beds requirement should be 106; that there are 167 and when this is finished, there will be 160, but I also confirm that so many of those beds, Mr. Chairman, are hostel beds and we're asking to phase some of these beds out. That's correct, they'll be six beds less and they'll all be brand new beds. Still over-bedded.

**MR. BANMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I have a few brief comments to make. For obvious reasons, I'm not pleased with the announcement. I would have liked to see 80 units in there and the Minister will get up and say, well you want us to cut back on government spending but on the other hand you're asking for money for personal care home beds. But I think one thing has to be put into perspective here and that is, that when the previous administration had a look and wanted to review a number of these things and made a few changes here and there, the former Minister of Health really took it on the chin.

This Minister of Health has not really been gone after by any members of the Opposition so far and it's not my intention to do that here tonight, but he has indicated to us here this evening that he faces some problems, the same as my former Minister of Health faced and when I look at the number of units that the Minister has showed us here; the distribution of the number of units; the acute care bed facilities; the personal care home bed facilities, what he is saying to us here tonight, is that the former Minister of Health and the previous two administrations have done a pretty good job to see that the Manitoba citizens are looked after. That's really what he's saying here tonight.

Now I know that he is facing a problem. He mentioned —(Interjection)— you can look after your things later on.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if you'd ask the Member for Lakeside to sit in his own chair.

The point I want to make here is that the Minister has said that one of the candidates during this past election, got up and promised a personal care home

and a particular facility and then went on to tell him that if he wasn't going to get that facility, if he got elected, he was going to resign. He indicated to that member that he'd better get himself elected first, but indicated to the House that the member might have possibly resigned because he wouldn't have given him this personal care facility.

Having said that though, Mr. Chairman, we have to realize what happened in the last four years. The members opposite in campaign literature and everything, went ahead and said that the desperately needed personal care home beds would be built by the NDP Government.

Now I think —(Interjection)— health care cutbacks. The New Democrats would restore health care systems; the desperately needed personal care homes would be built by the NDP Government. Now, Mr. Chairman, the problem this Minister faces is the problem that his leader and many of the other people have put him in and that is, that the expectations out there have really been raised by this New Democratic Government and what has happened here is the Minister is now wrestling with this and is trying his best to rationalize a lot of these things, but that is really what has happened. For four years they went after the previous Minister of Health, who we have found out tonight had done a relatively excellent job in allocating the personal care home beds, within this Province of Manitoba and now we have the new Minister who is wrestling with the very same thing.

I have to say to this Minister and only time will tell, but I doubt whether this government, this NDP Government is going to build the number of personal care home beds that the previous administration did in four years and I say to the Minister, when you look at the five-year program that was tabled, that he will not come close to building the number of units, or even replacing the number of units that the previous administration did.

Now having put that on the record, I want to say to the Minister, the expectations that you created in four years of badgering the former Minister of Health — and I'm not blaming the existing Minister for that — there were some very vocal people across the street, or across the way who really went after the former Minister of Health whom we have seen tonight, has done an excellent job.

I think what we've seen here tonight is a pretty good endorsement of my colleague, the former Minister of Health, what he did with the limited resources that were available to him.

I again reiterate, I know this is a very tough department to be in. I say to the Minister that some of the concerns that I have raised here this evening with regard to the facilities in my area are disappointing to say the least. We thought we were going to get an 80-unit facility out there. We have now been cut back to 60 and we are going to have to make do with that, I guess, because that is what he has determined the project will be.

I would ask the Minister at this time whether or not there is any consideration being given to change the regulations which would not allow groups to build personal care facilities that are not funded by the government. He mentioned before that — and I reiterated the problem that I had back in 1978-79, the

Greenland Nursing Home which was destroyed by a tornado — the individuals of that particular church organization wanted to rebuild that home without any government assistance and without a per diem. Under those regulations of the day, they were not allowed to do so. Those, I am happy to say, were changed so that it allowed them to operate a non-profit personal care home looking after their people. I wonder if the Minister could assure the people that this type of facility where people want to look after their own and not require any government funds, if that will be continued to be allowed to be done in the future.

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

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last speaker, I guess, talked about three or four different things. First of all, I think he understands the rationale, I hope he does anyway, what was done, and he certainly should realize that it is the mandate of any government of the day and this was done, so I will not go into that.

Then he talked about trying to justify the former Minister, saying that he did a good job. I don't think there was that much criticism of the Minister. Of course, in Opposition you are going to criticize and be my guest, if that is what you want, fine, this is what it's all about. I have never tried to hide behind anybody and say, please, don't throw stones. Go ahead; be my guest. I can take care of myself. —(Interjection)— no, no diversion at all. Be my guest. —(Interjection)— Wait a minute. Not all together. Let me at least have an answer, not five of them. Any time, I can stay here quite late tonight, if that's what you want be my guest. —(Interjection)— Harry, as my friend, just some good advice, every time you quote after dinner, you do that; you get in trouble. You have to apologize. Be careful, as a friend.

Mr. Chairman, —(Interjection)— if they want to hear. If they want to all speak together at once, apparently this is the night. Once in a while, they are going to go ahead. Things were going a little too well, I guess. I think that the tone was set in this Committee that I felt it's been very constructive from both sides. I think that we've refrained and that is open to anybody to criticize anybody at any time. We could play it either way.

Now as far as I was concerned, the criticism at the time was not on the Minister of Health, but on the whole government because of the freeze. You remember when we were talking about personal care homes — and I still think we were right and I am still ready to debate that, I don't know if it would serve any purpose at this time — but that is where we had our differences of opinion. We felt that the need — and it seems obvious today by everybody wanting more, some that are overbedded want more than 20 more beds — so it must be that if you want that, that the need should be an important thing. We felt that you didn't save any money. You lost money. You didn't have the facility at this time and then, you had to turn around and now you are paying today's dollars instead of a few year's dollars, but that is something else. That is passe. If we want to live in the past, we can go back to Roblin's days. We can go back to

Campbell's days and things progress.

In general, I am satisfied that the former Minister of Health was very sincere. I have no trouble backing most of these programs. Most of them have been going on. I don't think it's a question in health care that much about ideologies or parties. I am very proud of the programs and he has kept on defending the programs that we started. Some of them he started during his reign and I intend to keep going because they are good programs and I don't apologize for that. I don't look for trouble in that area at all. I am not concerned about that. But certain areas where the criticism is, it is a question when. I think that was clarified and I don't intend to start this debate. If we are going to debate it, I will take part in it. The thing is that one party said, we're going to it when we can afford it; another party says, we have to do it now. It's been a different degree of that.

Now the challenge of my honourable friend about the beds that were built in the last four years and the beds we are going to build in these next four years, I certainly accept that challenge. If he cares to put a side bet, when we meet in the hall, I'll certainly talk to him. But let's remember that we will decide on the beds, either one way or the other. We talked about the beds that were approved by one government. All right, that's fine. That's going to be for the last regime and this one for the beds that were open because I am opening beds now that I had nothing to do with. I had nothing to do with that and I recognize that. I don't apologize for that, but many of the beds that were opened in the last four years that were gone too far that we had authorized, in fact, some of them now are some of them that I authorized that were frozen and then were allowed to go. So, I don't apologize.

The member seemed to want to criticize me because there hasn't been any criticism in this Cabinet, that we have worked in a more positive way in this Committee. I don't set the tone. Well, maybe I help. I don't set the tone. I am ready to go either way. I tell you that it has been a very good Committee, although there hasn't been this knocking and arguments like we have had in other committees in the other room, where everybody has to come for a vote or people shout, there hasn't been any of that. But I can guarantee it's been a hell of a lot more productive than those committees, I can assure you of that.

I think the Critic of the government party feels the same. I think the understanding that we had planned that we are not going to criticize for the sake of criticism or to bring back things of the past, but then if there's something we disagree on, we'll go at it very strongly, very sincerely. I think we have both lived up to that and I have no problem. If other members want to come in and wave their doctrine, their bible, about the promises, fine, I'll accommodate them. If that's the kind of argument, it's not going to be very productive. It will stall the work of this Committee and I won't be able to go and visit all these rural areas that everybody wants me to visit, but I am ready to accommodate them.

I don't apologize for the way this Committee is going. I think that it's been - both by the members of the Opposition and the members of the government side - that it's been very productive, and I think that it matters of a lot more in Manitoba than fighting an

election that is past.

**MR. BANMAN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not my intent to get into a political harangue of ideologies on personal care homes or hospitals in this particular Committee, and that's not my intent. The only thing I said to the Minister - he by his own words said that there was an expectation raised out there - I just tell him that the expectation is there. Many of his colleagues increased that expectation. When the New Democrats got elected everybody was under the impression that all kinds of things were going to happen. The Minister is telling us here tonight that there are limited funds and he's going to use certain rationale to determine where those funds are to be spent. That's all I said.

