



**Third Session — Thirty-Second Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

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33 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable D. James Walding  
Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Second Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANSTETT, Hon. Andy</b>	Springfield	NDP
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BANMAN, Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BLAKE, David R. (Dave)</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.</b>	Gimli	NDP
<b>CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.</b>	Brandon West	IND
<b>CORRIN, Q.C., Brian</b>	Ellice	NDP
<b>COWAN, Hon. Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DODICK, Doreen</b>	Riel	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	IND
<b>DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James E.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>EYLER, Phil</b>	River East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Harry</b>	Virден	PC
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry M.</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>HYDE, Lloyd</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JOHNSTON, J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Niakwa	PC
<b>LECUYER, Hon. Gérard</b>	Radisson	NDP
<b>LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al</b>	St. James	NDP
<b>MALINOWSKI, Donald M.</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>MANNES, Clayton</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McKENZIE, J. Wally</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)</b>	St. Norbert	PC
<b>NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
<b>PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland</b>	Fort Rouge	NDP
<b>PHILLIPS, Myrna A.</b>	Woiseley	NDP
<b>PLOHMAN, Hon. John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
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<b>SANTOS, Conrad</b>	Burrows	NDP
<b>SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic</b>	Rossmere	NDP
<b>SCOTT, Don</b>	Inkster	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>SMITH, Hon. Muriel</b>	Osborne	NDP
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>URUSKI, Hon. Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>USKIW, Hon. Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, Hon. D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 14 May, 1984.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

## NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, as Deputy Premier, I'd like to make a non-political statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)  
The Honourable Minister.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Today marks the swearing in of our new Governor-General for Canada. The first woman ever to hold this position, Madame Jeanne Sauvé comes to the task with unique qualifications. She has been a working journalist, a Member of Parliament, and Speaker of the House of Commons. In addition, as wife, mother and esteemed friend, she has had experiences that bring her close to ordinary Canadians. We assure her of our loyalty and wish her well in her new role as Governor-General of Canada.

As she enters her new post, we in Manitoba also take special pleasure in expressing our gratitude to the outgoing Governor-General, the Honourable Edward Schreyer, and to his family. Their term at Rideau Hall brought a freshness and a new accessibility to their home for Canadians. All the family have served with distinction. We welcome them home to Manitoba for a few weeks well-earned vacation, and want them to know that the warm wishes of all Manitobans will accompany them in their new venture as the Honourable Edward Schreyer becomes the Canadian High Commissioner to Australia. May you never forget us, and may your years of service in Australia be happy and fulfilling.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Members of the Opposition, I would like to join with the Acting Premier in wishing well Madame Sauvé in her new role as Canada's Governor-General. We, too, share in the congratulations and good wishes that are being extended today to her as she embarks upon her new role. We would like to assure all members of the House and, indeed, the people of Manitoba, that we share in the loyalty that was expressed to her in her role as representative of the Queen in Canada.

As well, we would like to join with the Acting Premier in wishing well the Honourable Edward Schreyer as he embarks upon his new role as Canadian High Commissioner to Australia.

Thank you very much.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the information of all members, I would like to present to them the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Manitoba Hog Producers' Marketing Board for the year ended December, 1983.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Supplementary Information for the Estimates Review for the Department of Municipal Affairs. The Clerk has copies for all members.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of members to the loge on my left. We have a former member and Speaker of this Chamber, Mr. Ben Hanuschak.

On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

In the gallery there are 21 students of Grade 11 standing from the Tuxedo-Shaftesbury High School. They are under the direction of Mrs. Elliott. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

There are 24 students of Grade 9 standing from the Emerson School, under the direction of Mr. Hanuschak and Mrs. Norman. They are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Premier's trip overseas - financing

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Acting Premier and it is with respect to a news release that was issued today by the government entitled, "Pawley in Europe on business trip." It outlines a one-week series of meetings that the Premier has undertaken in Zurich and Dusseldorf. My question to the Acting Premier is, is the Premier visiting Switzerland and West Germany and other European countries to arrange for additional capital loans for our province or

is it for the purpose of promoting business development? Which is the prime purpose of his visit?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the purpose is twofold. They will be looking at investment potential from the Dusseldorf area and also dealing with a loan.

**MR. G. FILMON:** The second question, who is accompanying the Premier on this particular visit?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I can take it as notice. The only person I know who is accompanying the Premier is the Minister of Finance.

**MR. G. FILMON:** A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What types of business development opportunities are being pursued in West Germany?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot identify the specifics for the members opposite, but I can say that West Germany was identified as an area on a par with Hong Kong as a part of the world where there was potential, that is, people with money who were interested in investing in Canada and in some of the industries that are found here. I don't know of any specific projects.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we have three Ministries in the government that have something to do with Business Development or Economic Development, Industry, Trade and Technology, small business and Tourism - and I keep forgetting the Ministry of the Member for Lac du Bonnet - all three **BG** them have something to do with business development and economic opportunities in this province. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, why one of these Ministers or representatives of their department has not accompanied the Premier, if part of the rationale was business development.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to notice that the member opposite has spotted the fact that we are giving very high priority to the economic thrusts in the government. But I would like to point out to him that in his listing of economic portfolios he has failed to mention the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Co-op Development, Energy and Mines and Crown Investments; and just really want to indicate that we are giving very high priority to initiatives in all these areas.

In terms of who goes along on an international mission of this sort, it is our attempt to be very focused and frugal, in terms of who accompanies. I have undertaken to find out which individuals have accompanied the Premier, but you can be sure that we will have appropriate representation, but to us in the middle of an important Session of the Legislature, it didn't seem wise to send every Economic Minister along with the Premier, but the expertise required is there and, as I say, I will undertake to get the names of the other people who are accompanying the Premier.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I wasn't advocating that we send every Economic Development Minister and I

certainly don't accept, that giving three people the job of one means giving greater emphasis to a particular area of the government's initiatives.

But, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Premier is pursuing, presumably, economic development as part of the rationale for his trip overseas, what areas of economic development, what particular industry sectors or what particular types of opportunity are being pursued as he travels to these countries?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I've already answered the question in saying that I don't know the specific project, but it doesn't take too much imagination to think of the major industries that are in Manitoba that do lend themselves to outside investment. It's usually in the field of secondary processing of agricultural products or forestry products or minerals. However I will undertake to bring appropriate information to the House when it's the correct timing so to do.

**MR. G. FILMON:** If indeed this is such an important trip that the Premier has undertaken, why wouldn't other members of the Cabinet, particularly the Deputy Premier, know the things that are being pursued, the types of industries that are being consulted and the types of opportunities that are being presented to potential investors overseas?

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Deputy Premier does not want to - or choose to - answer questions on the economic development side, perhaps I can pursue the other side of the rationale for the trip overseas.

In view of the fact that the current Budget projected a \$488 million deficit this year, the third year in a row for this government that it is projecting an annual deficit in the range of a half billion dollars, are the North American capital markets unable to satisfy our provincial needs for capital? Is that why they're going overseas to look at these foreign markets?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, the pattern for the past many years has been to develop a diversified portfolio of borrowings and to seek out the best possible deals in an international climate that is somewhat unstable and uncertain. It seems only sensible that we should maintain this pattern of maintaining a diversified set of borrowings and to check out the best possible conditions in those different capital markets.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the government is pursuing loans in foreign currencies, I presume, in foreign markets, and in view of the risks that are attendant with borrowing in foreign currencies, is the government as well pursuing the thought of hedging those foreign currency loans to eliminate some of the risks?

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, it has been the opinion on this side of the House that the best way to hedge in international markets is in fact to diversify, not put all one's loans into one area of the country, diversify them in terms of source, in terms of time and in terms of length.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the various foreign currencies in which the government

has pursued loans in the past have all been much stronger than the Canadian dollar, what safeguard is there to Canadians when all of these foreign currencies have been operating much more strongly than the Canadian dollar? In fact, we only stand to lose by diversifying since they're all currencies that are stronger than the Canadian dollar.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, whether the member opposite likes to accept it or not, we do live in an international economic and trading system where there are ups and downs and relative differences that do occur from time to time, it's still our judgment on this side of the House that a diversified loan portfolio is the most secure way to protect the interests of the province. I guess from our point of view we see it as unwise to tie ourselves only to one capital market.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for - he disappeared - the Minister of Health. I'll wait until he returns, Mr. Speaker.

### Teachers - term contracts

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address my question to the Minister of Education. Inasmuch as the government has popped through Bill 77 last Session, which has guaranteed a one-year tenure to teachers and also has guaranteed portability of seniority, and I think the Minister refers to this as the portability of due process, I would ask what protection will be afforded to the two teachers that taught at the Peguis Indian Band now that they have been dismissed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with the issue that the Member for Morris raised. I'll take it as notice.

### Investigation re advertisement

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Community Services concerning what I think is a rather shocking advertisement in Saturday's Free Press about unwanted pregnancies and adoptions and abortions, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Minister is concerned about advertising that is directed at young pregnant women, and I'd like to know whether she is concerned about the possibility of somebody trafficking and profiting on this type of activity. My question, to be precise about this advertisement is: Is she investigating the people and the process behind these advertisements?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the member would table that advertisement so I can see what it is he's referring to.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister whether she or her department is familiar with the operations of one Joe Caulfield and his organization or business which is called, "Couples for Open Adoption."

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I don't think a question dealing with the familiarity of a government department with a private individual is a suitable subject for Oral Questions. Would the Honourable Member for Elmwood wish to rephrase his question to seek information?

**MR. R. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister, I would ask her whether private adoptions are first of all allowed in the province, I assume they are; and secondly, whether they are regulated or monitored.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I still would repeat, I would like to see the ad that the member is referring to. But the other question I would present the Minister with the law as it currently stands on adoption as it's permitted in the province and ask if he has any recommendations he would like to make as to how that law might be improved or changed.

**MR. R. DOERN:** I'll take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister again, is it possible for a person in the Province of Manitoba to be an intermediary between people who are pregnant and wish to give up their babies or are persuaded to give up their babies to people in other parts of the province or the country or the United States? Is it possible for a person to act as an intermediary and to actually make a profit by that kind of operation in our province in this day and age?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable member is asking for a legal opinion of the Minister. Would he care to rephrase his question to seek information?

**MR. R. DOERN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been called a Minister three times this afternoon, it's very flattering indeed, present company excluded, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask the Minister whether the Children's Aid Societies in Manitoba are in fact responsible for adoptions and whether they are the people who monitor private adoptions in the province.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, I think the best way to handle this is for me to send the member the legislation that applies to adoption. I don't know the detail but I don't think there can be adoptions of this sort that are legally recognized, but I would prefer to table with the member opposite the precise legislation.

### Home Orderly Service

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister of Health. I would like to ask him, what is the time frame for the takeover

of home orderly service or a similar service by the government?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** If the honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, has asked me when we'll be in a position to deliver the service because there is no takeover or cancelling any agreement or anything like that, we would hope that with the co-operation of everyone it could be a question of two or three months.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Can the Minister advise, Mr. Speaker, whether the department itself will be running this contemplated new service, or whether it is his intention to turn the operation of the service over to the clients of the service.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I don't think it's a question of turning it over to the clients. I think there will be more participation by the clients and service on an advisory board of some sort. Also, there will be a mechanism put in place to give them a say if there are complaints, to look at the complaints. Now, as far as who will run the service, the department itself, or it could be some kind of a Crown corporation. That hasn't been determined as yet.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, is it the Minister's intention to ensure that under the new system there will be an administration in place that is able to distribute responses and service calls fairly and equitably, and that it won't be operated in a way that caters to the vested interest of one particular client or receiver of the service or another?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I certainly would hope so, Mr. Speaker. I think that the services are for all Manitobans, not just a group. I do recognize, though, that probably we will have to look at the situation of the handicapped people who up to now have been served by home care. It might be that there should be a special program for them. I think there are many things that have been left outside of the Home Care Program to apply to them.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In the event that the development of the new service contemplated by the government forces the existing operators of the Home Orderly Service out of business, is it the government's intention to pay compensation for that loss of the idea and loss of the business?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I don't think the idea is generated with . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The question is hypothetical. Does the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** I am aware, Sir, that the question is hypothetical. I am sorry that you caught that, Sir. I'll try to put it another way.

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister concur that the concept for delivering that type of service is unique in Canada - I don't know of any other province that has

it, not to the same degree that Manitoba does - and that it was an idea and a concept that was developed by the Home Orderly Service Ltd., as it functions at the present time?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, I think I would have to argue with my honourable friend that the concept originates with one group. I would say that, yes, we are probably as Manitobans pioneer the Home Care Program, and that is part of it. I think that this group, this gentleman has delivered the service.