The other point I wanted to make is that I was under the impression, and I know that the rest of the board was under the impression, that we were looking at 80 units instead of the 60, and to replace the existing 66, and the Minister would of course understand that I'm not overwhelmed or overjoyed by that. I would like to see the 80 units in there and that's my concern here right now.

I wonder if I could just ask him a few questions with regards to the indications in the projection for Bethesda Hospital. I wonder if he could give us just some details on that one. Are they talking about expanding the outpatients' area and the ambulance receiving area? Is that the type of expansion that they're planning at Bethesda Hospital?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This is an area that I'm very comfortable with the - if you call them promises that were made by this government. I think we said that we'd emphasize health care and I think you recognize that yourself when you looked at the total budget that we have. If that doesn't mean anything, well then tell us. Then furthermore, I think that when we're saying, if there's a program, and we'll wait and see. It's not automatically approved but the direction that we're going, and there might be more in the next four years. There's \$153.4, \$3.4, \$88.1 - and I'm talking about millions of dollars - \$112.2, \$30 and plus some other money for planning; so that's \$400 million if we're going in that direction, so wait and see. I don't think that's peanuts especially with the economy being what it is.

Now as far as the beds are concerned what does that represent: 1,454 beds; some replacements, but build 1,454 beds, 777 replacements and the rest new beds. Well, I don't think that's anything to be ashamed of, I think that's going on. I didn't bring the comparison, my honourable friend did. I'm saying that I'm ready to accept the challenge that after four years there'll be quite a few beds. I think the situation, if anything, is worse now; the economy of the province, of the country is in a worse situation now than it was four years ago. The hospital, that is functional progress; I want to make that quite clear. It's the expanding Diagnostic and Outpatients' Department and some extended treatment beds and there's not that many outside of the city, and we would have some extended treatment beds there. Oh, that's at the architectural planning, it's not only at the functional program. So the money has been approved to develop that program.

**MR. BANMAN:** Are there any cost projections with regards to the additions to the Bethesda Hospital? Is there any ballpark figure that the Minister might have with regards to the cost of the expansion there?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think my honourable friend would realize that we don't like to give the price publicly at this time and that we're still waiting for the architect and we have to go to tender and so on. It wouldn't be quite proper.

I forgot - there was another question my honourable friend wanted to know. What about the board, when were they informed? Nobody was informed, even the members of this House until a couple of days ago when this received approval in Cabinet. I couldn't tell them before because I didn't know what was going to be approved by Cabinet. So, because of the commitment that I made to do it as soon as possible, this was approved a week last Wednesday. We had a lot of work to prepare this and as I say I gave all the information to every single member of this House and to the members of the press. Of course, there'll be correspondence or contacts by the Commission but this was our way of letting the public know what was going on. I imagine that all these facilities, these projects, will get in touch with the commission.

**MR. BANMAN:** With regards to Ste. Anne: I wonder if the Minister could give me the figures for personal care facilities in Ste. Anne as far as the number of beds for the population. Also, he mentioned that they were three short of the population number in the hospital in the acute care facility. Those three short, does that mean after the extension and the renovations will be completed at the Ste. Anne Hospital which are now ongoing? Will we still be short at that hospital after the renovations have been completed?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm glad that this question was asked. Apparently I gave the wrong information. That's on the other chart. They were three under and there'll be four when the work is done, there'll be four more beds so they'll actually be one over; they won't be under, that's the acute beds. As far as personal care beds, well they're lumped in in the area with Steinbach. This 106, you know there's not - correction, that is Steinbach with the 106; Ste. Annes should have 50 beds. There are 75; when the work is done they'll still have 75, but renovated beds, no additional beds; but there'll still be 25 over bed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

**MR. LLOYD HYDE (Portage la Prairie):** Mr. Chairman, first of all I was pleased to hear the explanation that you gave to us in regards to the dispensation of the different beds throughout the province. I would certainly like to have a closer look at that sometime. Of course, I'm interested in the Portage area and I'm wondering if he could indicate to me just what our position is in the Portage area?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** In the Portage area there is 184, there's 196 and when it's finished there will be 221. There will be five beds more, that is also with Mac-

Gregor involved in that, that's the reason.

**MR. HYDE:** Your 180 beds, does that include your additional program that you have for the Portage area?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, 184 is the beds that are needed.

**MR. HYDE:** Needed. Oh yes, okay.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That's for Portage and MacGregor. There are presently 196, they are overbedded by 12; then when it's finished you'll have 221 in that area, that is because of the viability of different hospitals. You're overbed but you're still getting three or four more, you're not that much overbedded anyway, but then you accommodate Portage and MacGregor also.

**MR. HYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder, could you explain to me what your position is, your government's position, in regard to the Holiday Retreat? It's a privately owned operated personal care home, as you are quite aware of, could you indicate to me just what your position is going to be on that particular care home?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The policy of this government is quite clear on this. We do not encourage private builders in this field, we want a non-profit organization. These builders were not allowed to build that. If they haven't been informed, they certainly will be. These beds will be given to hospitals, they'll probably be built with the hospital. We're very pleased to have them, that is, the same board of the hospital would be the board of the personal care home, it would be close to the hospital on the same grounds and the same board would run both the facilities, the acute hospital and the personal care home.

**MR. HYDE:** Mr. Chairman, as you are quite aware, we do have a very heavily concentrated area of senior citizens in our area and the beds, as I see it, gosh we'll never have enough to satisfy everyone, but I want to go back to the Holiday Retreat, if I may, for a moment because Mr. Minister I'm not saying for one minute that the people who are cared for in the Holiday Retreat they're getting, no doubt, the best of care. But I would urge you to come out and visit that facility.

In my opinion, I've said this to the former Minister and our government, in fact, I think I could take the credit for having the occupancy cut in half of what it was, it was just overcrowded, it was terrible and I say that tonight that the condition of that place is anything but good. I don't know what the Fire Commissioner's report on that particular building is, but I have a pretty fair idea that it might be right on the border line; I would think so. It bothers me to think that building is still occupied by senior citizens in the latter years of their life when it's in such a hazardous condition.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it's quite clear that was an area that the two parties do not agree, that is in proprietary nursing homes. The member is absolutely right, the former government had given the approval to build so many beds; he dragged his feet so long

then he was the loser, because that is not our policy and that commitment doesn't stand any more. The delay that he took before building this place cost him those beds and I'm not saying that these people are not giving good care. I'm not singling anybody out. I've seen, I've visited that home so, it's not a criticism.

There are some proprietary nursing homes that are well run, some a little less, but it's a question of principle. That is a policy - there are two different governments - the government helped them and gave them kind of an advantage up to a certain point with certain rates because of the borrowing. That was the mandate of the government. We don't happen to believe in that. We don't believe in that the same as we don't believe, and I imagine you don't believe, in profit motive in hospitals, like we have in the States. It's documented, there's been a lot of abuse, not necessarily here. We've lived with them and we don't intend to close any of them but our policy is we are looking for non-proprietary nursing homes and I think you have to say the same thing about them. They've been well run and they are doing quite well. You have people that are interested. there's a lot of volunteer work. It's just a question of two parties, two different philosophies, and this happens to be ours. I'm not knocking these people at all but, Mr. Chairman, through you, the member asked me a question as to our policy. We will not approve any proprietary nursing home construction.

**MR. HYDE:** I'd ask the Minister then, should there be a need to close that place - I'm speaking on the condition now of that building - are you prepared to act on that? What are you going to do because I am personally concerned about that and I think it's my position to bring that concern to you. I don't want to for one minute try to eliminate 25 beds that are in that Portage la Prairie area, but my goodness those people, I'd say my concern is there.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Of course, we have a contingency plan if that is the case, but I'm not going to prejudice. We have no indication that any of these beds will be closed. If they are sub-par beds, of course, we will have to look at that as we go along, as the former governments have been doing.

Now, we have some facilities at the extended treatment at the Portage Hospital. If we had to we would use this for these people while another building goes up. We're authorizing the beds, we're just not authorizing any new construction or replacement of the proprietary nursing homes, just the non-profit nursing home.

**MR. HYDE:** Mr. Minister, are you aware of the Portage General Hospital Board planning or enquiring as to their possibility of taking over and supplying personal care beds?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** If the member had been listening or I apologize if I didn't make myself clear, I said exactly that, that they would be anxious to take over. Instead, that would be the non-profit organization. It would be the same board of the acute hospital, the general hospital in Portage, the same board would also be the board running the personal care homes.

That's the intent.

**MR. HYDE:** Mr. Minister, you mentioned earlier that you and your government didn't wish to take any credit on any of the new hospital openings and personal care openings that are taking place today or tomorrow, whatever it might be. I am glad to hear that because as you are aware probably, the new hospital and personal care home at MacGregor is going to be opened tomorrow. The grand opening is tomorrow and I certainly do believe that all credit should go to our former Minister of Health and his government who worked very hard to see that that establishment was put there.