Now the concept, I don't think the question of home orderly is something new, it was just developed lately. But to put my friend's mind at rest and at ease, and also the other Members of this House, as I had stated earlier, we expect to co-operate. All the people that are presently working as orderlies will be given the first opportunity; they will be hired if they could deliver the service. There might be some more demand on them to follow some kind of education or training.

As far as the gentleman himself, as I said, he has pledged full co-operation, and we will take into consideration the time that he has put in there and the time that he is giving us to co-operate and set this thing up. I understand that he intends to stay in business himself, that he has his private clientele with less number of orderlies, of course, needed.

### Peguis Indian Reserve

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

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Highways and Transportation. Can the Minister indicate whether the province funds 100 percent the cost of replacing the bridge that was burned on the Peguis Indian Reserve last weekend?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, we have not had discussions with the Federal Government as yet on that, but I would assume that the Federal Government would be responsible for the funding of the replacement of that bridge.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I thank the Minister for that answer and I would ask the Minister that, should the province be responsible for any portion of the funding - which he shall determine - would he be making efforts to claim that portion of provincial funding from the Peguis Band?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is hypothetical. Would the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister assure the people of Manitoba and hold them harmless from costs incurred of replacement of that bridge by deferring any costs on to the Peguis Indian Reserve?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Any costs that would be incurred by the Peguis Indian Band would naturally be incurred by the Federal Government; so we would have to have

discussions with the federal level of government first to determine exactly what the cost-sharing would be and from that formula, then proceed with the plans for the bridge. But I cannot see that the matter that is raised by the honourable member with regard to deferral, would affect the Band itself because, of course, their funding is largely from federal sources at any rate.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Perhaps the Minister could then answer my question as to whether he can assure the taxpayers of Manitoba that the Province of Manitoba will not be unduly burdened through taxation for replacement costs on that bridge.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Certainly I can give the assurance to the honourable member that the people of Manitoba will not be unduly taxed by the replacement of that bridge. There has to be a number of areas and matters considered when discussing this matter and that is that the bridge was in a deteriorated condition and would need replacement within the near future, at any rate, and the formula for costing or paying for the bridge on a reserve would be the same as would be under other normal situations.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Premier.

In light of the Minister of Highways and Transportation's last answer, where the deteriorated condition of the bridge would somehow seem to eliminate responsibility and assignment of cost for replacement of that bridge by people who decide to destroy that public asset, would the Acting Premier assure the people of Manitoba that no group of citizens in this province, when dissatisfied with the speed of replacement of any government asset, can take the law into their own hands with impunity, and will she assure this House and the people of Manitoba that such actions will not be tolerated?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, all factors will be taken into consideration in determining when and on what terms to rebuild the bridge.

### Legislation - appearance of

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Government House Leader.

Our Session is now just a little over a month old. We're well into the process of Estimates review. As yet we have seen no legislation being brought forward by this government. Can the House Leader give us any indication as to when we can expect legislation to appear?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, as was previously indicated, it is expected that the legislative load that

members will face at this Session will be exceptionally light and I expect that the majority of those pieces of legislation, in bill form, will be presented to the Assembly before the end of this month.

### Klinic Inc. funding

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Health.

Can he confirm that the Provincial Government funds to a major extent, almost to the tune of \$1 million, the organization known as Klinic, Inc., a health care facility on Broadway Avenue, a community health care facility?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** That is public knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Health is enjoying this line of questioning, I'll ask him one more question then. Can he confirm that one Marty Dolin is the Executive Director of Klinic?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Yes, and he has been for a number of years and I think you should remember that from the time you were sitting in the Cabinet, that he was the Executive Director.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Postal Metre No. 801186 is the property of Klinic, and this postal meter is being used to send out solicitations for a \$125-a-plate fund-raising dinner for the New Democratic Party, can he assure the people of Manitoba and the members of this House that public funds are not being expended for this partisan, political activity with that postal metre?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I certainly would hope so; I don't think that the commission has at any time - I'm talking about the Health Commission - ever financed these type of activities. It might be that the soliciting is to help pay some of the bills and that's a different matter. I'll have to check into that.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, if I may, I will table with the Minister of Health a copy of the envelope containing the postal meter imprint and the letter of solicitation. The imprint on the upper left-hand side of the envelope indicates Dolin and an address in the Maples, so I'll just table that for the Minister's information.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The time for Oral Questions has expired. Order please.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### ADJOURNED DEBATE ON MOTION

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, would you call the item on the Order Paper respecting the report of the Standing Committee on the Rules of the House?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Resolution in the name of the Honourable Government House Leader. The Honourable Member for Pembina has 10 minutes remaining.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Friday afternoon when I was addressing this topic, I guess I was a little heavy-handed in my reprimand of the current Government House Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I have a small apology that I want to make, in that I didn't possibly tell the whole truth when I was indicating that the Government House Leader acted incompetently when he didn't communicate with his Government Whip to inform her that a scheduled vote, which comes at the first time Estimates are called, would take place on the Attorney-General's salary.

I was heavy-handed in blaming the Government House Leader for not communicating with other members of his party, particularly the Whip, to make sure that they would have the numbers here, to make sure the Attorney-General got his salary and not the \$1.00 that he deserves; and I must apologize for not telling the whole truth on that, Mr. Speaker, because in fact the Government House Leader was even at the Estimates at which my colleague, the MLA for St. Norbert, moved the motion to reduce the Attorney-General's salary.

He was even more informed of the issue than one might expect. He was there when the motion was raised to reduce the salary and he failed to communicate to the caucus, to his Whip, the fact that this vote would take place at the first calling of Estimates, which would be at the earliest, Wednesday afternoon at approximately 3:00 o'clock or Thursday afternoon when it took place, and having advance notice of that kind of a vote - which is a routine vote - as I said Friday.

The House Leader, when he was the Assistant Clerk of the House saw those votes take place on a routine basis. We had the Minister of Agriculture's salary go down to the price of a bushel of wheat one year, and those are not uncommon votes, Sir. Yet he, in his negligent handling of the affairs of the House and of communication within his caucus, didn't communicate the fact that that vote would be coming up.

Mr. Speaker, that brings me to the point that we have been consistently making on this rule change. We're talking about a rule change on a vote which can come up at any time in the operation of this House, a vote for which there is no notice, a vote which is spontaneous, a vote which can happen within two or three minutes in this House, particularly as we get towards the closing days of the House.

On this particular issue, in which the government had two days notice that a vote was coming, 48 hours notice that the vote was going to take place, they couldn't muster sufficient numbers to carry the vote. It was 22-19 in favour of the opposition which would have reduced the Attorney-General's salary down to a dollar at the end of 15 minutes. What is this government going to do when they are bound and strapped and straitjacketed by a 15-minute time limit which they will have when they ram this amendment to our House Rules through with their majority numbers. What they are going to have, Sir, is chaos. With 48 hours notice they couldn't have enough people here to win a vote.

How do we expect them to keep their numbers up as votes occur on five minutes notice on very short, immediate notice in this House?

They will not have the members here, Sir, and do you know who they're going to lean on, Mr. Speaker? It is going to be you, Sir, and as I pointed out on Friday, that puts you in a terribly untenable and unfair position because you are going to have to personally bail out and rescue this government when they do not have sufficient numbers here to defeat the opposition on a snap vote. That could bring the government down, a snap vote lost by them. Sir, you will be called upon under this rule change to intervene on behalf of the government consistently, often and, I suggest, with no opportunity for the opposition to say you shouldn't do it.

So, this rule change, Sir, is not a proper one. No. 5 on my list of opposition to it is the fact that it comes very closely after our French language debate in this House in which prolonged ringing of the bells stopped this incompetent government. Now, Sir, if a rule change such as this is needed, then perchance we should be going this entire Session in seeing, indeed, whether the opposition rings the bells for untoward lengths of time to deliberately obstruct the House.

You know, Mr. Speaker, if we take a look at what's happened in the month that this Session has been sitting, you will find that the opposition in the vote on Thursday deliberately lost the vote simply to get on with the Business of the House, the consideration of Estimates. Our members left to assure the government a majority vote. As I said on Friday, we did not do this for any particular love for the Attorney-General and for any particular desire to give him more than \$1.00, because all of us over here believe that's all he deserves for the way he's handled the Attorney-General's Department. Many say it's too much.

So, Sir, the opposition already saved this House probably several hours of Estimates time by pulling our members out and allowing the vote to take place, because who knows how long the government would have taken to get enough members here, to get above the 22 members we had to vote. We might have waited a whole day for them to show up. And that, Sir, was on a vote which was scheduled, which they knew was coming, which their Government House Leader was there when the motion was put in committee and he cannot competently organize the government business to have communication with his Whip, to let her know that they need to have their numbers here for a routine vote. So, Mr. Speaker, this amendment will not bring harmony to this House.

This amendment will put you, Sir, in the centre focus of heated debate. Every time the government comes to you and pleads with you for an extension beyond the 15 minutes to save their political hides when they have been negligent in having enough members in this House to assure the carriage of a vote, as happened on Thursday of last week. You, Sir, will become the focus of much controversy because you cannot win. If you decide with the government, the opposition and the people of Manitoba will be against you. If you decide against the government, then you have all of your colleagues very upset and angry with you if you don't extend the 15-minute time limit.

You, Sir, are in a no-win situation and for your sake, Sir, I hope that members in this House give careful



consideration to letting this amendment to our rules die on the Order Paper. We can debate it for the rest of this Session, but let it die on the Order Paper. Why do you want to put your Speaker, our Speaker, so much on the spot with such a bad amendment and one which obviously you cannot live with because on a routine vote scheduled 48 hours ahead of time, you couldn't muster the troops?

So, Mr. Speaker, if I can offer some advice, first of all, to the Government House Leader, please get your act together, communicate with your Whip to let her know when you need people here for a routine vote on the reduction of the salary of a Minister which happens in Estimates regularly and will continue to happen. Please communicate with your Whip so that you're not delaying the Business of the House. Secondly, let this issue die on the Order Paper, Sir.

Thank you.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Can I have this matter stand, please, Mr. Speaker?

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, I intend to move the House into Committee of Supply. I believe there may be a disposition on the part of honourable members to dispense with Private Members' Hour today.

I would therefore move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Business Development and Tourism, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and that the House continue to sit in committee through Private Members' Hour.

Mr. Speaker, it would then be our intention to adjourn the House at the conclusion of Committee of Supply this evening as we did last week until we resolve the procedural problem of how to adjourn when we don't have a Private Members' Hour.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, the order for Committee of Supply inside the Chamber will be that we will commence consideration of the Estimates of Education today; upon completion of that, move on to the Department of Health, followed by Co-operative Development and Agriculture.

In the section sitting outside, I've been advised by the Leader of the Opposition that the order for consideration following Highways, and Municipal Affairs which have previously been announced, will be the Departments of Housing, Government Services, Employment Services and Economic Security, and the Department of Labour.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Education and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Highways and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

## **CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee come to order. We are in the Estimates of the Department of Highways

and Transportation. 7 (a), 7 (b) and 7 (c) together Transportation Division, Salaries, Other Expenditures and Rural Transportation Grants for the Disabled.

The Minister wants to begin with a few remarks.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to mention to the members that our Deputy Minister, Boris Hryhorczuk, is in hospital and will be there for at least 10 days with a rather severe illness that overtook him on the weekend, so we are going to be proceeding without him and express condolences to him, and hope that he will be back as soon as possible. It is a little bit of a blow for our program here but I am sure we'll be able to continue with as little inconvenience as possible. He's in hospital and I guess will not be released from hospital for at least 10 days.

I want to go over a few of the things that were said in the Estimates and some information that the honourable members required. First of all, I wanted to correct some misinformation given by the Honourable Member for Pembina, and I think that it's important that that be corrected and perhaps he will feel disposed to contact those radio stations, and so on, they provided the information to so that he could correct it for their benefit, and for the people of Manitoba's benefit, because I am sure he would not like to have misleading information out for the public of Manitoba.

The first point is that the total highway-users revenue for '84-85 is projected to be \$145 million; our total budget is nearly \$200 million. Now the honourable member had said that the total revenues was \$186 million and he was including - and this is where he unfortunately provided misinformation to the public - he included locomotive taxes, for example, which have nothing to do with highway use; and I want to mention specifically that he said that motorists in Manitoba will be paying \$25 million more for the privilege to drive on Manitoba highways and revenues from the users of the highway system. He made those references when talking about the taxes.