Following tomorrow's opening which I personally want to be there to see and take part in, the Government of Manitoba is going to make a lot of people very happy, people who were not at all happy, as the Member for Rhineland mentioned earlier, not happy of having to leave their home district to go to Portage or some similar areas to end up the last few days of their life. It is going to be a tremendous boost to that community and districts surrounding there to have that hospital and personal care opening there tomorrow.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I would like to thank the member for his remarks. It is nice to see that some people at least appreciate what is done in this health field because — I think former Ministers will tell you also — this is an area where you can't win because it's practically impossible to satisfy everybody. As far as taking credit, what I said I give fully without thinking about it at all or even worry, credit to the people that have started it, but that doesn't mean that if we finish here tonight that I might be going to cut the ribbon tomorrow.

That's the spoils of the war and I think the former Minister cut the ribbons at Seven Oaks and at St. Boniface, some of the areas that were started, so I think it evens itself out. I don't think we have to be enemies in everything. I think that what governments and what the tax dollars do for the people and the government of the day represents the government and the former government, it was done by everybody, so I don't think there is too much concern.

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

**MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson):** Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I appreciate the fact that many of my colleagues want to discuss with the Minister possibly some of the justifications of projects that maybe have not been on the program.

I would just like — and I will be relatively brief — but I would wonder if the Minister would maybe indicate to myself for the benefit of my constituency, what the position is in terms of, let's say, the Vita area. The Minister made a few references to the community of St. Malo, who I believe have made representation to the Minister and speaking in defence of some of the requirements that are there, from time to time we get lumped into the general eastern region and I think the southeast region, where in my constituency we have 40 small communities and no major ones. I know that



representation has been presented to the Minister in terms of hospital renovations as well as additional beds in the Vita area, as well as the fact that the Salisbury hospital district and the Village of St. Malo have made representation to the Minister in terms of additional bed care.

What makes my area sort of unique to some degree is the fact that we have a very diversified ethnic background. We have four basic ethnic groups that are represented in the area almost on an even basis and it creates a certain amount of psychological problems for some of our people out there when you move some of our old senior citizens that maybe don't know the English language as well. They would like to be within the area where they have people of their own ethnic background, where they can communicate with them a little better. If you move, for example, somebody from the French community into the German-speaking community or the Anglo Saxon community — and I have a real mix in that area — and this is the reason why people from the St. Malo area, for example, and St. Pierre area are requesting additional beds.

When we lump everything into a package — and I know that we have to have a formula in place in terms of so and so many beds per population — but it doesn't always hold true because in some areas you have more senior citizens than you have in some other areas. I know the ratio of one bed per 700, 7,000, something like that — I am not quite sure what the ratio is — four to 1,000 people over 70. When we consider some of the areas — and I notice the green circle in the Vita area there — we have many of our old Ukrainian people living in the general area — (Interjection) — whatever. I realize that a formula is in place. The only thing I am saying is that it does not always hold true in all areas in terms of the amount of senior citizens that you have living in the area.

I know full well and I think the Minister realizes that in the Vita area, for example, we have many senior citizens that are hanging on, living on their farms as long as they can, but we have I think a bigger percentage of senior citizens in that area compared to many other areas. I wonder if the Minister could maybe just update the position in terms of the Vita personal care home beds, the request that has been made as well as the St. Malo-St. Pierre one.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. This is Vita, the community of Vita is underbedded at this time, not by much — there are new beds — but there are 30 and they should have 44, there's 14. But the area, that is being looked at also, but the region is overbedded, not Vita itself. This is something and Vita will be looked at very soon, either in the next five-year plan or even at the tail end of it. It's not in there now. There were other priorities because of the region and there are 40 beds.

I think if the member was here, I don't know if he understood and I suggest maybe he should read Hansard later on, I gave the guidelines on it. The guidelines are 90 beds per 1,000 of people over 70. You say, if an area has more senior citizens, but that is taken into consideration because it is not 90 per 1,000; it's 90 per 1,000 over 70, so we have addressed that.

St. Malo, I recognize the situation, the problem, and hope that we will be able to help all those different

communities, St. Malo, Elie and St. Jean Baptiste. When St. Pierre came in to build in the same region, the municipality of St. Malo more or less gave them the beds. There were representations to the Commission that said, fine, we are in this district. We are allowed so many beds. Build them in St. Pierre. Now St. Pierre is built and they want St. Jean Baptists and we would like to bend over backwards to help these communities and we will have to look at that.

As I said, maybe the temporary solution or part-time solution will be enriched senior citizens homes and we are looking at that at this time, but Vita is underbedded and will be looked at, but the region is overbedded.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, to the Minister then, when I looked at the five-year program that has been indicated to some degree and with Vita being designated as underbedded at this stage of the game, the concern I have is that looking at the five-year projection, that there is no indication of any activity for the Vita area and as far as the hospital is concerned, I'd like to talk about that under the Hospital Program, I have some concerns that I could express at that time.

But the fact that it is designated on here as being underbedded and there is nothing in the five-year program as far as I can see at this stage of the game, not even for a functional program, not for anything at all, I'm wondering when is the Minister anticipating that the situation possibly could get consideration.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the member is quite right. There is nothing in the program, even under functional program at this time. That doesn't mean that next year it couldn't be more functional program. In other words, that's the first phase of the planning. I'm not saying that's a commitment, that's a possibility. But I want the member to see it is a concern, but the concern is, look at all the overbedded area in there. For instance, Emerson should be 130 and there's 157 beds, it would be out of those 17 extra beds if we could transfer 14 beds, I know we can't do that, but that has to be taken into consideration.

But you're right, that's exactly why we have the maps. The next thing we're going to look at are these areas here — the blue areas — but then you also have to look by region. You start by region and then you start by community and areas and then in isolated places also. This area on this thing is overbedded and there was nothing on that side and that's the other side of the No. 1, it's quite a ways away. But you're right, Vita is — I'm not trying to hide it — Vita is underbedded and Vita will be looked at.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** Just one more comment and question possibly, Mr. Chairman.

Part of the problem that we have in the southeast area is, there's a feeling almost of discrimination with many things. We don't have proper rail facilities; we don't have any elevators, things of this nature; always that area seems to be as it shows on the map. When you talk of Middleboro, Sprague, Piney, Vassar, Woodridge, all these areas, you know and the underbed situation in Vita. When we look at the regional area people have to, for example from Middleboro, they have to end up either in Emerson or in

Steinbach or places of this nature and there's a feeling of being neglected to some degree and I think this probably has been brought forward from time to time.

I realize full well that not every community can have a nursing home. It would be nice if we could have, for economic reasons, as well as other reasons, but the fact that there's a big empty void, as he indicated up to the North, there's an empty void. There's also a void in the southeast area and there's a fair amount of population.

As I indicated before, the same thing applies in hospital needs. We have a hospital that has been there for many many years. The requirements of that I'd like to talk on later, but I just want to draw to the Minister's attention, the people have a genuine concern. I realize full well that know the formula is in place, but when you look at that green circle there and then take that whole region that it covers, there is concern for the people as they have tremendous distances to cover, where you transfer somebody to a nursing home, a personal care home and the distances they have to travel in terms of just seeing their people. The Minister's looking at the map and looking at some of the areas up North and I appreciate that. I just wanted to draw this concern to the Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, we're aware of that and the member's absolutely right and this, by the way, is not north. North is worse off; they have to go long distances. This is Swan River, well part of that is north, if you compare it. But look here; look at the distance they have to go.

Now it's true that there's 14 beds underbedded, but look at the area; that's probably the most overbedded area except that one spot and Vita was one of the first, if not the first juxtaposed personal care homes that was built and that was built in our day.

Now they were the first and then you go around and the next time around, I would imagine they'll be picked up, but it's not the first priority now. We want to get people of different regions at the same level as that, but the people are concerned; the people will keep fighting and they're doing it here and they're doing there and there and all the area. We know that.

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

**MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the Minister some questions and I'll try to outline it as briefly as I can, regarding the supply of drugs to personal care homes.

Back when I was Minister of Economic Development, I received copies of letters that went to Mr. Pollock, the Chairman of the Board and Mr. Edwards, the Executive Director, regarding the PCI, that's like Personal Care Home Institute Controlled Drug Dosage System. A company by the name of Manrex in the Province of Manitoba had been supplying to the Villa Centres Personal Care Homes their drugs; and those drugs, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, were supplied from Manrex to Briggs and Maxwell Pharmacy, which was a pharmacy in my constituency.

The decision was made by the Villa Centres, which has head offices in Calgary, to start to purchase their drugs from the American Dominion Citrus Drug

Company of U.S.A., Jack Austin Drugs, which is located in the Wilco Department Stores.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I took this to the Minister of Health at that time and he informed them. He had contacted the director and there was a 90-day freeze put on this decision. In other words, Villa Centres were asked to hold off for 90 days, purchasing their drugs from the American Company located in Wilco. That 90-day freeze was apparently up at the end of February.

Now during that time, during February, I followed up on this and there was a lot of phone calls, etc., to the department and the department turned it over to Economic Development to look at it, regarding the purchasing policy, but by the same token if the previous Minister of Health could put on a 90-day freeze, this Minister of Health could have extended it until the Department of Economic Development had finished their research on the subject and the Minister of Economic Development told me in Committee, that they were examining the purchasing policies.

Now the Minister knows that the drugs that are used by the senior citizens in those personal care homes, are indirectly paid for by the Province of Manitoba, a very large amount of it. Now I'd like to say that this company — the Minister received a letter I believe in December and it was acknowledged in December saying it would be brought to his attention, they haven't heard anymore — but I must in all fairness say there was communication with his Deputy.

The company that was supplying is a Manitoba company. They brought an \$80,000 machine to make this bubble pack in Manitoba and employed people doing that. The little cart that you see here is manufactured in Manitoba. It's manufactured by Canadian Rogers Limited. The plastic blisters, as I say, are done in Manitoba on a machine that they purchased. All the chrome wire that is on the whole program is done in Manitoba. The pharmaceutical is Macron Enterprises of Border Street, Manitoba. The labels are done in Manitoba and, Mr. Minister, this card is done by Somerville Belkin in Manitoba, a company that was very close to not being here. They have been taken over, it was the old company that was owned by Continental Can and taken over by Somerville.

I, personally, know of two jobs that have been lost in Manitoba because of the decision of this company to purchase their drugs from the American company which is located in the Woolco Stores and I was very pleased that there was a 30-day freeze. I might say that the company did contact Herb Grey and he indicated that he would have it looked into and he was very pleased that the previous Minister put a 90-day freeze on this decision. Unfortunately, the 90-day freeze ended at the end of February and now, I understand, that the drugs are being purchased from the American Dominion Citrus Company, at Jack Adams Drugs which are located in the Woolco stores and buying their supplies from the United States.

I am well aware that this company is a private company but, Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows that the purchasing policy which is stated in the Purchasing Policy Book of the Province of Manitoba, all things being equal — and all things being equal takes into consideration the amount of purchasing that this company does in Manitoba and the jobs that they do

create in Manitoba - purchases will be made.

So, I would say to the Minister that I am very disappointed that there wasn't another freeze put on this decision for another 60 days or 90 days until the Department of Economic Development could have examined the purchasing policy and examined the purchasing policy of the province because it is now gone. The business has now left Manitoba, it is in the total of about \$150,000 worth of business that has gone. It not only affects the manufacturer of this product, it affects the two drug stores that were supplying them, Briggs and Maxwell of my constituency, who were supplying the Oakview Place and, I believe, Kennedy Pharmaceutical that was supplying the Tuxedo Villa.

This, as far as I am concerned, is quite serious because here we have a person who has been acknowledged as a leader in this field; he has held seminars on it; he has been asked by the Canadian government to go to Australia to show the product, explain the product, as a consultant and now we have a situation that is really deplorable because we have lost this business in Manitoba and, as I say, I know that we have personally lost at least three jobs that I am aware of.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that this subject would have been better discussed with the Minister of Economic Development. Most of what the member said is true, but now quite everything. There are some corrections to make according to my information.

The 90-day freeze wasn't set by government at all. The member is right, the drugs were being purchased by the company. It was the proprietary nursing homes who wanted to stop; it was the proprietary nursing homes who wanted to purchase from another firm. It was just during the election time. This had nothing to do with the former government or this government. It was the Commission who asked the proprietary nursing homes to have a period of 90 days to examine the situation to see what would happen after the election. This was done; they wrote to me. You are right, I acknowledge it. Then it was placed in the hands of the Economic Development. They were satisfied that they didn't want to interfere and I am somewhat surprised, especially when we are talking about proprietary nursing homes, it is the proprietary nursing homes. I wonder what the Minister would say if we said to a proprietary nursing homes, you are going to buy your drugs here. I don't think the former Minister of Economic Development is advocating that.

They haven't left, I think two employees left. They are still selling, I understand, to some of the personal care homes, but the thing is that the policy of our department is that, providing the drugs are competitive, we don't butt in. The people are free, especially when you are dealing with proprietary nursing homes and these are the ones that wanted the change. It's true that they haven't heard from me the second time because a decision wasn't made by the department and I am told that the decision was relayed to them. So, I am not trying to pass the buck or anything but I don't think that the department or the Commission could have done anything else. If the member wanted to discuss about policy of purchasing and so on, I

think it should go to Economic Development.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** We've heard the silly talk of the Member for Elmwood again. Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned that the company is still in business. Yes, it is. The jobs I am speaking of are in the drug stores that were supplying the centres. These people were working in those drug stores, at least the one in my constituency, and when they lost this account they had to lay off some people.

Mr. Chairman, I did bring it up in Economic Development, not this specific item but the purchasing policy, and if the Health Commission was able to persuade this proprietary nursing home to hold off for 90 days, and I must say that they did that, while the Department of Economic Development looked at it, I was hoping or would have hoped that the Minister could have asked the Manitoba Health Service Commission to see if they could hold off for another 60 days, until the Department of Economic Development looked at it.

I only say that this situation is not good and I know we are talking about proprietary nursing homes, but we are also talking about Manitoba jobs, Manitoba manufacturers, and the Manitoba Health Services Commission is paying the major portion of these drugs. I would hope that the Minister could convince them that they should purchase from a Manitoba company. When the Minister says that all things being equal, I would imagine he is talking about the quality of drugs — (Interjection) — the Minister has just mentioned he said, "competitive" and I understand from the manufacturer that he is competitive and I think that should be taken into consideration.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I just don't want to debate the Economic Development policy because I am not that familiar with them. I want to say to my honourable friend that, in effect, he is right on most of it, but not quite. Actually, it was 30 days that was requested and then the Commission asked for another 60 days and there was no reason for us, under my department, to ask for any more when we did get the answer from the Department of Economic Development. Now, the point is that maybe the cards and that are made here, but as far as selling it, the people who are selling the drugs, the same number of drugs are sold in Manitoba. So I would imagine that those two jobs that are lost must be gained at Wilco for the distribution of the drugs.

Now, as I say again, it was especially the proprietary nursing home and that's what it's all about. Proprietary means you run your business and I'm sure that my honourable friend is not advocating that we say to propriety, here, you buy your food here and you buy this. Later on, we might be able to suggest, and that is what I said, that if it's competitive I'll go along. I would like to see something more done in Manitoba, even if there was just \$100 worth of printing. But I've got enough of a load here, I don't intend to make those policies. To answer these policies collectively, I have to go along, but I don't really know what the Economic Development is doing in this. This is why I'm suggesting that as far as I'm concerned I'm defending what we did or the Commission did, because with the Commission between the department had asked for 30

days, then they went back and asked for another 60 days. So, in effect, they did what the member is suggesting and I say again, it was mostly propriety nursing homes which made it that more difficult. If it would have been a non-profit organization it would have been easier. I'm not saying that we could have done something different but the propriety nursing home, it was a little more touchy.

I'm saying, well, I don't think that we should say two jobs are lost, maybe jobs through the printing and that's something else and, of course, they're printing and they're sending all over Canada. But the member might be right, maybe what we're getting now is something that's important from the States, I don't know, but I don't think that it was ever said that we're going to deal only in Manitoba either.

I think that when we tried that at one time when I was sitting here prior to '77, our department was chastised because we were trying to get them to buy food from Morden Food and places like that and we felt that we shouldn't interfere as this was a Manitoba company and so on, it was felt that we shouldn't dictate. So you can't win them all.

But collectively, if the member wants to criticize me, I'll accept it but not under this department's Estimates. I defend what the Commission did and of my action when I didn't answer, and we didn't ask for any more time after asking, not I. I don't take credit for that, it was the Commission because that was in the period of transition and God knows what was happening, I don't. The fact is that we, the Commission, when it was satisfied that the Department of Economic Development did not want to interfere then it had no reason for asking for any more time.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to dwell on it either. If the Minister feels it's Economic Development that's certainly his prerogative and I must say that the Department of Economic Development has been involved and would have been involved. I don't know how it operates now, but we had started a study on purchasing in Manitoba generally and if the Minister of Economic Development were to pressure the Minister of Health on the basis that this should be because the Manitoba Health Services are paying the major part of the cost, whether it's propriety or not, that it should be purchased in Manitoba all things being equal.