That was where he was misleading the people because those total taxes, the motive fuel tax related to highways is only \$20 million; the licence fees and so on, is \$35 million; and the gasoline tax itself is \$90 million when you take out aircraft and locomotive revenues. So those are things that should be placed on the record and the honourable member should correct his statements to the public because it is very misleading for him to provide that kind of misinformation; \$90 million for gasoline tax, motive fuel tax; \$20 million attributable to highways; licence fees and sundry, \$35 million, for a total of \$105 million. Now those are figures that totally then would remove his argument that some \$25 million, on the basis that there was \$186.8 million in revenue and \$161 being spent on maintenance and construction, that there was \$25 million - that's how he arrived at \$25 million - was taken out from revenues for highway use and put into the Jobs Fund.

It's totally ludicrous, first of all, because his revenue figures were not correct; and secondly, the total spent on highways related expenditures is nearly \$200 million, not 161. We have to also run the licensing program, Motor Vehicle Branch and all of the other areas related to Transportation and Highways in this province. He

neglected to include those in his statements. I wanted to put that on the record.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to provide some information to the honourable member regarding the water bomber purchase. It is a 15-year lease. In terms of the economic benefit to the province, Bristol signed a contract with Canadair for the manufacture of flaps and rudders for all aircraft under the Agreement 29. The value of the contract is \$6.5 million; employment impact, 84 staff years. Then I mentioned that the probable operating cost was around \$500,000; it's estimated to be from 400,000 to 500,000, so that was perhaps a little bit overstated. It was based on 200 flight hours per season. The basic cost of the aircraft if it is not flown is approximately \$100,000 for insurance and storage and so on.

One other piece of information that the member wanted was the basis for projections for Estimates this year in terms of the maintenance program and the increases that were assumed in the Estimates process. I wanted to provide the Member for Pembina with a copy of that, as well as the information on the highway users revenues and the water bomber purchase agreement. He can see the increases that were projected in putting together the Estimates this year. We have, from the experience and the contracts coming in so far, the maintenance gravel has been lower, much lower than estimated and that is a positive development.

One other point with regard to the mechanical division, is that the projections year came in quite a bit higher than actually took place last year. That meant, that because the prices have not accelerated to the degree that was assumed last year, we were able to proceed with accomplishing our objectives without having to increase to the degree that we would otherwise have had to.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to thank the Minister for attempting to clarify how his government justifies robbing \$25 million from Highway revenues and puts it into the Jobs Fund and still says it's creating jobs in Manitoba.

The Minister indicates that gasoline revenues are only 90 million, which are attributable to gasoline, the rest is for aircraft, etc., etc. The problem with that is, sir, that we have a \$3.3 million budget to maintain airports. So you see the departmental spending must consider that in providing the airports you collect some tax revenues, same as highways.

The Minister takes exception to lumping in the motive fuel tax. Well, I don't. I did it specifically and on purpose, because if the Minister took a look at the study that was made about what it's going to cost the province to replace provincial roads that need upgrading because of rail line abandonment, I think he'd find a figure of 50 million some several years back.

Mr. Chairman, that's exactly why I left the motive fuel tax collected on railroad diesel fuel consumption in there, because what better place to put it than replacing roads required to haul grain additional distances because of rail line abandonment. There are no other costs of supporting the railroad in Manitoba. There are no additional costs in the City of Winnipeg that I'm aware of for supporting the railroad in Winnipeg. But in rural Manitoba, there are costs of supporting

the existing railway system to the Department of Highways, to the people of Manitoba. That is, in the very least, through additional maintenance costs on provincial roads and highways that are used by longer-distance grain hauls by farmers who must go to a more distant delivery point because their rails are abandoned. The Minister of Agriculture is aware of it. He's got it as a problem in the Interlake and we have it as a problem in our area.

That's exactly why I included that. That's exactly why this government, this Minister are very very negligent in paring, trimming and cutting to the bone, the highway construction budget. They've got revenues directly related to fuel consumption; they've got revenues directly related to the railroads which have abandoned areas of rural Manitoba and increased the cost directly to the Department of Highways through, additional maintenance in upgrading requirements on provincial roads and PTHs. What is even worse, is that where the department has not spent the money that the government gleans from the railroads on fuel tax in upgrading those provincial roads which are required by the farmers to move grain longer distances, the whole, entire and complete cost often falls on the municipalities which have no cost sharing on municipal road upgrading with the Provincial Government.

That's why I left it in there because it points out that this government has additional revenues; they're not spending them in a job-intensive department like Highways and Transportation which can deliver assets which the Premier, the Finance Minister say are good because you can incur a deficit as long as you've got an asset. it's good deficit, but they're bleeding off \$25 million - it doesn't matter which way the Minister wants to try to weasel out of it - \$25 million in highway revenues come in to this department and - only on construction and maintenance which I said in my opening remarks - only \$161.8 million are used on construction and maintenance. You've got a \$25 million slippage and where would it go, Mr. Chairman? Well, naturally, it's gone into the Jobs Fund the same as it did last year.

The Department of Highways and highway users in the Province of Manitoba are paying 1/8 of the cost of the Jobs Fund in the Province of Manitoba. And whether we're going to get close to 1,000 jobs out of the Jobs Fund that would have been created by leaving the money in the Department of Highways, in the maintenance budget and in the construction budget, because you know the statistics that are there indicate \$25 million would maintain, create and keep 745 jobs in the construction industry in the private sector. Those aren't there because this government has pulled the \$25 million out and put it in the Jobs Fund.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister can attempt, as best he can, to explain this government's way out of it but they have pulled \$25 million that should and could be spent in the Department of Highways, with not one single iota of difference on the projected deficit for 1984-85, simply by leaving the money in the Department of Highways, rather than putting it in the Jobs Fund. It's as simple as that, Mr. Chairman. That's the point I made; that's the point I will continue to make; that's the point the media carried; that's the truth of the matter and that is why the people of Manitoba have a right to know how incompetent this government is and how negligent they are of the Department of Highways and

of rural Manitoba, and their callous treatment of people who live in rural Manitoba and depend on the Highways Department to get them from Point A to Point B.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There's just a couple of points on that, Mr. Chairman, the two fallacies in the argument; first of all, that the amount of revenue raised by taxes related to the highway system and transportation, has nothing to do with the expenditures of that department, just like it has for no other department, it has never been the basis for expenditures and that is something the honourable member should reconcile within himself and his caucus. If he wants to look at his position with regard to, for example, expenditures related to ManOil and the oil industry, when there's \$21.7 million per year of royalties, the revenue that comes out of taxes associated with the oil industry, yet they wouldn't argue that it should be reinvested in the oil industry.

They have a great deal of problem being consistent in their approach. In addition, the total spending dollars related to Highways and Transportation was not accurate and those are the two issues that I took issue with insofar as the Member for Pembina's public statements, that his revenue was inaccurate and the basis that he was using for computing the \$25 million was not accurate. So those are the two matters and no one is saying that there should not be, in order to maintain our highway system and improve it to the extent that we would like to see happen in Manitoba, that there should not be a greater investment. From my point of view, as Minister of Highways and Transportation, I would be pleased to see more money into the highway system. However, the computations made by the honourable member were not accurate and those are the figures that I took issue with.

I think I should also mention that if the member wants to talk about rail line abandonment and the effects that that has on rural Manitoba, some of the preemptive work that we're doing there, because certainly you have to look ahead that there could be many additional branch lines slated for abandonment by the railways in the future if they have to upgrade them to full 100-tonne status and that is quite possible. We have to look ahead to that problem. What we are doing with that is investing money in rail car development, the lightweight cars, low centre of gravity that could be used on branch lines. That hasn't been acknowledged and if the member wants to talk about this in total context, he should also include investment that the province we'll be making in that regard.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for his nonclarification because you know - he talks about being very interested and anxious to see additional construction in the department. The cold, hard truth is, Sir, that he failed. He didn't get extra money. All this bravado about this bright, new, young Minister going to set the world on fire because the old dogs had worn out in the department there and we're going to replace this Minister with new fresh, young blood that was going to just get things going and, by golly, he failed miserably. He failed miserably, Sir.

I guess it boils down to the old saying that you can't put a young pup on a hard road with an old dog. That's what has happened and this young pup has just got blown out of the water.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Business Development and Tourism.

**HON. S. USKIW:** I just want to point out, Sir, that I don't recollect any old dogs being in the Highways Department Ministry, not in the time of the previous administration or this one.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** May I remind the members of the committee, that speeches in the Committee of the Whole House must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion. If we stick to this rule and then we go to the Minister's Salary, that's the general part where you can argue the general policy.

The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to publicly apologize to my good friend, the MLA for Lac du Bonnet. I was using the term "young pup and old dog" only in the colloquial way. I was not making any personal reference whatsoever and I would certainly apologize to him for his having any cause to consider that.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has missed the point. He says that never have the revenues of the department, the revenues related to departmental use, been dedicated to highway construction. Sure, I'll grant him, he's right, that's never been done, but never before has it fallen so far out of phase than in the last two years with this government.

You see, the problem - it's not that I want to prolong the issue - with the Department of Highway's spending under this New Democratic Government is not the fact that the Ministers haven't been able to put their message around the table and get extra money. First of all, there's a litany of errors on their side. They don't have any understanding of rural Manitoba because most of their members are from inside the concrete curtain, but that aside, Mr. Chairman, the problem the Department of Highways has had in the last two Budgets is the Jobs Fund. They have had to come up with funds as has the Minister of Natural Resources which was given to us just a few days ago in the House; they've had to come up with money for the Jobs Fund. This is where \$25 million of money that would not raise the deficit one nickel - this is where \$25 million that should be used in the construction budget of the Department of Highways has gone. It's 1/8 of the Jobs Fund budget this year, increased from last year.

No matter how the Minister talks about it, that's the failure of the government. They are pulling jobs out of the Highways Department, directly from the department and indirectly in the private sector because they've cut the construction budget. All to do what? - to put money into the Jobs Fund. Why? Well, they can't put a big green Jobs Fund sign up on a Department of Highways construction project. It would look a little silly because everybody knows that the government builds highways. It's not because of the Jobs Fund that they build highways, it's because they always have and always will. So they couldn't put up their nice little green sign. Their propaganda machine could not work if this money was spent in the Department of Highways, so they gleaned the \$25 million out of Highways and put it into the Jobs Fund so they can have probably 1,500 maybe

2,000 nice little green Jobs Fund signs throughout the province.

Some of them will be on a curling rink where it takes an afternoon to install a ventilation fan but there will be a sign there. There will be nice little booths in the shopping centres; there'll be radio advertising. Next election, we'll be flooded with Jobs Fund advertising as we approach it. That's the problem this Ministry has. It's got to fight against the Jobs Fund. In its loss, two years in a row and under this Minister, this young new Minister, it's lost worse than it did last year because we've got the Minister of Finance on one hand telling us that things are looking better, things are starting to pick up in Manitoba, but this Minister didn't benefit from it.

He had more money taken from him this year than last year, because the revenues are up over last year in gasoline taxes, motive fuel taxes are up, the revenues are up. But yet his spending is down. Revenues are up in the Motor Vehicle Branch; revenues are up in other revenue sources to the Highways, sundry revenue sources - they're up. But this Minister's budget is down. He lost to the Jobs Fund. That is what is so fraudulent about the Jobs Fund because the 1,000 jobs they pulled out of the Highways Department, they don't net out the job creation in the Jobs Fund. They just simply say, so many jobs are created, they don't net out the 1,000 that were lost in the Department of Highways and Transportation. That's the point I was making and that's the point, Mr. Chairman, that Manitobans understand.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say, first of all, I disagree with the premise of the honourable member but I won't go any further than to introduce at this time Brian Johnston, who is the Director of Planning who is with us, and should be able to provide some assistance with our discussion on the capital program which we may get into today.

In addition to that, Dr. John Ray, who is the Director for Transportation Division who is here and we'll be proceeding with Transportation Division shortly. So I welcome those members here.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(a); 7.(b); 7.(c)—pass.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I think we should get into a nice little discussion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We can go to capital expense.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, yes, we could but I don't think we should, should we?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It's up to you.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, that's what I say. I think we should have a few questions on this, maybe.

Mr. Chairman, last year's Estimates book indicated Salaries - I think \$594,100 was the salary estimate for fiscal year ending March 31, 1984. In this year's book it's \$708,000.00. Could the Minister indicate the additional \$114,000.00?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the reconciled salaries show that there is \$708,100 last year and this

year \$697,000 so there's a slight reduction in the salaries on a reconciled basis.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** The Minister missed my question. In the Estimates book last year, it was printed that salaries were going to be \$594,100, so did you add staff in fiscal year '83-84 that you didn't anticipate you were going to add at Estimates time?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, during the process of last year, Mr. Bill Janssen was added to the staff of the Transportation Division. In addition to that, as of this year there was an addition of one other staff year as indicated in the printout that I've given you. That is for a Mr. Macdonald.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Okay. Now surely Mr. Janssen doesn't take us from 594,000 to 708,000 last year; that's 114,000. I don't think he got that much money, did he?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I've indicated two staff years and these are reconciled figures on the left side for this year's Estimates book. The two additional staff years there are the two that I mentioned.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Now Mr. Macdonald, the Minister indicates, is the plus-one this year. Where did Mr. Janssen fit in? Was he a plus-one last year that should have been a plus-one this year as well?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that there would have been two staff years that we're dealing with here, one added last year during the process of the year and one added as of April 1st of this year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** So then, if we were to look at the SYs'83-84 at Estimates time last year they would probably only show 16. Is this what the Minister is saying?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That's my understanding, Mr. Chairman, we're just checking now.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Now, can the Minister indicate the status of Mr. Janssen? You indicate that he's on staff now. He was on a personal service contract or whatever the vernacular is now, at Estimates time last year. Is he now on permanent staff?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** He's on term staff.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** What is his classification and salary range?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Johnston is a Senior Economic Research Advisor at a salary of 47.1. He works in the Research Branch primarily dealing with the trucking regulations.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Was the overexpenditure last year basically covered internally in the department without a Special Warrant?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it was largely from other expenditures.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Okay, I suppose the major issue - and two of them might come out and I might be in the wrong area for one of them - but the trucking regulation would probably be the major one. We've partially gone over that one and I don't think any more questions are in order, but could the Minister indicate what other projects of research the Transportation Division are undertaking? They often have a number of very interesting projects on the go and the Minister might want to share some of them with us.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are about 17 policy issues currently under review by the Transportation Division including, right at the forefront, there would be the Churchill Initiatives working on the subagreements that have just recently been signed with the Federal Government which will entail a great deal of additional work. The Canadian Transport Commission review of rail interswitching regulations, — (Interjection) — no, in addition to that. The Canadian Transport Commission review of The US Staggers Act of Canadian Shippers and Railways; the Transport Canada review of collective rail pricing; rail line abandonment hearings, of course, which there have been several of in the last couple of years; the Rail Branch Line Rehabilitation Program; the Acquisition of Abandoned Rail Right-of-Way; the Canadian Transport Commission hearings; the CNR Station agency closings in Northern Manitoba that members may be aware of; the legislation regarding transportation of dangerous commodities by rail; canola crushers of Western Canada; the rate parity and development incentives; joint track usage; Marine conventions; Arctic Marine Services policy; Thunderbay rail capacity study; Vancouver rail access study; economic regulations dealing with motor transport and reduction of operating hours of custom houses at border points.

In addition there is in research and planning projects, the highway rail infrastructure costing study; the task force on motor carrier regulation which I mentioned earlier. These are research and planning. Transport planning network development and statutory grain rates issue; development and improvement of transport statistics. Those are some of the major studies that are ongoing at the present time.

There are a number of passenger policy issues as well that the department is involved with as well, dealing with air transport policies and so on, changes that are upcoming there from the Federal Government; Via Rail service cuts and a number of other issues associated with those areas.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, has the Minister had an opportunity with the recent announcement federally to determine whether there is any impact in Manitoba of, I guess it's fair to say, a partial move to airline pricing deregulation, if you will?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we did make representation at the hearings before this first phase was announced by the Federal Minister just last Thursday or Friday, I believe. We haven't had a great

deal of time to assess all of the implications and we will be making representation before Phase 2 takes place. They've issued a number of major questions that they would like input from and certainly the Provincial Government will be very much involved in making presentations.

We are pleased to see that the Federal Government has recognized the difference between Northern Manitoba and the nature of Northern Air Services, and the fact that remote communities require such service as an essential service and are offering some protection. However, we would like to see some of the benefits that will be accruing to Southern communities, also take place with regard to Northern passengers as well. There are some implications of overlap of services that we want to look at there, questions that haven't been answered. We are concerned also about subsidies to rural carriers, for smaller communities. That is one of the questions that the Federal Minister has indicated they would like to have input from various jurisdictions, including the Provincial Government and it's perhaps one area that should have been answered before this liberalization, as they call it, was announced. So those are areas.

The streamlining of the regulations, CTC is to report back within 90 days and I think that's a positive move, certainly one that we have advocated, that there should be rather a streamlining of regulations, he says it would apply also to the trucking industry where a lot of complicated red tape makes it very difficult for carriers to have their applications approved or even considered.

Those are some of the areas that we're going to be concerning ourselves with, in addition to the impact on jet service to Brandon, for example, where a carrier now can exit from service without having to apply to the CTC if there is a similar service available - however, not the same service - then of course that would mean that perhaps a propeller service to Brandon would qualify as an existing service that could take the place of the jet service and that is of much concern to us.

So we want to provide input on those issues and others to the CTC before Phase 2 which they have indicated will be considered now.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not finished on this line of questioning on transportation.

Mr. Chairman, I haven't read the total announcement by the Federal Minister, but it didn't seem to me that there was any change in the method by which application would have to be made to determine routes to service different areas; and for instance for PWA to get into Montreal or Ottawa, they still have to go before the CTC. It seemed to me that one of the potential advantages in the announcement was that to go for a seat sale to major cities the airline didn't have to go through a several month period to get approval. They could do it - if I understood correctly and the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong - they can basically announce today, for commencing Saturday, that a seat sale is going to be on the go, and that freedom to price unused capacity appears to be freed up with this announcement. Would that be a fair analysis?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I think we should not lose sight of the fact that there is a two-year phase-

in period, so it doesn't happen immediately. During that period applications will still have to be tabled with the CTC but, once in place, yes, they will not have to make applications for reductions of rates but they will for increase.

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

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Yes, a follow-up in regards to deregulation, I'm wondering if the department will be looking at some of the anomalies in the liberalized area, for example, in the North, I understand from the recent announcement, The Pas will be deregulated. There is some question as to whether Flin Flon will or not, and Thompson will not be deregulated. The reason I raise that is because of the fact that Thompson, for example, has a high volume route to Winnipeg, much higher volume than, for example, The Pas and Thompson might actually benefit more from deregulation than certainly The Pas would. I'm a little concerned perhaps that The Pas might even lose a lot of the service it has under that policy. I'm wondering if the information received from the Federal Government has clarified that to the department and also whether the department will be following up in that regard.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, there are certain areas that are close to the 55th Parallel where the diagonal is drawn across Manitoba for whether the service is inside the regulated area or outside in more of the southern area where there is liberalized regulations, if we want to call it that. But they are not absolute and that means that we would have to make representation, make the case for including, under protection, The Pas and Flin Flon, for example, which may be closer to the line or actually outside of the regulated area. We will be making the case for those particular centres.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** I was wondering whether the department will also be making representation for at least some partial deregulation, for example, along the lines that the Member for Pembina mentioned. There are several different aspects of deregulation and, as I understand the announcement, one being the allowance of other carriers, other categories of carriers, to service certain routes whereas, for example, presently in the North you have regional local carriers servicing routes only. But I'm particularly curious as to whether it might not be possible, in those communities which will still be regulated, to achieve some better system of having lower priced airfares.

For example, because of regulation, some of the previous breaks that PWA had in the north whereby one could book seats one week in advance and save, I believe, about 40 percent on the airfares, they were told they could no longer do that, they had to follow a two-week regulation and were no longer allowed to cut the airfares beyond their very high level at the present time. So, I'm wondering if the department will be looking at possibly making representations that would lobby for at least partial deregulation for some of the areas which will not be in the so-called liberalized zone.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, there's no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that the department and I certainly will be

very interested and concerned about protecting the service in those communities and, at the same time, providing some of the benefits that will incur to southern passengers that will not necessarily be available to people from the North. That is the whole question of overlapping of services that hasn't been answered at this time.

As well, we had indicated in our brief that any benefits that should accrue to passengers, with regard to seat sales, should apply systemwide so that all passengers would be able to benefit even in other areas of the province where the carrier may not chose to adopt a seat sale or a reduced fare. So, that is one of the areas that was not covered adequately in this announcement and will be an area of concern for us to address over the next number of months as the CTC holds additional hearings to have specific questions answered. We will deal with those questions; we will also deal with those concerns that we have with the present arrangement.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** I have two separate questions, but on a different aspect of the department that the Member for Pembina had. I have questions in other areas.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Just on that northern air service, Mr. Chairman, if I followed what the Minister said, are the northern carriers precluded from this new pricing on seat sales because they're classified as northern service carriers?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Because they are situated, in my understanding, north of the diagonal line. If that is their base then they are excluded from the liberalized regulations.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Okay, the key word obviously, if that is their base, for instance, dealing with PWA which services The Pas, Flin Flon, Thompson, etc., now that wouldn't be their base so, therefore, would they be able to offer these seat sales under the relaxed regulations a year or two years from now?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That is the area of some uncertainty that we want clarified in the questions that were raised with the officials there at the time. They were not able to conclusively answer that question, the areas of overlapping where the carrier was servicing other areas, but not located there. So we'd like to see that they would get the benefits in those areas.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That brings up kind of an interesting point because, in discussion with PWA executive within the last year, I know they were last summer, I believe, planning a family fare - it was a real dandy deal to promote tourism into the north and - and they were having some difficulty, if my memory serves me correctly, getting that by. Now that would be unfortunate if the regulations were tight enough that a carrier like PWA were restricted from announcing those kinds of seat sales to Northern communities because there are a lot of people in Southern Manitoba that, for instance, would like to see the whales in Churchill, etc., and the power stations on the Nelson River, and go fishing at Leaf and Lynn and Flin Flon and that sort of thing. I wish the Minister good deliberations in clarifying that area.



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

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could give us an update on the proposed rail-bus service into those communities of Northern Manitoba that lost their passenger service a couple of years ago?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, subject to looking up more details on this question, the rail bus demonstration project is scheduled to proceed this year under the auspices of the subagreement that has been signed with the Federal Government so that we are insured. One of the reasons we wanted it included in that was to ensure that it would go ahead. There had been some difficulty in getting it off the ground, so to speak, and a number of concerns that the CN officials, technical officials and so on had with the operation of a normal Grey Goose style bus on the rails and, in terms of safety and operation, we are seeking to have those resolved as quickly as possible so that the demonstration project will proceed and then it will be evaluated from then on as to see whether it could be applicable to many other areas.

I would like to see, personally, that this would take place because there are many areas in Northern Manitoba that the construction of roads would be very costly and almost prohibitive and if there's a way to provide that kind of service without having to go to a costly new infrastructure, it would certainly be to our benefit, so we're very interested in it and attempting to get it moving as quickly as possible and we have some input into that, now that it is included in the subagreement that we signed with the Federal Government just last month.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I wonder if the Minister could indicate the areas that would be involved in the trial-run period and would it be run out of Thompson, or just what is the proposed trial basis for this rail bus?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I understand, Mr. Chairman, that it will involve Thompson, Thicket Portage and Pikwitonei and the operation would be supported, in terms of maintenance and so on, out of Thompson.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** How many buses are being fitted for the trial period, one or more than one?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, in order to try out the technology there would be one for the first year.

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

**MR. S. ASHTON:** On a similar topic, in regard to the recently announced Via Rail cutbacks of agents and stations to a number of Northern communities, I'm wondering if the Minister could indicate whether the government has made any representation to the CTC in this regard and whether it make a representation at the hearings which will be held in Thompson in June.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I missed the first part of the question, but if the honourable member is asking about the station agent closing in Northern

Manitoba, if that was the question, we are going to be making representation at those hearings and staff is putting together the proposals and positions, paper, for the government at this time.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** I raise that concern, Mr. Chairman, because, certainly on the one hand, while the rail bus would be a much improved service, it certainly would be detracted from if the agents and stations were moved from some of the communities on the line.