I know this company personally and I'm sure that they're equal and that something would be done to do it. Now I know the Minister says he doesn't want to be involved with Economic Development but the Department of Health, the Minister of Health, has absolutely more influence on a decision like this with nursing homes than the Minister of Economic Development and I am quite surprised that they didn't recommend to you that it be purchased in Manitoba, but I also am very disappointed that it wasn't held off longer — I don't know whether the Minister could do it or not — held off longer until the decision had been made regarding the purchasing in the Province of Manitoba as the Minister of Economic Development informed me, was being looked at.

That's all I have to say. I don't know that the people in my constituency working at that drugstore were hired elsewhere, but I can tell you that it was an awful

shock to his business; it was a shock to the people that had to be laid off and they certainly don't understand why, when it's mostly Manitoba money, that they would lose their jobs because the purchasing wasn't done from an exceptionally reputable leader in this field in the Province of Manitoba who purchased everything in Manitoba. That's all I have to say.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I don't want to prolong it either, but I don't want to leave the opinion that I'm trying to duck the issue. The point I'm saying is that I would do exactly as the former Minister of Health. If there was pressure and if he was told, this is the policy of the government, I would go ahead. But there has been no policy in the government and it would be either if Economic Development or in certain instances, not in that I imagine, but I'm not even sure of that, it could have been Government Services.

But the policy of the purchasing normally would be Government Services and in this area it might be two departments and if they go ahead and bring a Cabinet paper and if a decision is made, I'll abide by it. But I'm saying that it wasn't up to me to initiate at this time and again, I want to make sure that I don't leave any thought that I'm not in this company. I'm not saying they're not equal. When I say the concern — forget the companies — the concern of the Commission is just that if the prices are competitive they're not going to say anything, because the member is right, indirectly the Commission is paying for it. So if they want to buy somewhere else and it's 20 percent more, there's no way, that's what I meant.

Now, another thing, let me explain further, the difference between the propriety nursing home and the non-profit organization. Propriety nursing homes are a chain. This particular one was a chain all across Canada and the decision, I'm told, wasn't made in Winnipeg at all. — (Interjection) — Well, what can I do about it?

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

**MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to ask the Minister a couple of questions about this five-year capital program — wherein it's called page one, but there are several page ones in here — but the caption of it is: "In addition to the foregoing program approved by government I've instructed the Manitoba Health Services Commission to continue to work with communities in determining and refining the functional program of the following hospital and personal care home projects."

To the Minister, there are approximately a page-and-a-half of projects on there. Although he's probably indicated this at an earlier juncture, could the Minister indicate just what are the status of the projects listed here and whether their listing here is in order of priority or a random listing?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, of course the members of the Committee would realize that things are advanced at a different level in all these things when you're talking about construction.

There are certain ones that are being built right

now. That is approved of course. Then there are some that have been approved in principle, have been announced but not started; in other words, there's no hole in the ground, we could say that's a freeze, we're not doing it. Those have been approved. There's another group that the plans are finished but they haven't been announced or approved officially, they're approved. That's the construction, that's the first bunch.

Then there's another group that we're saying that this year we're approving the first step, because you don't approve things before they're presented in an orderly fashion. We are saying so much money, I think it's \$3.3 million to plan at the architectural planning. That is being done, but this year the approval is only for the money for the planning. Of course, it stands to reason if you do that you intend to go in that direction but that could be changed. It could be stretched, there could be more done to balance - to work with the economy on a year that the industry, the building trade is very busy; you might slowdown a bit if there's more done in a private sector and if they need to be stimulated a bit because there's not much action going on, fine. In other words, I think everybody would agree that when you're talking about the building industry, instead of having peak years up and down where you have to go and recruit in busy years, recruit and get people to help you, and then in the valley, the people are leaving the province that you try to get kind of steady. So, we certainly want to look at that.

Then next year, the one that I'm talking about now, there's some that might need a little more money for more planning; that will have to be approved. Most of them will be ready to go to tenders. Those will be placed in front of the government and approved, or whatever. You see, then they could start the next year, they wouldn't start the construction this year, they could start next year.

Now the other one that my friend is talking about. It is too far ahead for government to say we're going to approve this two years from now. We're going to give you money to go and plan and we're trying to do it in an orderly fashion. As Minister, I'm instructing the Commission to start discussing. This didn't come out of the clear blue skies, this was all planned and the Commission has worked with that and they've made a recommendation on what should be done. I'm saying to them that those are the ones. So, these people would be informed that, in effect, they are in the planning and the ideas of the commission and the government. They are in the five-year plan, so the Commission is instructed to keep on with functional programming.

Next year that'll be done, so they'll need money; there's no money now needed. Next year that would be on my list, you know, you would go up one. This would be the list that I would go to the government and say, here, approve this for planning and the following year they would start on construction. But that's mentioned in a way because it is part of the five-year planning and long-range planning. So, they would functional program discussion in '82-83; planning normally it would be planning '83-84, and start construction in '84 and '85, which would still be the fourth year of the five-year plan. Then we might

announce another one next year.

So, that's not necessarily the full five-year program but that's the only way that we can go ahead, give direction and in all fairness let the people know the method and the priorities that we have. Now the following year, I would imagine that some of them will be finished; some of them will be in the process of being finished; others will start; others will be in the planning stage. They'll all advance one and then again next year I probably will instruct the Commission after reviewing with them, to say okay go to functional program with them.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Well, there is one project there that is at Manitou with the construction of a juxtaposed personal care home attached to the existing hospital. Now I take it from what the Minister has said that would be the type of project that is going to be in planning this year, in the drawing stages next fiscal year, and possibly in the fiscal year following might arrive at capital, capital commitment. So that I would just like to have the status at Manitou more closely explained if the Minister could.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, you've mentioned a specific program - that's a little different, in fact that program has been done; they're advanced, the functional program has been done. But that is a program in an area that is away overbedded. But it is a good project that is being reviewed but the priority has gone down while we feel some of the places are underbedded; it's not out of the plan yet. It'll be considered but in all fairness, I was talking in general, most of them. It was put in there because we didn't want to throw it out, but it kind of went down in priorities because in that area it's quite a bit overbedded. Therefore, let's say that it's left in abeyance for a year. Mind you, the Commission might want to discuss it, there might be some change or some suggestion of change, but they are more advanced than that. In other words wait until we build beds where they are away underbedded and then we'll come back to this one. The priority is a little different — (Interjection) — no, that's not in your constituency but if there's anybody listening, Elkhorn and Manitou are the same.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Well, could the Minister indicate, since the Manitou project was further along than the general description of projects included in that page-and-a-half list - it's my understanding that the tenders were to be let shortly on the Manitou personal care homes. In fact, I believe that designs, architect plans, etc., are in place. Would I assume that definitely is not going to move to a tender position in this fiscal year and may, in fact, not move to a tender position even in the next fiscal year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That's right. Actually there should have been another category and in those, there should have been Manitou and Elkhorn. Now, it's not quite right they'd be ready to go to tender this year. Their program is halfway completed, but it's certainly more than just a portional program. That's true. Now these areas are in an area where they're quite a bit overbuilt. The choice would have been, refuse them outright and say, no they're out. That wasn't done. We

still think that these things should be done, but we feel they should be quite a bit below that in the priority list so they would come right now; in other words, they were put on the list that I'm saying, okay, keep on developing that to the commission, but I haven't got the authority to tell the Commission to go head, you know, spend any more money on architectural design or let them go to tender. I'll have to bring it back to the Cabinet and I intend to and that's why they're not dropped altogether, but there should have been actually another category, because they are passed a functional stage, except I guess you can justify it and say well, the Commission will go back and look at their priorities and see what can be done. I don't even know how many beds, it might be reduced, I don't know, but it will be brought back to me next year again by the Commission, the Commission is instructed to keep on working with this, but I can't give any more assurance than that because I haven't got it myself. It was made quite clear by Cabinet that I have to go back for that list approval.