My other question, very briefly, is in regard to the Port of Churchill announcements; they, of course, tackled some of the lingering problems with facilities at the port and also the rail line. I'm wondering whether the department's doing any work in terms of the number of other handicaps the port has faced in the past, in particular, the problem with the length of the season which is a major concern in terms of the port, particularly the possibility of getting icebreakers put on the port; and also the continuing problem of insurance. As the Minister is no doubt aware, there's been problems in the past in expanding the port season because of the unwillingness of Lloyd's of London to insure beyond the existing shipping season, so I'm wondering if any work will be done to overcome those problems.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there is \$550,000 in the sub-agreement to deal with studies related to Churchill, including the potential of lengthening the season.

A lot of work has been done under similar conditions in the Scandinavian countries, particularly in Finland, and we would like to have access to the technology that is available there and seek to apply it to the Churchill situation with the view that the season could, indeed, be extended by two to three months which, of course, would change the economic projections for that port immensely. So that is a major area of study under the subagreement and we'd like to see that proceed as quickly as possible and perhaps have a demonstration project with some of Canada's icebreakers to show that it could be done and it will, of course, have an impact on how potential customers for Canada would react to shipping through the Port of Churchill; right now, of course, there's some reluctance.

Dealing with the insurance problem, also with the fact that they feel relatively insecure in coming into the port later in the season when they perhaps would not have assurances that they're going to be able to get out of there. Those are the kinds of things that we have to work on. I think, on an international basis, to demonstrate to the world that this can be done, that the port can be used through a longer season and, once that has taken place, we believe there will be a change in the attitude of customers toward using the Port of Churchill.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(a), 7.(b), 7.(c) - Transportation Division.

The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** One has to make sure everybody understands what's going on.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned abandoned railway rights-of-way. Could he indicate what government policy is on the disposal of those rights-of-way?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The abandoned rights-of-way, one subdivision has been turned over to the province for turnover to the local landowners, that is the Carman subdivision, I believe. That is the only one that has been turned over from the Federal Government at this time and I have indicated personally to the Federal Minister, and we've done it through correspondence as well, that we would like to see these expedited. Right now, as I said, we've only gained title to one piece of land, one right-of-way at this time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** What's the cost on turning that land over to the adjacent farm owner, to the landowner?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I believe the price that was agreed on was \$75 per parcel. Maybe the Minister of Agriculture has something to add to that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Pembina should be aware that there is likely to be a fairly extensive cost to the public with this transfer because there will be cases where there are adjoining landowners in which there may have to be a split in the line that is going through or in between those properties, and we are looking at ways in which to transfer that land, but likely we may be faced with some fairly hefty surveying costs because the amount of land that is to be returned will certainly not be worthwhile to the landowner to pay for the surveying cost, but our intent is to go that route.

The honourable member should be aware that there will likely be some fairly significant costs borne by the treasury of the province in order that these transfers take place. I'm assuming the Honourable Member for Pembina supports that move and notwithstanding his continued comments vis-a-vis deficits and the like, still is prepared to support such a move.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, not only do I support it, I initiated it.

Now, can I ask the Minister whether this would be the area that we could discuss his transfer of the dangerous goods section?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I imagine, Mr. Chairman, that this could be discussed at this point since it's no longer in the department and therefore there is no appropriation to deal with it other than that - this would be an appropriate time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** My first question, Mr. Chairman, the act we passed last year, has that been proclaimed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, it has not, due to the fact - and I should say why it hasn't been proclaimed at this time. At the time that the act was put together, there was some urgency because the Federal Government was indicating, pressing with it that they were ready

to go forward with theirs and with their regulations. However, the regulations which would apply, for consistency purposes, to all provinces have not been proclaimed officially by the Federal Government. Therefore, there is some delay in the proclamation of our own act because those regulations have not been forthcoming. They're tied up in the Justice Department federally at this time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, did I understand correctly from what the Minister said that the provincial regulations have been drawn and are ready for passage and implementation when the act is proclaimed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, that is correct. The regulations are based on the draft federal regulations which of course have not been officially adopted as yet.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Where does that leave the policing, if you will, of dangerous goods on our provincial highways? Are the old standards, the old regulations applying? Is that what's being used now?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That is correct. Nothing is changing with regard to the enforcement of regulations until such time as the new ones obviously come into effect; we cannot proceed to begin enforcing new regulations without of course their being officially in effect.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Why is the department, when it's the Department of Transport, relinquishing its responsibility of overseeing the transportation of dangerous goods and putting it into Environment and Workplace Safety?

You know, you had developed the expertise in that department, theoretically to follow developments in transportation. I ask the Minister, is he satisfied that that expertise and that emphasis on safe transportation will be there with a relocation from the department?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, the expertise, as the honourable member indicated, had been developed in communications with the industry and so on. However, because of the delays and really those delays could be quite lengthy, we have no way of knowing whether they would become a priority suddenly with the Federal Government to bring them forward. With the situation as it is now, with the leadership race that is going on and so on, we have no reason to believe that it's going to happen imminently.

Therefore, we felt it would be more efficient use of the people involved with the office that was established to have them offering their expertise and advice to The Dangerous Goods Handling Act that is being developed, which in many ways, is very much related to the transportation of dangerous goods, very similar regulations and provisions and definitions and so on. So they would be working in that area until such time as they were required to have an office dealing with transportation of dangerous goods. Then that would be reassessed at that time whether it should be a separate office or whether it should be part of the overall enforcement of the handling act as well as transportation of dangerous goods. So it was felt at this time that they could be utilized there more efficiently.



**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Are the - I think if the Minister's - I don't know where it is, but I thought it was in here that there are three people involved. Are they going to continue with their job? Here it is. Transportation of Dangerous Goods minus three. Are their jobs secure over at Environment?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There is still some uncertainty as to exactly how they would be placed, in what relationship, and that is being worked out at this time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Do I take it that these three transfers out and over to Environment may be final transfers where there is no job security involved?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The basis on which they were transferred, of course, would be that they have a position upon transfer. However, the exact placement would be something that I think the honourable member would perhaps find it more productive to deal with. I'm not suggesting that he cannot ask the questions here, but just in terms of their placement, that could be dealt with when reviewing the Estimates of Environment, Safety and Health.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, the point I'm making is that the Minister is saying, we haven't got our act proclaimed, but we've developed expertise which can be useful in the monitoring of dangerous goods transport in the province.

Now, he's indicated in his opening remarks that they've been transferred to the Department of Environment, Workplace, Safety and Health who are in the process of developing a dangerous goods act, yet he seems to indicate that there may be no establishment of expertise over there to handle dangerous goods transportation, that these positions when transferred may not be secure, etc., etc. I simply want to ask the Minister, if in fact those three people are not continued in their capacity as dangerous goods transportation personnel, who's going to look after the ship in the Province of Manitoba? Would the Minister not think that it would be somewhat inadvisable after the length of time the Federal Government has worked with the province to develop a dangerous goods transportation act which has some semblance of uniformity across Canada to end up in the Province of Manitoba with no expertise on the transportation of dangerous goods?

I don't think the Minister or the government would want to see a lack of emphasis on transportation of dangerous goods. I know the Minister can't give me the assurance here because it's not going to be his department but there must be some desire on his part to see that that expertise stays in place.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, I would agree with that assumption that there must be that expertise in place. It may be necessary on the temporary basis at least to redeploy them and use them, as I said, more efficiently at this time because of the gap in the proclamation of these regulations and adoption of these regulations by the Federal Government. There is also consideration to possibly amalgamate the two acts, transportation as well as the handling of dangerous

goods and therefore the necessity of having that interaction. It could still take place if they were in a separate office, however I think it would be more efficient if they were involved in the process, and that is one of basis for the transfer.

However, it's not carved in stone that they would stay with the same responsibilities during a time when they really have no follow-up on enforcement and so on, and dealing with inquiries and so on, that they would be doing in that office when the act hasn't been proclaimed as yet. So, during a period of time we feel that is more efficient use of the staff. I would hope that the expertise would remain in place, that if there is federal-provincial involvement, involvement with the CCMTA and other organizations from other provinces, co-ordination, and so on, that they would still be involved in that kind of work. However, it would not be, in my estimation, their full-time responsibilities.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, just as a closing comment. Far be it from me to attempt to - what would you say - chisel in stone a position for Mr. Shafransky who is one of the three, I understand, that is involved with transportation of dangerous goods. I have had some discussion with your predecessor about Mr. Shafransky in that capacity, but I think that the people of Manitoba are expecting some leadership from governments, regardless of political stripe, in the enforcement of regulations in safe passage or safe transportation of dangerous goods.

I certainly don't think it would be a very welcome comment on this administration, who give us seat belts, motorcycle helmets as a safety measure, to abandon - and I'm not suggesting you are - but to ever see the case where a section of government to deal with the transportation of dangerous goods and developing expertise in that regard would no longer be part of the government format and government expertise because of a desire to reduce and fall in line with deficit reduction, etc. I think the people of Manitoba have come to expect a leadership role in monitoring transportation of dangerous goods, and I wouldn't want to see this Minister and this government lessen that role that was started up some years back.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well then just a final comment, if that is getting close to the final comment from the honourable member. I just want to say that he should not assume that this is in any way a downgrading of the importance of the transportation of dangerous goods, far from it. It's a closer working relationship in an area very closely related which I've mentioned.

I would, for one, be very very concerned if there was not continuation of this kind of priority in the years ahead as the act is proclaimed and the regulations are in place. However, in the absence of that taking place, I've indicated why the transfer had taken place at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(a) Transportation Division, Salaries—pass; 7.(b) Transportation Division, Other Expenditures—pass; 7.(c) Transportation Division, Rural Transportation Grants for the Disabled.

Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I want to comment on that, please. Just a short comment on Rural Transportation Grants

for Disabled. There has been an increase in the priority of this area this year by our government, an increase of 50,000 there in the Operating Grants but, in addition to that, another 50,000 that is found in Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets, Other Projects, down below 8.(e), another 50,000 there which is included for the HandiVan purchase, so we have a total of \$100,000, or approximately 60 percent increase in this appropriation to reflect our government's priorities for the provision of handicapped service throughout rural Manitoba.

I know that the honourable member will feel very pleased about that having seen that implemented shortly before the last election. We are now servicing approximately 20 percent of rural Manitoba with this program.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** I have a brief question related to Thompson who proposed to have a HandiVan. As the Minister probably knows in Thompson they had hoped to put in an application last fall but, because of changeover in city council, they had to delay that somewhat. As a result, they missed out on the deadline for the Federal Capital Grants for HandiVan applications.

I'd like to ask the Minister, first of all, whether the province would be able to, either compensate for that or whether there's any indication that the Federal Government may, in fact, reinstate a similar program and provide further capital assistance to HandiVan applications.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we were able to take advantage of the UTAP Program for the acquisition of five HandiVans costing about \$28,000 each. With the application of the UTAP grants the cost to the communities was less than \$4,000, approximately \$3,800.00. That, coupled with the input from the province and the federal UTAP funds, we were able to purchase those vans.

That will be a large gap. We are informed by the Federal Minister of Transport that there is a program to replace that. He's had difficulty getting that - and I don't want to speak for him - but my indication is that he has had difficulty getting that through Federal Cabinet and, therefore, it has not been forthcoming to this point. However, we are continuing to encourage him to pass a provision program such as that so that we could in the future draw down on that for a program such as rural transportation.

We are told by the Federal Minister that handicap transit is a priority with the Federal Minister and, therefore, we have some hope that there may be some help there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(c) - do you want to pass this or not?

The Member for Thompson.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** I just want to say very briefly that it would be greatly appreciated by the Thompson group, because they certainly had hoped to meet that deadline for the UTAP Program. It's an excellent proposal on their part and the big gap right now is in terms of capital funding and whatever pressure the Minister

could bring to bear on the Federal Government would be appreciated.

Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

7.(c) Rural Transportation Grant for the Disabled—pass.

Resolution 101: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,213,900 for Highways and Transportation, Transportation Division for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

8.(a) Expenditures Related to Capital Assets, Construction and Upgrading of Provincial Trunk Highways, Provincial Roads and Related Projects.

The Member for Gladstone.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister about some PR roads in my constituency.

I noticed the other day in the Orders-in-Council, there was reference to 352 in the Municipality of North Cypress. Does that mean that the Minister's department has sorted out the problem to do with the right-of-way, the design of that road?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I imagine the honourable member is referring to the Arden, to PRs 575, the acquisition of right-of-way project that is included in the printed Highways project.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Well, I'm not sure. The Municipality of North Cypress and the Municipality of North Norfolk were attempting to contact the Minister over a problem on 352 with a farmer. It went diagonally across his land and he wanted the road to follow the road allowance as had been surveyed some years ago. But I guess probably when the road was built in the first place, circumstances were much different from what they are today and he wanted to be able to use his land. Now, has that problem been addressed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** That has been addressed in terms of the input from the rural municipalities. They would like to see us continue that road up, I believe, a mile and then connect 353 across where there is a gap at this present time and remove the use of that diagonal across the property that the member is referring to. However, there is no priority at this time to taking over that section of road that would be a continuation of 353, and tying that together could be a consideration at some future time. It is not at this time and we had indicated to the municipalities that we'd like to proceed with the design that was put forward originally.

I have indicated that to the municipalities and have received recent phone calls to the effect that they're still concerned about it and would like to have another look at it and have asked me to take a look at it when I'm passing through that area sometime in the near future, and I intend to do that. However, until such time as we would make any changes, the intention is to proceed with what we had indicated.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Perhaps while the Minister is driving on that section of that road north of No. 1, he'd take a little jaunt south of No. 1 on 352 south of Sidney.

He'll find that that road - I mentioned it before when the Member for Lac du Bonnet was the Minister - the road grade is down instead of being elevated and you can imagine the problem with school buses and so forth. So that road is a great concern to some of the people in my constituency.

Also, on the subject of problems concerning roads in that area, No. 350 where it crosses No. 1 at MacGregor, there was a problem with the Town of MacGregor over the route that was being taken. Has that problem been resolved?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, there was a desire to eliminate the jogs on 350, originally north and south of Highway No. 1 on 350. There was agreement previously with the council. However, that has changed and it is still a matter of some discussion to work that out with the council.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** I think the main concern with straightening it out was north of No. 1 where it crosses railway tracks at several locations. I think the town are quite happy about that part, but where it was proposed to change route south of MacGregor, there was concern about that. So I understand that still hasn't been resolved?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that's correct. The whole issue hasn't been resolved at this time but our staff are working on that in consultation with the local municipalities.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Thank you. Now, going over to Holland on PR 449, the R.M. of Victoria, in conversation with them, they raised the point that would like some work done on that, but they were telling me that whenever they broach the subject, it would be a major problem to change the road all at once, but they're not in any hurry to see a major change. What they would like would be some start at it. If you'll notice what a jogging road that is, the land there is very very hilly, it goes down into marshes. The problem is with road maintenance, with extremely high hills, with ice, there is a problem with school buses. They asked me if I would just mention it to you so that sometime in the future you would be looking at the road with an eye to cutting down the hills.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In terms of priority, just looking at it on the map, I respect the safety aspects and the concerns that the member might have there and that has to be looked at from that point of view. In terms of the overall grid it would not fit into priorities for upgrading. We have not had any recent correspondence that I'm aware of from the municipalities about that road and there are no plans at this time to undertake any major changes to that road at this time.

**MRS. C. OLESON:** Well, they asked me to mention it to you. So consider it mentioned that you've heard from them.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Thank you.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate how much money is being

budgeted for the upgrading of the Swan River Airport this year?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify. Was the honourable member asking about how much was being allocated for upgrading or operating?

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** For improvements to the airport facility, runway and so forth.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I know the honourable member is aware of the problems that are associated with that program. There is no money at this time allocated for the upgrading, chiefly because of the legal problems that have been associated. They seem to have been resolved, but they are not resolved and because of the landowner and his tower and the court cases that are involved there, we would like to have that cleared up - well, we'd obviously have to have that cleared up - before any further expenditures are undertaken at that airport for the paving of the runway that was begun in terms of construction I believe, in 1981. So at this time we are awaiting the resolution of those matters before budgeting additional funding for it.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** If the court case or the problem area that the Minister refers to is cleared and straightened away in the near future, would there be any funding available to undertake some of the improvement work in this fiscal year?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** As it stands now, Mr. Chairman, the project itself has not been included in the program because of these matters. Now if that should change before the completion of the construction season, it would have to reflect a reprioritized decision and that is not being contemplated at this time. It was largely not included because of those legal problems and because of the fact that we have a great demand on our Budget from many sectors and we felt we could not include it with that matter unresolved and, therefore, would not make it a priority, because of that.

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Before I start I would like to ask the Minister if he would convey my own personal best wishes to his deputy who is hospitalized at this time. I realize that he has staff there that are well able to provide him with some of the information I may require, so I would like to start by asking one or two general questions.

First of all, out of the last year's Highway Program, in total, how many projects that were scheduled for completion last year have not been completed?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Just for clarification, is the honourable member asking how many projects that were scheduled for completion or were scheduled to be undertaken last year, because obviously there was a large amount of carry-over each year, there always is, and so . . .

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Those that were scheduled for completion.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Again, I guess, it's just a matter of semantics, but the projects that are included in the Highways budget are never scheduled for completion, depending on a number of circumstances, but the carry-over from previous year is quite high and there will be a lot of work to be completed this year on the carry-over program.

I can go through carry-over projects. I imagine the honourable member is aware, from looking at the Construction Program outline, of the details of the carry-over program, and those were the ones that were scheduled last year and were not completed and, therefore, carried over into this year for many reasons. If it's acquisition of land, of course, the honourable member is familiar with some of the difficulties that can be associated with that area, as well as some construction projects that require some additional work to be completed this year.

I don't know exactly what the honourable member would like for an answer, in terms of detail, because we have that detail provided, in terms of the carry-over program.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Basically, I wasn't asking for individual cases. I was dealing maybe in percentages. Was the scheduled program of last year 90 percent complete, 85 percent? I just wanted a general figure.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have those figures. I could tell the honourable member that the carry-over program for this year is about 30 percent of the total of work that is scheduled to proceed this year.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Then is it correct to say that about 30 percent of the money that was allocated last year was not spent?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, that wouldn't be the case, 30 percent of this year's money will have to be allocated for carry-over projects from last year. However, the amount of money that was expended last year was very close to the cash flow budget that was established and that would have included last year's projects plus carry-over from the previous year.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Another question and, again, it's dealing in general terms. On the estimated expenditures on projects last year, did the majority of them come in under budget or over budget in the tendering process?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In terms of percentages, again, I could not give the honourable member, unless we took some time to work that out and look at all of the bids that were in, but if the member is looking for some general trends, we were generally pleased with the tenders that came in last year, and that many of them were under the engineer's estimate. Of course, that helps us to proceed a little farther along the line than we would otherwise be able to do, so that has been encouraging from last year's situation.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** I thank the Minister for that very general statement because, I think, to assess the health

of the construction industry you have to look at the tendering process and if the majority of the jobs were coming in under budget it would indicate to me that the construction industry was not in a very healthy position. Probably contractors were out desperately paring their estimates, trying to buy themselves the job, so that was basically one of the reasons for asking the question but, if the general trend was slightly under budget, it would indicate that the Minister had maybe a little extra money to play around with and that would lead me to the next question. How many projects were undertaken last year that were not included in the program that was tabled with the Assembly last spring?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** There was a project that had right-of-way in the program and there was some construction done on it.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** The information isn't urgent. Could the Minister table those at sometime in the next 10 days or so, give us a list of those projects that were not in the construction program that was tabled with us that were done last year?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we can provide that. That is really reprioritized projects that were not included and I think we should have a record obviously of them so we can provide that information.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 8.(a) - the Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I just have one question. It's a broad question - a lot of these PR roads, there are big stones sticking out of them - is the Minister going to hire a bunch of students or something to at least take those big rocks out of these PR roads? It's an escalating problem? If were not going to fix them, let's pull the stones out of them. Hire some of these unemployed kids and . . .

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

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we don't have a specific program to deal with - I'm treating this seriously, obviously there is a problem with the condition of many PR roads, a lot of them taken over from municipalities over the years and have not been upgraded. Our problem, as the dragging operation takes place, a lot of the stones of course come out but we haven't isolated this as a specific problem that needs addressing in an isolated fashion. It's an ongoing thing that we attempt to do obviously through the regular maintenance.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister received a copy of the road information program of Canada, an evaluation of the extent of substandard roads in Manitoba. It was prepared by the trip Canada for the Canadian Construction Association. In the process of summarizing the findings in here, was there any area that the Minister found the research, the numbers to be not accurate according to the departmental analyses of that report?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have done our own evaluation of the road system and a lot of the

information was passed on to the construction association so a lot of their figures were derived from departmental figures and we feel that they are generally reasonably accurate.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I guess that fits in with part of the summary where they indicate that the findings are based on Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation information. In that regard then, the recommendation and of course it's pretty easy to recommend when you're not responsible for raising the money, but the recommendation was for a five-year \$100 million additional construction program. Now did the Minister find any fault with the construction industry estimate that that \$100 million a year improvement program would support an estimated 2,975 construction jobs and jobs in the related fields of equipment, manufacture and supply of materials production and transportation.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** We generally agree that for every job created, direct job in the construction industry, there's approximately 2.5 indirect jobs that are created in support activities. There's no disagreement with the assumptions that are made with regard to job creation as it relates to highway construction.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well then, I guess, Mr. Chairman, then if there was \$25 million additional in the construction Budget, the Minister would indicate that he doesn't have too much problem with about 745 jobs being available to the construction industry and to the Manitoba economy.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, we've as I've said, indicated that the figures and I haven't computed that figure from \$25 million whether it would result into 750 jobs, but there would be a significant job impact and any increase in government spending in the construction area. We recognize that, it would certainly go to the construction industry and associated support industries. We realize also that highways in this province as in most provinces if not all, as in the United States as well, that they are deteriorating in terms of the existing system and the ability to keep up with the new construction. We don't disagree with those figures in terms of the need to address the problems associated with their highway system.

With the associated problems in funding regarding our deficit and so on, we are unable at this time and other priorities as well, it's very difficult to provide the kind of funding that is desirable for the highways system. However, as we've indicated, have provided some expansion there and have put other priorities in many cases somewhat ahead of the need to upgrade our highway system.

On the other hand, we feel we're doing everything possible, realizing that this is a cumulative problem that has resulted through many many years of underfunding to the highway system that has resulted in the condition of our roads being somewhat less than we would like to see them.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I guess that is a fair assessment. I guess the next question would be,

does the Minister consider it a priority to in next year's Budget, to try and resolve that problem and get more construction dollars.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Certainly from my point of view, as the Minister of Highways and Transportation, I consider that a priority and will be making every effort to have as many dollars in the construction program as is feasible under present conditions, acknowledging what I have said that there is a problem with maintaining our highway system to the condition we would like to have it. We will also be making every effort to have additional dollars allocated in this area if the situation arises even during the current fiscal year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, a question that the staff may have to look up. Could they indicate the traffic count on PR No. 239 in the Steepprock and I want to take this opportunity to thank the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, the MLA for Ste. Rose, for his part in announcing the Main Street Manitoba Project for the Town of Morden which enabled the Department of Highways to then schedule the work on Stephen Street to get that street upgraded. A very necessary project, a project even though it's temporarily disruptive for the community, is one that is very much appreciated by the residents of Morden and by myself as the MLA fortunate enough to represent that area.

I might also point out to the Minister that that is the sum total of construction in my constituency this year. I don't particularly want to make that a major issue, although, in going through the scheduled construction for fiscal year '84-85, I find there are seven major projects going on in the Minister's constituency. That is largesse beyond what is normally expected for a Minister, not even the MLA for Lac du Bonnet was that generous to himself when he was Minister for his time.

I suppose, in no small way, this sort of demonstrates what was confirmed during meetings that I have attended in Dauphin, that the MLA, indeed, is in trouble up there and is attempting to buy his next election. It seems to come with transportation portfolios because we've got the Honourable Federal Minister trying to buy his federal seat.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The member please stay relevant to the item under discussion.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** My goodness, Mr. Chairman, I don't know how more relevant I can be. There are seven construction projects scheduled in the Minister's constituency. We are dealing with construction estimates, we are dealing with political problems the Minister has in his constituency, and we are dealing with an analogy of a Federal Minister who is buying his re-election, as we think this Minister is buying his re-election.

At the height of accusation, when I was the Highways Minister, Sir, I was accused of packing dear old Pembina Constituency with road construction dollars that was unheard of, and I think I only managed two projects in any one year. Here, this fellow, this Minister responsible for highways patronage in the Dauphin Constituency has managed a grand total of seven in one year. All that demonstrates to me, Mr. Chairman,

is the kind of problem: this fellow has in getting re-elected.