**MR. ORCHARD:** What communication has gone out to the Manitou Hospital Board and those interested citizens in the Manitou area regarding the status of their project, because the last contact I had with them, which would go back approximately three or four weeks ago, they were of the impression that their project was very much onstream, as was committed last year, where it would go to tender in this fiscal year. Has any communication gone out to the Manitou Board indicating a delay in their status, a further down the road commitment from the government?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know. I must recognize that most of these people, these communities, are felt that their projects were going ahead. They weren't discouraged and they weren't encouraged by this government, what they were anticipating was probably by the action of the Commission and the former government. Now, they were told a little while ago that the project was under review, but they received nothing official, as I stated earlier when I was asked the same question, I received the approval of Cabinet just last Wednesday, a week yesterday, and we prepared this. Of course they were told in a way when this is made public because this was circulated, it was given to the press and every single member and I imagine they might have been in contact with the member or he was in contact with them. There be will an official notification I'm told early next week. The commission will start informing all these projects directly, personally of their status.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, well, it's been said earlier on tonight and I certainly don't want to prolong the debate but I believe the Pembina-Manitou Personal Care Home was much further down the planning stages than certainly the Minister is indicating right now. They are to the sketch plans; they've agreed, for instance, to pay for additional exercise room space which is beyond the program space allowances and they're also agreed to pay for a canopy over the entrance to the personal care home. It's my understanding that the tenders for construction were to be called in July and August of 1982, much further

down the road than what the Minister is now indicating. As I say, as little as three to four weeks ago in contacting them and discussions with the individuals involved in Manitou, they were under the distinct impression that everything was on course, that tenders would indeed be called this summer so that construction could be undertaken early this fall and completion later on in 1983. That certainly is not the case and I do re-iterate that tender calls were scheduled for July or August, 1982. So, the Minister is indicating tonight that this is one of the projects - if I can use 1978 session terminology - has been frozen.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that this has been frozen at all. I think that the member is fairly right about his time maybe. I'm just relaying the information that the members of the Commission who are knowledgeable in this are giving me. I'm told that it would be September or October before they would have had their . . . But, anyway what's a month. No, I certainly don't think you could use a freeze when you're spending that kind of money. When you freeze you don't prioritize. A freeze is not prioritizing, a freeze you say, hey, the same as we were talking about drugs, a freeze for 90 days; nothing moves. Now the thing is that it was prioritized. We did the best we can. I don't think it would be right to say the government approve all those things. I think they approved in principle but they had to go back every year on these things. I'm sure they would have had to go back. I think anyway they would have had to go back before going to tender. Anyway, that's the other government's business. The place here, it's not frozen; it's not refused - some of them were refused, some areas were refused. It is a certain category that were advanced and for no other reason. I think I gave enough explanation on this. This is an area that is overbedded. So, we're saying, just a minute we're going to do those that are underbedded and then we'll come back and see you; that's all we're saying. Now, if they made an offer to the Commission to purchase certain things and so on, when the project is considered that'll be taken into consideration, there's no problem with that.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well then the Minister indicates that the tender calls were not, in fact, July and August but rather scheduled for September, possibly October, but that will not be taking place in September or October. The one point that I want to make here with the Minister, this is a project that has been under discussion for - I think when he was previous Minister the community was in to see him, possibly not him but certainly the commission - and I want to point out a rather interesting circumstance in the Manitou area that I think leaves some desire on behalf of the community to have a reasonably assured time schedule from this Minister and from the government, and that being that for several years now, with the anticipation in the community that they would receive approval to build a personal care home, there have been a number of individuals, long-time residents of the community, who through generosity and through concern for the community, have been willing to write into their last will and testament a commitment of certain fairly substantial sums of

money to go into a trust fund to do the very things that the Board agreed to, in other words, the additional exercise room space, the canopy over the entrance to the personal care home. That board was able to undertake those kinds of commitments in discussions with the Commission because they were, at that stage of the game, quite reasonably assured that construction was going to take place in the near future. All people were wanting when they came in to see the one particular law firm in Manitou, when they were writing their last will and testament, all they wanted to know was, yes, if this is going to happen then we are going to write that into our will and we're going to do that as our last gesture for the community, so to speak.

Now, I'm concerned, Mr. Chairman, with what the Minister is saying tonight that opportunity is not going to be there for those individuals in the area. I don't think that is necessarily in the best long interests of the community because, as the Minister well knows, capital dollars are not easy to come by and individuals in the community, long-standing residents of the community, were willing to make certain amounts of those capital dollars available.

The Minister also makes the mention that it's, and his chart indicates, an over-bed area. My colleague, the MLA for Rhineland, made an interesting observation about the anomalies between areas in the province where certain communities, particularly farming communities, are also retirement communities. There's two industries in some of these towns; there's the active farm industry around them and as farms get larger and retirement couples seek a retirement home, retirement community, they want to choose the area that they lived in for a lot of years. An important part of that community has become the presence of personal care home facilities.

I'm not asking for these, and I don't think any politician would say that these kinds of facilities should be in every community. Of course, they can't be and I think the only place that personal care homes can legitimately be located are in areas where you have resident doctors. You can't have a personal care home in one community and a doctor resident some 20-25 miles away; that just doesn't work out.

In the area that I represent we have been very careful to try and plan the construction of personal care home facilities in areas which have doctors, number one, and in this particular case, juxtaposed to the Pembina Regional Hospital, the personal care home made excellent sense because it gave that personal care home facility the services of a doctor.

I realize the Minister has his charts indicating over-bed capacity, etc., etc., but the areas that the Member for Rhineland and I represent have as high a percentage of retired age citizens as any area in the province has and those people want to remain there and personal care home facility is, indeed, a necessary thing that they want to see in the community. I once again stress and re-iterate the importance of the individual citizen's commitment to leave capital dollars in place to add to the personal care home should it be approved. I fear that effort and that desire by the community will be thwarted with the Minister's change in direction where tender calls are not, in fact, going to occur this year.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly sympathize in much that has been said. The same points, or some points just as valid, could be made pretty well from every community in Manitoba. The member singled out the Member for Rhineland and himself when he said: "We have more people retired." That's not the case. They're all coming in with that and the more people you have in this category, the more beds you're allowed. That didn't seem to go across to the members because the guidelines are 90 beds per 1,000 people over 70, so that is taken into consideration. Then, of course, the guideline is refined from there.

As I say, I sympathize very much and I like to see these people being interested enough to leave something in their will and I think we should encourage that, but at what price? Are we going to start saying to people, if you have people that have enough money in their will, to leave, and if they do that, we'll build a personal care home? Others, that don't have these kind of people, we're not going to do that. I'm sure the member is not advocating that; he's bringing in a concern that I share with him and I'd like to be able to do this but when we're reannouncing now, close to \$400 million possibly, and I should clarify this, this is something that we have to think of. I don't know what other direction we can go or say, let's try to even it up in the province and I think, then in other areas, if you're looking at a little distance, and I don't blame the member for going to bat for Manitou.

We haven't thrown the project out completely at all. We have said, fine; all we've said, and I don't think anybody can fault us, I say us, the Commission has planned this, and the recommendation of the Commission, that we can say, well, fine, that is unjust because they were ready to go to tender. I don't think that would be fair. The area is overbedded. It is true, in general, we would want the policy to be juxtaposed to a hospital; we're looking at the policy. At times it works just as well juxtaposed to a senior citizen's home if you have the service and even more with an enriched senior citizen's home.

Some communities are a way worse than that, and I mention, and it's a community that I represent in a way as one of the French Canadian member's of the Cabinet, and I've had that kind of pressure from everybody who would come in and they're dying to make contributions also. I'm talking about St. Jean Baptiste that is surrounded by Mennonites or other people like that who are not really their people. I recognize that and I've stated that I would want to, as much as possible, but there are a lot of things that have to be weighed, you can't just say you'll have one just for French people, French Canadian, for English, for Jews, for Mennonites. You can't do that but you can try to accommodate that in your guidelines, in your policy, and we're doing that, but three of them have bombarded me with letters asking if I've talked to the Commission. They are St. Jean Baptist, St. Malo and Elie and the all feel the same and we'll have to look at them, but we can't really justify it at this time. If we had it to do all over again, instead of putting 60 and 80 beds in one area . . . Steinbach got theirs and they're still yelling for more. In certain places, in the same region, that overbuilds the region. Certain places in the region have nothing at all. This is what we're trying

to do and it's not that easy. I know and I feel just as bad - maybe not just as bad as the member because it's his people - but I don't feel good at all in disappointing these people. There are others that'll be disappointed and that's one of the reasons why it was left in but I cannot give the member, unfortunately, any more assurance than that because I haven't got it. It was made quite clear, you know, you don't spend this kind of money in the economy that we have now where we're looking at probably an increase of taxes and probably a deficit and we're going to be criticized very much and you'll do your share of criticizing. I think that you must recognize then that I must be responsible and try to advance the position of enrich to the people in covering all parts of the province and that's all I'm trying to do and we'll do the best we can.

We hope things change because of our concern and because of our interest, which is probably not the right way to make a decision, but because they've advanced like that we say well, no, they've gone too far don't throw it out. But if they come to see me now and say, here we want a plan, we probably would say, no, the same thing at St. Jean Baptiste and all that. They have an edge up to a certain point but it's never gone that far but because of the priority they've gone down somewhere.

**MR. ORCHARD:** I appreciate the Minister's problem and that's a problem that we faced and we were on our way to resolving a lot of those problems. I only reiterate that this election document raised, as the Member for La Verendrye has said, a lot of expectations amongst Manitobans. The expectations in some communities are going to be shattered because they have spent their time and done their homework and now will be moved at least one year down the road.

I'd like to ask the Minister, in the construction estimates, a rough estimate of what is to be expended on the Tabor Home in Morden and whether there are any major planning problems or delivery problems in undertaking the Tabor Home upgrading of the present facility?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, that's the same answer, that's one of the categories that is just ready to go to tender and I feel that it would be unwise to mention costs yet when they will go to tender. That will be announced, I suppose, as soon as . . .