I have to say that, in looking at The Pas Constituency, there is hardly anything scheduled, so he must be relatively safe, the Member for The Pas but, then again, I notice in the construction budget for The Pas that they are taking over the Umpherville Road, and I wasn't even aware that was a numbered road. So maybe the Member for The Pas is in a little trouble up there after all.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the Minister for a very astute use of taxpayer dollars in making sure his constituency is well constructed. I wish him luck in trying to persuade the people that's reason enough to re-elect him, but anything I've had to do with Dauphin Constituency, I can only tell him I don't think that is going to be quite enough to get him re-elected.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the honourable member wants an answer to those comments.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Of course I do.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** With regard to 239, into Steeprock, right into Steeprock, the count is 165 vehicles per day. It's a somewhat greater number along the way because of the Falconer plant, that is Steele Brothers lime plant that is in that area, as well, which is not located right in Steeprock. So there is a larger number that would terminate at that point, some distance. Well, I don't have that but I know there's a lot of traffic that stops at that point, so there would be additional numbers. However, I don't have the number, this is right to Steeprock, 165 vehicles, and is the subject of a great deal of truck traffic, heavy traffic, and of some concern and urgency in upgrading that particular road.

In terms of the other roads that the honourable member has referred to, I don't know that there's seven contracts. There may be three or four in my constituency, but in looking at the whole area, District 8, the funding is about on par with other years.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** How is it in District 3?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Of course, the honourable member is aware that some of the other areas that he may have been involved with in the southern areas in his constituency would have received their rather higher priority over the last four years and there has to be an effort to attempt to balance these out in terms of the needs of the various areas and we are attempting to do that.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, is the department putting on special buses to take District Office staff from districts like 3 to Carman office and other areas that have been bereft of construction for the last couple years and moving them up to the Minister's constituency so that those people aren't unemployed all summer and don't have additional costs of transportation?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the same procedure would be used in terms of moving staff from certain districts to other districts that would have been used

when the member was a Minister previously. There were many districts that sometimes do not receive the same kind of funding that others do and, of course, this is always a problem that the department is able to deal with in moving crews to where they are most needed at any particular time. I don't think that the member would be recommending busing as a most efficient utilization of the worker's time. There would probably be better ways to do it and these will be looked at if there is more efficient use of those staff in various locations throughout the province. The same methods that were used in previous years would be utilized at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 8.(a) . . .

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, we are not just going 8.(a), 8.(b), etc.; we are going to do the whole works.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, we are taking one item at a time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** When did we change, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I am calling 8.(a), if you are finished your questions, we can go to 8.(b).

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, as I asked you, when did we change the rules, because I believe when we dealt with 7., we dealt (a), (b) and (c), and we dealt with all areas back and forth and then we passed the whole works.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We are . . . in our committee. If you want to take everything altogether, I will have to call them all. Does the member want that?

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That's the way we have been going; I thought that's the way you called it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Let me then do it properly. 8.(a), 8.(b), 8.(c), 8.(d), 8.(e)(1), 8.(e)(2), 8.(e)(3) - Expenditures Related to Capital Assets - 8.(a) Construction and Upgrading of Provincial Trunk Highways, Provincial Roads and Related Projects; 8.(b) Aid to Cities, Towns and Villages; 8.(c) Work in Unorganized Territory (Recoverable from Canada); 8.(d) Access to Remote Communities; 8.(e) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets: 8.(e)(1) Other Projects, 8.(e)(2) Northern Development Agreement - Canada-Manitoba, 8.(e)(3) Less: Recoverable from Northern Affairs - the Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague, the MLA for Minnedosa, who unfortunately couldn't be with us today, would like to extend, on behalf of municipalities involved with Highway 250, the very kind and congenial invitation to the Minister to go out with them at some time in the future this summer to tour Highway 250 to see the kind of needs and sort of forward plans they would like to discuss with the Minister in upgrading PR 250 as one of the major highways that is involved with upgrading required because of rail line abandonment. Because if the Minister checks the map, he'll find that the area

in and around PR 250 is one that had substantial abandonment take place in it, so just on behalf of my colleague, the MLA for Minnedosa and the councillors and reeves in that area, I'd like to extend that invitation to you.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I look forward to accepting that invitation, Mr. Chairman. I might add that there are three projects in the carry-over program that the member is aware of on 250. In addition to that, there is a grade and gravel construction contract on 250 as well for this year's program, so the views of the 250 Association have not gone unheeded in developing the program over the past number of years.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, earlier this afternoon in question period we had a discussion with the Minister on the Peguis bridge that was burned. The Minister indicated - I'll stand corrected if I'm not indicating his answer correctly - that he believed the bridge was primarily federally financed. Could the Minister confirm that or indicate what percentage, if any, is provincial funding in that bridge?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I'm told that, under normal circumstances, that would be a 50-50 bridge.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** So the province would be picking up 50 percent of the replacement cost on that bridge.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** As I said, under the normal program, that would be the case. The projections were that that bridge was under consideration for replacement within the next couple of years, certainly, as it was. However, it's not there now and we have to look at the situation in terms of the existing circumstances, but the cost-sharing arrangement is on a 50-50 basis.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That brings us to an interesting juncture, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister considering recovering some of the 50 percent or all of the 50 percent provincial participation from the Peguis Band? Because I don't believe they make any bones about it, that the band was responsible for the burning of the bridge. I don't think they're even trying to hide that. They're taking collective responsibility, as a band, for the destruction of that bridge. Is the Minister contemplating an attempt by the department to recover some of the funds required for reconstruction?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I haven't seen the reports from the band that say they are taking responsibility for burning the bridge, so I wouldn't want to comment on that until I've seen the report. At that time we would have to consider whether there were any circumstances that would dictate that we should be attempting to have a greater share from another jurisdiction than the Provincial Government. I would like to look at that report and look at the urgency for replacement; what the schedule was before; when we would want to consider replacing it under the present circumstances and, after having done that, would be prepared to comment on what the sharing should be, if it would differ from the existing arrangement.

I think it's unfortunate that it happened, certainly, and I'm as concerned about it as the honourable member and I would like to see all of the reports on that before I comment.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not concerned so much about this specific instance. What I'm concerned about is the Minister's reply in question period this afternoon and the Deputy Premier's reply in question period this afternoon, is that there may be a slight hesitancy to do anything in this instance. There have been occasions before where roads have been destroyed or renovated massively by private individuals. Those individuals have generally had charges laid against them, fines assessed, damages certainly proceeded with to be collected.

The one instance I'm thinking of was about three or four years ago where the road was in terrible shape, there's no question about it, I think it's since been reconstructed, but the individual who was responsible for damaging public assets was charged. My concern is that this Minister and this government will let this one go by without doing anything because there's no question that the level of promise made to the Native people in Manitoba by the New Democratic Party is pretty high. I think that they might use the political analysis that they don't want to harm future electoral chances by stepping on anybody's toes in this case.

I hope that doesn't happen, Mr. Chairman, because the destruction of public property, no matter what the cost, cannot be tolerated by any government when that action is undertaken by any group resident in this province. Even though the Minister says that he's going to take a look and determine whether the bridge was up to par, whether it needed reconstruction, whether they were going to reconstruct it, that's irrelevant. I think if the Minister takes a check of his bridge inventory, he'll find there's an awful lot of bridges that are under weight restrictions right now, that loaded farm trucks cannot travel over those bridges fully loaded.

There are restrictions on highways because the bridges are a problem, and if that's the case and those bridges are substandard and the Minister lets this case go by, then you are opening it up for any disgruntled or disenchanting Manitoban whose government bridge is not up to snuff, to simply go out and torch the thing, and take his chance on No. 1, being caught, and No. 2, having the government do anything about it if he is caught.

What happened here, if media reports are correct, is a very dangerous precedent. I would like to have, from this Minister, the commitment that the government will not tolerate that kind of willful construction of public assets in the Department of Highways or any other department. It cannot be allowed to happen. It wasn't allowed to happen when we were government and it should not be allowed to happen now for any reason, and I'd like to get that assurance from the Minister.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we indicated clearly in question period, the Deputy Premier as well as myself, that we would consider all aspects of this and that means just exactly that.

I think if charges are going to be laid, obviously it's not the matter that's related to the Highways



Department. We are not in the business of laying charges. The RCMP would have to do that and if they do that there's obviously the chance that a claim could be laid as well, having determined the value of the bridge as it existed, and the replacement. So those matters would have to be dealt with by other jurisdictions and not something that we can consider or, I should say, that we have to make the decision on. Obviously we do not. — (Interjection) — We do not lay charges, Mr. Chairman. For the record, we are not in the process of laying charges. That is the RCMP that is responsible for that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Point of order.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not quite factual when he says they don't lay charges. If they say to the RCMP we don't want to lay charges, there won't be charges laid. The department is instrumental in whether there are charges laid in this case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Differences of opinion on a matter, that is not a point of order.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That is not a difference of opinion.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, that's fine in terms of the actual laying of the charges. In terms of the evidence gathered to indicate whether there is evidence for a charge to be laid, that is the jurisdiction of the RCMP and we haven't received that or assessed that, obviously, so we cannot comment on that at this point in time. Once we receive that information, the honourable member can be assured that we will consider it very carefully.

I am not in any position to indicate whether there is any chance at all that a charge will be laid, whether a claim will be made, what the circumstances were surrounding the destruction of the bridge, I don't know any of that officially at this time and I would not want to comment until I've seen those reports. Upon receiving those reports, the consideration will be made and I think the honourable member will have all kinds of opportunity to question the government's action at that particular time.

It is hypothetical at this time to discuss that situation at this point in time. I don't see that any Manitobans are going to resort to destroying public property because they want it replaced to any extent. I realize the concern that the honourable member is raising here and I don't think that he's suggesting that Manitobans would generally undertake that kind of action. But we have to look at the situation on an individual basis and not make a generalized decision based on hearsay and other pieces of information that are not official at this time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, is the departmental investigation staff gathering information as to the demise of this bridge?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The RCMP is in charge of the investigation at this time. We have provided them with the information that they've requested in terms of the

value of replacing the structure and so on. But they are doing all of the investigation and we are not in a position to know what kind of evidence they are assembling. Once we have the report, we would be in a position to comment on that and look at it very closely from the circumstances that are involved.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Is the value of the bridge as quoted in the newspaper at \$250,000 a departmental valuation?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the preliminary estimate for replacement is not what was quoted in the paper. I'm advised that it's more in the neighbourhood of \$180,000.00.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** In the Aid to Cities, Towns and Villages, does the Minister expect as much grant in aid work to be allocated with this budget? Are costs stationary and level so that as much grant in aid work can be put out at this level of Budget as was allocated last year, or will there be a reduction in grant in aid reconstruction?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, obviously the same dollar amounts would be allocated this year as were last year because the budget is the same. As we've indicated, the preliminary experience with material this year is good; as a matter of fact, the gravel is down in cost and it may be that we can come close effectively to the same amount of work. As I said, the dollars will be the same, depending on how far those dollars go, whether there will be some slight reduction in the amount of work accomplished would depend on what kinds of prices we are able to get with regard to materials.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, what communities are to be accessed by line (d) \$800,000.00?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I haven't received the prioritizations of those from the Department of Northern Affairs who is working with the Northern communities and establishing priorities for that allocation. We know that there is consideration of the Sherridon Road under way and that is one of the priorities. There may be a couple of others as well. Obviously with the \$800,000 it can only go so far but is a start, a move in the right direction and we will be receiving from the Minister of Northern Affairs an outline of the priorities for that allocation very soon. Community access is the highest priority in terms of the roads, as far as resource roads and agricultural resource roads, such as to some of the areas that are being opened up. They are not as high priority as the community access will be under this program.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Are these access roads going to become part of the provincial road system?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No, Mr. Chairman, they are not part of the provincial road system and they will probably be constructed to some different standard than the present PR standard for our provincial road system.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Will the department be responsible for ongoing maintenance of these?



**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** If the department is responsible for the maintenance of these, it will be budgeted under this appropriation in the future, which is a separate appropriation dealing with access to communities.

I might say that there are some novel ideas being pursued with regard to making these dollars go as far as possible, one is in relation to the Keewatin Community College with regard to Sherridon to use the equipment that's there to train people in the area in construction skills, maintenance of equipment and in construction techniques and operating techniques and skills that will be used for northern development projects such as the Limestone and so on. So this is part of the overall training in preparation of northerners for work on those projects will be part of this allocation. We're very pleased to be working with the Department of Education and the Department of Northern Affairs and other employment portfolios to make these dollars go as far as possible and, at the same time, have the much-needed infrastructure in place for access to some of those communities.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** The Minister indicates if maintenance is required, it would be just simply part of this budget. Is he indicating that decision hasn't been made, or is he indicating that decision has been made, but this year's funding is only for construction and, of course, maintenance would be part of it for next year.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, this year's is obviously, since it's a new appropriation only for construction. I would assume, and that's why I said if, that in the future either the dollars would come under here or another maintenance appropriation, not from the Highways Maintenance Program. However, it may be under this appropriation or another appropriation where some northern roads' maintenance is done at this time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the work on unorganized territory is down by about 4 percent. Does this represent reduction of demand or simply a reduction of funding?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, was the honourable member referring to work in unorganized territory in his question, I didn't hear him?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 8.(c).