**MR. ORCHARD:** The plans are going ahead as they were discussed?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, as I explained on Page 2 of this document, but that's one that's definitely going to tender.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Just one more area that I want to discuss with the Minister as I discussed with my colleague the MLA for Fort Garry when he was Minister responsible. The area of Morden-Winkler is, as the Minister may well know, one of the more rapidly growing areas in the province. The industrial base is expanding in those two communities quite significantly, 3M is now moving into Morden, for instance, they're starting construction right now. Their plans initially are certainly for about 30 to 35 jobs with the

eye on the future, should markets develop, to go up as high as 150 I understand. There definitely appears to be, shall we call it, a critical mass of industry there which makes the area attractive to other business undertakings and other new developments in industry. Recognizing that the Boards of the Morden Hospital and the Winkler Hospital over the past, I would say, three or four years, possibly five years, have - and bear in mind the traditional animosities that grow up between two competing towns - and quite often the Boards were unable because of that healthy competition between communities to agree on mutually beneficial projects. That has all changed in the last several years, those two Boards now work very closely and, as a result, the Minister of Health in the former government, my colleague, was able to approve laboratory facilities in Morden and X-ray facilities in Winkler. What they did was instead of making half an expenditure in each case, give them each a smaller operation, they specialized in each particular hospital so that they mutually co-operate on lab and X-ray facilities. That was, indeed, a very positive step for the health care of the area because it saved the government a lot of money, as you can well appreciate, in putting a good facility in one community to service both.

The two Boards have jointly co-operated over the past couple of years and their concept is in very long-range planning, probably in the neighbourhood of ten years at least and in anticipation of this further growth and continued growth in the area of the industrial base. Their concept was, and you'll have to pardon me because I don't know all the terms and jargonism that's used in the Health Services Commission, but as I understand it there is the three levels of hospitals; there is your basic ones that are in most rural towns and then you've got the Health Sciences Centre and there is one intermediate category, something similar to Dauphin, I believe, which is a regional hospital.

The joint Boards between Morden and Winkler have agreed to seriously pursue some time down the road the possibility of a regional hospital located between the two communities to service, let's pick a figure and say a 20-mile radius, a radius which would take in most of the industrial area, call it, a lot of the rapid growth area. That concept to me showed the kind of initiative and long-term planning that these Boards have and I attempted to encourage them as much as I could to get on with that. We ran into a problem in that they wanted to undertake a study and get a consultant firm in Winnipeg to do the study and they approached me to find funding and that just was not the kind of funding that normally is undertaken by the Department of Health because I can understand the requests would be virtually unlimited. Those two Boards are very interested in pursuing that concept of a regional hospital to serve the two areas and I would like to take this opportunity tonight, as I have been, to explain that to the Minister because I think it is a concept that we'll probably have to take a look at some five, maybe six, seven years down the road, providing the area continues to grow as it has over the past several years. I don't expect the Minister to comment whether he agrees with the concept or disagrees with the concept because certainly he's probably not familiar at all with it, but I think it is one that merits teeing in to the



long-term Health Services Commission planning because I think it represents the kind of joint board effort that can help to bring a better health care system to all of Manitoba.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the member for his latest remark and I do want to comment because I am familiar and I'm very interested.

I think it's the only way. I think that you have to do that and I think the planning will have to be studied by the Commission. We're talking about regional hospitals, but very loosely. That has never been a real policy, how do you designate regional hospitals? But I think that has to be done. It has to be done for many reasons because we can't go on. I think as the Health critic of your party stated not too long ago, we have to look at new ways to reduce the cost or at least plateau as much as possible, or to find other solutions.

Right now, without these regional hospitals, I think you'd have to define the same as you define the different levels of care. Now, we're talking about acute hospitals only. In acute hospitals you have, of course, your two teaching hospitals, St. Boniface and Health Sciences Centre and some of the things are done only there. Then you would have your other general hospitals in the rural areas. I think that you have in key spots where the population is, such as maybe in Flin Flon and maybe Thompson and some areas like that, you'd have to have regional hospitals. Then you would attract a better class of doctors also - but a better class, I have to be careful - but, I mean, it would be easier to bring in the staff because they would have more facilities. The doctors are not just looking for more pay; they want to work where the facilities are better and with their peers. The hardest thing is to recruit somebody that's going to be isolated alone in a small hospital. That will justify, then, the construction of certain hospitals. Then they would be allowed in staying. Instead of starting with every very small hospital, that wants an X-ray, that wants this, wants that - that wouldn't be allowed because you can't afford that.

We might have to look at the whole transportation or ambulance system. But right now you've got these northern ambulances that are bringing people way down to Winnipeg and that has to stop; in some circumstances, yes, but instead of being the exception, now it's the rule. Many of them should be transported just to Thompson, or just to Flin Flon, or just to Morden in some areas like that, or Winkler. No, I don't think that it's up to each one to start developing that. I think this is something government has to do because the government has to designate these hospitals and has to accept the concept. I think they should encourage the government and I think, as the government goes by some of them will want to more or less be recognized as regional hospitals and I think that it's not far-fetched at all. I think that certainly would be one of the areas that, in my mind, would classify, as far as population anyway. Now, you'll have to look at distance from other centres and so on. I think it's a very good concept and I'm all for it. We've discussed it already with the members of the Commission and we want to look at that also.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. A. BRIAN RANSOM (Turtle Mountain):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has probably had some contact with the people at Cartwright who have been, for some time, wanting to see that a personal care home would be planned for Cartwright sometime in the future. They presently have some elderly persons' housing and they have a hospital, of course, but have no personal care home. People needing personal care have to go to Pilot Mound or to Killarney which, again, is a repetition of the situation where they have to move out of their areas.

I wonder if the Minister could give me any indication of communication that he's had with the people of Cartwright and where that request stands?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, that is one that I must tell the member that would not rank in the highest priorities because of the area. It seems to be so overbedded with Killarney, Souris and some of the other areas, Pilot Mound also. This is something that will come up, but it's not of the same priority as those that have been advanced at this time.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Well, perhaps the Minister could indicate just what sort of priority he gives it. He indicates, perhaps, that people from Cartwright could be going to Souris —(Interjection)— Killarney and Pilot Mound. Perhaps, then, he'd indicate what the priority he gives it. Is it still part of the plan or is the Minister saying that they simply don't require a personal care home?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It's not part of the plan that's announced - what I'm saying, it's not the same priority. Now, it's very difficult to say in every town, every little place that is asking for a personal care home that we can say, a, b, c, or d. It depends on the state of the economy, of course; it depends on the needs. Right now, we are basing ourselves on a guideline and the guidelines then, once we've reached the sky - which is not just the guidelines of a government or a party, it's pretty well guidelines accepted across Canada and maybe modified in provinces, but there hasn't been a change because of the change of government in these guidelines, my understanding anyway. Why we've gone through the trouble and that's why I brought this chart here, to see by region and by area; you know, you don't cut down and say, this place should have one bed or this place should have three beds. You have to have a certain place and some of them have to travel.

I think that all I can say to the member is, as we finish what we call is the first priority, in other words, where everybody is on-target, I think then we'll have to start going around to see if it's just personal care beds. We'll have to look at that or then the needs might change; the population might change and we'll have to always look at it. But I certainly would not try to say, well this is in this category; it'll be this year. This would be kind of stupid on my part because I don't know that. All I'm saying, that with our guidelines now, no beds are needed by our guidelines. You can always, as I say, build 125,000 beds and then everybody over a certain age would be sure to have a bed, but the member knows of course that we're not doing that. We're going by the guidelines of 90 beds per

1,000 for people over 70 and we find also that right now the beds in that area - not in the town, they have no beds at all if you cut down everything to a town. No, but the surrounding area, which is not the best, but we can't guarantee, not only a bed but a bed right where they want it; we can't do that. This would be too rich now for us to do that. We can't afford that, we have too much to do. I guess they'll have to keep on discussing with the Commission and when the time comes either we enrich the program or there's some changes or that we've finished with this. You see, it's not just the construction of that. We've talked about a lot of money here today but the operating cost is the thing that could be pretty hard on the province. The operating cost would be about \$15,000 per year, per bed.

Then we've talked in this department of all new ways of trying to do this a little cheaper; of home care; of respite care; of day care for the elderly; of day centre for the well elderly; of meals on wheels. Our intention is certainly not to move everybody into an institution; that's the last thing we want to do. We know this is needed but it has to be clearly understood that this is only one part of the puzzle before we get the true picture. We want to prioritize also, as much as possible, on programs that'll keep enriched senior citizen homes like we were saying. These kind of things where people keep them in their homes as much as possible; assist the families by keeping them maybe for a couple of weeks while people go on holidays, this respite care. These are the programs that we have to develop. Today we focussed and it's not bad, I know that I put myself on the spot by bringing this thing here and giving everybody the whole details but I think it was worth it. I think that the people will understand what we're trying to do and that we're guided by the guidelines and as we go along we'll try to improve the situation.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I, of course, am quite aware that operating costs are a problem. Having served as Minister of Finance and served as Chairman of the Treasury Board I'm aware that operating costs are a problem. It always struck me as curious that the New Democratic Party should talk about stimulating the economy through the construction of personal care homes and health facilities, as a means of stimulating the economy rather than constructing them for the purpose of providing the needed health care because there are those costs. It's not as simple as simply borrowing the money and building them and creating employment.

There's one comment that the Minister made, Mr. Chairman, which perhaps is a bit inconsistent with some of the other policies that we're hearing being put forward by the government. He referred to every little town wanting to have a personal care home. Well, Mr. Chairman, I would remind the Minister that the Minister of Education, for instance, has been talking about the importance of small schools, how important small schools are to the maintenance of a community. Mr. Chairman, many people on the government side have been talking about the Crow rate as an important issue in the maintenance of small towns, of rural communities. I know that's a concern.

So, Mr. Chairman, I guess my last question then would be to the Minister, is there any element of that

concern in his government's policy; that concern that the Minister of Education seems to have for small school and that entire government has with respect to the Crow rate having an effect on rural communities? Is that an element to be considered in the establishment of personal care homes?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, certainly I can't stop the member from making comparisons to other department, bringing the Crownsnest in that, but that's not my interest at this time. To be very honest with you I don't even know what you're talking about when you're talking about Crownsnest and you've noticed that I'll never take part in that debate, I'll leave it to other people. I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about. I'm not that interested for myself, interested in what is good for Manitoba but I would certainly hope that I'm not going to be asked to make a decision on the Crownsnest because it would be probably a very poor decision.

As far as the school, this is something else. Now, let me tell you about, not what the Minister of Education thinks about the school but what I think about the hospitals. The member was trying to promote an increase for Cartwright and then he tells me that maybe we're spending too much money. I misunderstood that unless he was trying to trap me with something and then trying to find out and tell me that we were spending too much money. Now, let's not exaggerate. When I said that we want to stimulate the economy, I didn't say we were going to build a personal care home in every little town to stimulate the economy; that's not what I said. I said that we're going on needs; I said that we were going on guidelines but, I said we will use that to stimulate the economy. I think we're doing the right thing. I'm saying that's one of the reasons why we brought the five-year program instead of the one-year program and I said that it could be compact or stretch a number of years. I said also that we wouldn't work in isolation, that I want to work with the private sector through the Minister of Economic Development, through the Minister of Labour to see the situation with jobs. I challenge the member to tell me that he doesn't agree with me, to say that you have in the construction industry a very important industry for Manitoba. There are a lot of jobs there. I'm saying that, and I've always said that, it goes without saying that we're looking at need and priorities. But, I'm saying that it would be wrong and I think anybody will tell you that, the Chamber of Commerce or workers or anybody else or a Minister of finance. I hope ex-Minister of Finance also will recognize that it's to your advantage to have kind of a steady employment program, steady work, that you don't want valleys and peaks and so on because then when you're way up there you haven't got the staff, you've got to go and look and get them in other provinces to get certain people. I'm not talking about labour but some people in finishing work and some that have certain expertise.

So, then you're going to get them and then when you're way down in the valley then you're losing your own people. I don't think that's right. Providing, of course, and that goes again, I repeat, because I don't want people to misquote me, providing that the needs are met. I think that if there is a time that you know, after checking, the private sector is going to be quite

busy, maybe building two or three different hotels or something, that's not the time, then you just go ahead and fill what is absolutely needed. That's not the time that you go ahead. There's other areas where it's quiet for the private sector. That's all I'm saying, I'm not saying we're going to do any miracles but I think it will, I think it will create jobs. I want it understand that if he's saying that we're going to build just to give work and then we'll be stuck with a white elephant, that's not the intention at all. That's why I'm saying we're going to stick by the guidelines that we have as much as possible and we're going to find ways to be able to justify the change in the guidelines that would reduce the beds. If we can bring more systems like home care, or any of these programs, we certainly will do it. We're not interested in building beds just for the sake of building beds. Right now I'm forgetting what the other Minister's are saying. I'm defending my Estimates, I have a responsibility for my department, again, I say collectively - I guess I'll have to stand up whatever happens in the Crowsnest but they're not looking for leadership from me in the Crowsnest, I can assure my friends of that.

I think that we're going in the right direction in this department. I think we are going to spend money, but we're going to do it in a position that we can have the flexibility of either increasing or decreasing the construction in certain years; looking at the priorities all the time, at the need. We certainly will look at flexibility enough to see if we find ways that we can give the same service or better service in another way with - you know, a few years nobody had heard of home care at all. Well then, we do that we have the flexibility, I'll be the first one to say that was a mistake. I hope that I won't have to say it's a mistake because I'm making it quite clear now that I want this flexibility. One year you're not approving everything at once, you're approving the planning. If there is a new way by then I'll have no hesitation in saying, okay we've spent so much money but we're not going to spend any more, that program is not going through because this is the way we want to go. We think we'll serve the public just as well and fill the needs as much as we can.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, my question was to the Minister: was there any element in his policy that dealing with the construction of health care facilities that relates to the maintenance of small communities? That's all, because I see that element in the Department of Education; I see that element in the debate on the Crow rate issue. I'm simply asking, does that element exist within the policy of the Minister?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The first responsibility of the Minister of Health, I would say, is not to worry about the Chamber of Commerce, not to worry about the economy; it is to look at the needs of delivering the service on health. That is the first thing. Collectively it's part of Cabinet, of course, I'm interested in all the different areas. If you were strictly on medical things, you wouldn't have all these little hospitals - I'll be very clear; you asked me a question and I'll tell you - and we would be closing a lot of hospitals. Politically it would be very difficult; people would not stand for it. They didn't in Saskatchewan, they've had in B.C. and

just a few years ago they nearly killed the Minister of Health in Ontario. You have to look at the situation and this, maybe the member wasn't here at this time, this represents hospitals in Manitoba, and I'm not going to bother - I just want to show - this was the type of hospital in Manitoba and this red or maroon is over-bedded and these are the only ones, there's three of them in all Manitoba that are underbedded, and besides that many people in the rural areas are occupying beds in the City of Winnipeg for the reason that they have to come in. This is underbedded by three beds, these two I don't know, this one there'll be some correction but it'll be the same number of beds. Why I'm showing this, this would demonstrate that, of course, you're looking at the request of the people because we represent the people and also at the question of the economy and the question of maybe a little more care, that's what the people want.

Another thing, especially difficult case of delivery, shouldn't happen in any of the hospitals, that is something, we think we're political in this House. The medical profession are probably worse than we are, there is a raging battle continually between the expert that wants just certain things done only at certain hospitals where they have all the equipment and even in the city. I dare say that the former Minister will admit himself that the decision wasn't really the recommendation of the MMA or his recommendation that they allow these things at Seven Oaks. It was some of the things that people requested. Some of these decisions are quite difficult and it is true that we don't just look solely at delivery of good service; we certainly do that but there is other factor and that's an example in the towns.

I would hope, and my recommendation was certainly that we don't start building any more new hospitals, I'm not talking about personal care beds, and even personal care beds, that we go just a few beds and that's something that is not viable. I think that we're going to stay with those that we have for a long time and we're trying to improve them. Now with the roads that you have and that five or ten miles once you're in a car doesn't mean that much more. I don't know, I hope the member doesn't think I'm evading the thing that I'm going around, it's not an easy thing to answer, as the Minister of Health my responsibility is good service, this is not necessarily the best service because of the lack of funds. But this is something, nevertheless, that is a factor because this is what the public wants and it certainly helps the smaller centres.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I move Committee rise, Mr. Chairman. It's my intention to deal with a number of questions relative to the personal care field generally tomorrow.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** But, I hope your members are satisfied that we gave . . .

**MR. SHERMAN:** Right, a number of members of the Committee from this side of the House had a number of questions to ask relative to their own constituencies, I wanted to provide them with that opportunity. So tomorrow we'll be dealing with general principles in the personal care field.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I wasn't criticizing, I was just expressing a hope. I think this day was a good day and I think that people in the rural area deserve that day. I'm just hoping that if we don't have to start all over again tomorrow that we could go on with this thing, but whatever the Committee decides.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I can assure the Minister of that fact, I believe the members of the Committee who had concerns relative to their respective constituencies are satisfied that they had an opportunity to raise those concerns with the Minister. There is no intention to be repetitive, I want to deal with principles in the personal care field tomorrow.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** With that understanding, Committee rise