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, there would be a reduction of approximately \$139,000 in work that could be carried out under this appropriation.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** I realize that's the amount of reduction. Now does this represent a reduction in demand for service under this, or is this simply a cutback of funding so that less work will be done even though the demand is there?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, going on last year's experience, Mr. Chairman, it would indicate that the appropriation was close to being expended in terms of the actual work done, so this would not indicate reduction in demand, but a reduction in dollars available.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** That's a reduction in the amount of work that's going to be done then if I follow the Minister?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, that's the case if the demand is similar to last year.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** On line (e), could the Minister indicate broad components of the \$2.75 million, is there a substantial amount of equipment replacement in that?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the appropriation reflects some changes from last year. The major components are the gravel exploration, highways equipment and tools - pardon me, gravel exploration is the same as last year, \$200,000 - highway equipment and tools is down from \$920,000 last year to \$796,000 this year. The capital grants for transportation of handicapped is up by \$50,000, the acquisition of land and controlled areas is reduced, airport upgrading is significantly reduced primarily because the Norway House Airport was completed this past year and, therefore, we're able to accommodate a significant reduction there from \$872,000 down to \$227,000.00.

So, those are the major changes in that appropriation. As I said, there's \$796,000 allocated for equipment and tools, and so on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any other questions? We might as well pass this and go to the Minister's Salary. The Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I had a question to deal with the removal of the rail station along the Lynn Lake line and the Hudson Bay line. I'm not sure if this has been touched on before, but I'm . . .

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Probably deal with it under the Minister's Salary couldn't he?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It'll be under Minister's Salary.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Yes, it'll be under the Minister's Salary, okay.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 8.(a) Expenditures Related to Capital Assets, Construction and Upgrading of Provincial Trunk Highways, Provincial Roads and Related Projects—pass; 8.(b) Aid to Cities, Towns and Villages—pass; 8.(c) Work in Unorganized Territory (Recoverable from Canada)—pass; 8.(d) Access to Remote Communities—pass; 8.(e)(1) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets, Other Projects—pass; 8.(e)(2) Northern Development Agreement, Canada-Manitoba—pass; 8.(e)(3) Recoverable from Northern Affairs—pass.

Resolution 102: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$101,730,200 for Highways and Transportation, Expenditures Related to Capital Assets for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1985—pass.

We now return to the Minister's Salary which is Item 1.(a).

The Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Chairman, I had a question for the Minister. I'm sure this has been dealt with before.

The first area I had a question in is the deregulations of air transportation, and it seemed like The Pas area is going to be affected. I was under the impression that the North was going to be not affected by it, but now I find that The Pas is. I've had a few phone calls in asking how this is going to be affecting the services that they presently have.

Has the Minister had an opportunity to assess or his staff had an opportunity to assess how it will affect The Pas area?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I understand the concern of The Honourable Member for The Pas with regard to this issue. We have preliminary indications showing that The Pas would be within the area that would be considered liberalized regulations as opposed to that area that is protected from some of the moves that are being made for Southern Manitoba. However, I'm under the impression at this time that is not firm, and that there can be cases made for individual communities, which, of course, The Pas would be. We would want to, and I've indicated this earlier in the discussions here when the honourable member perhaps was not present, that we will be making representation with regard to The Pas so that if there is some benefits from the liberalization of regulations that have been drawn up at the present time, if there's some benefits for some of the northern communities, that they would get those benefits, but they would not be in jeopardy in terms of losing the basic service that is required for northern communities.

For that reason, we will want to look very closely at the service to The Pas to ensure that if we are able in any way to prevent a loss of service, that we are indeed able to do that and bring this to the attention of the Federal Minister with the assistance obviously of the MLA for the area.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** One of the other questions that I would like to raise is the area of the hearings which are going to be held on June 6th in The Pas. I'm familiar with all the territory, the stations are contemplating closing down. Not only are they required for a service, but I'm sure that some of these buildings would have some value for historical reasons as well. I am wondering if the department will be making a strong presentation to the hearings and will that historical fact be taken into consideration.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** The historical fact perhaps would be after the fact. If they were to lose their current role and operation, that would be a matter that would have to be considered after the fact, and we don't want to get to the position where we're indicating that we think it's inevitable. Obviously, we want to take a strong stand against the closing of those stations and the employment for the area that is created, however, we're not confident that we'll be successful, but we'll make every attempt to do so. I will raise this with staff in putting together the presentations that the historical value of those buildings will be considered as a result of the position put forward by the member.

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

**MR. L. HYDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A question to the Minister - I missed out on questioning the Minister in regards to the safety at the time we were dealing with that issue. Mr. Minister, it's been brought to my attention by several parents in my constituency regarding the non-use of seat belts in school buses. It would seem to me, Mr. Minister, that your department was amiss in not including this compulsory use of seat belts by students when they legislated this here compulsory law for general use of seat belts.

Mr. Minister, I think we could all agree that it's pretty difficult to control a bus load of youngsters at that age and that they were subject to, I would suggest, a very severe damage to body and soul if they should be in an accident of some sort. I believe, Mr. Minister . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** A member has to address the Chair through the Minister.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, good God! I think we'll have to get new rules and regulations or something.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if I missed out on speaking to you, but really and truly this is a serious matter and I would hope that you, Mr. Chairman, would treat it as such.

**MR. H. ENNS:** None of this levity.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Anyway, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, I hope that you will give due consideration to the people's wish that the use of seat belts will be made compulsory in school buses in the near future.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, I'll try to be as brief as possible knowing that there are other members of the opposition who want to take opposition to some of the points in the Budget.

I will tell the honourable member that because federal regulations do not require manufacturers to even install seat belts in the buses, we could not very well legislate their use if they don't exist. That was a major concern obviously and one of the things that the federal regulations would have to consider in the future.

There are a number of unique problems associated with school buses. One is that there are so many children in the buses and having perhaps some vandalism of seat belts, they may not be in working condition the way they should be, they may not be fitting properly, various sizes of students and so on that they present some unique problems and they have built in other safety features including padded seats and so on that they feel take the place of the need for seat belts.

However, I personally feel, that it is an area that should be considered at this time. However, we cannot proceed with any regulations regarding that until such time as they're included in the manufacture of the bus.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that you realize the importance of seat belts in the school buses. It's hard to accept the fact that I or you are compelled by law to wear a seat belt while travelling on our highways in a motor vehicle of any type, but yet you have school bus loads of kids are just allowed to be tossed about at random.

**A MEMBER:** It's shameful.

**MR. L. HYDE:** It's shameful, it is. I accept what you've said. I was aware of the fact that there were no regulations laid down that when building school buses that they had to include seat belts. I was aware of that, but that is not the answer to the solution that's been brought to your attention today.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Just one comment. I'm pleased to see the honourable member is advocating seat belts. It's excellent to have that kind of support on the opposition side.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I think if you were to go back over Hansards, I certainly did not advocate the use of seat belts, but now that you have made it compulsory, your government, we are compelled and I see no reason why the children should be allowed to be let off scott free.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a) - the Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, a question. I missed this when we were dealing with the Administration and Finance bracket. I realize that employment generally is down - no pardon me. We're down a little bit, but it's primarily because of the relocation of transportation of dangerous goods out of this appropriation.

Could the Minister indicate whether there has been any senior staff level changes; in other words, new appointments to senior staff? I realize he may not have that now and we're sort of anxious to wrap it up this afternoon. He could provide that information later if it isn't close at hand.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Can the Minister provide information now or later?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** I indicated that we had an internal auditor position in administration and we also have provided for a communications co-ordinator in that area as well. Those are not associated directly with the Minister's office, if that's what the member is asking for. They are in Administration, but if he is asking for the general appropriation, I had indicated that those were two additions. So those are the only additions to staff.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Now, you have peaked my interest. Just quickly and very briefly, a communications co-ordinator, is this another staff person to crank out government propaganda that props up a failing department, a failing Minister and a failing government?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** No.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** No?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a) . . .

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** No, I have to get an answer. I am just waiting for an answer from the Minister here, Mr. Chairman.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** In Administration and Finance there is also the position of additional computer programmer that I neglected to mention, so I should put that on the record as well. In terms of the systems development, that we have, one additional person in that area.

In terms of the communications co-ordinator, that person will be similar in position to the position that is available in many of the other departments of government after the reduction, and the information services area, which service the whole department, this department will, like a number of other departments, have its own communications person. I am very pleased that is taking place because there is a severe bottleneck in that regard in terms of providing information to the public on various programs and policies and developments that have taken place, and we are pleased to see that take place. There is not any capability in the department to actually carry on with that at the present time.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I just offer the Minister a few comments then. We have now got a communications co-ordinator that is going to be providing information of value to the people of Manitoba out of this department. One more public relations person, it would appear. We've got in this department a reduction in overall funding from last year and, in undertaking this reduction in funding we see that the maintenance budget is in all likelihood not going to be sufficient to keep the highways in as good a condition as they are now.

It was drawn to my attention earlier today that apparently a Polish journalist was driving in western Manitoba. He was travelling west and he thought that he was in Warsaw during the May Day Parade with all the red flags that were on the roadway as he was driving, and then it come to his attention that they were red flags marking potholes that were not repaired. He felt very much at home; he thought it was the May Day Parade in Warsaw there were so many red flags.

Mr. Chairman, I simply point out that that is an ongoing problem that this government, this Minister, have to deal with. The department is anxious to keep the roads in good shape, but they need funding dollars to do it. They need funding dollars not only for maintenance but also for construction. The Minister has taken issue with my presentation of the revenues that are related to this department and its expenditures on maintenance and construction.

I only want to point out, in retrospect, to the Minister, that this year over last year this department has come closer to being self-financing. It is just slightly less than \$10 million being short of self-financing with revenues that are related to this department. Last year, under the former Minister, it was \$26 million short of being self-financing. Next year, with the trend, it's going to be a revenue department for the government. It's going to make money for this government.

Mr. Chairman, the problem the government faces, and that we are going to face two years from now when we defeat this gang of incompetents, is that the road system is going to be in disrepair as it has happened during the Schreyer years. They lived on the banked equity of a good road system built during the Roblin

years of government and they squandered it in eight short years under the Schreyer administration, and they are proceeding to squander the bit of rehabilitation we were able to undertake in four years. They are not doing the people of Manitoba a long-term service.

There are jobs being lost in the Department of Highways, and the Minister indicated earlier on today that he had no basic objection with the analysis done by the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, in conjunction with the Canadian Heavy Construction Association, that an extra \$100 million would provide some 3,000 jobs in the Manitoba economy.

I have pointed out to the Minister, and I will point it out time and time again as every opportunity comes up, the revenues that the government is taking in, that are Department of Transportation related, approach \$187 million. The expenditures by this department on construction and maintenance to make sure our roads and airports and ferries, etc., are in workable and serviceable condition, are \$162 million. So that we've got \$25 million bled from this department to go into the Jobs Fund. The Minister doesn't want to admit it, but it's there.

That represents in the private construction industry alone 750 jobs according to figures that the Minister does not disagree with. He has no basic disagreement with those figures. As well, there are reductions in staffing in the Department Highways. So that, overall, there are fewer jobs that this department is going to be offering to the people of Manitoba either directly or indirectly. At the same time, we've got \$25 million, Mr. Chairman, bled off from this department and going into the Jobs Fund so this government can use some of that amoral advertising in the Jobs Fund to tell the people of Manitoba what a good job they are doing.

That \$25 million rightfully belongs in the Department of Highways for reconstruction of roads which are in need of reconstruction, which the Minister of Highways last year pointed out very forthrightly to the committee the need for reconstruction. It's still there; it hasn't been addressed by this Minister or by this government in this year's Estimates. The \$25 million would not add 5 cents to the deficit if it was spent on the construction budget this year to raise it to \$126 million. It would not raise the deficit by 5 cents, but what it would do unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, is take \$25 million out of the Jobs Fund, and then the government wouldn't be able to advertise what a great and wonderful job they are doing with the Jobs Fund. That's as simple as it boils down to because people of Manitoba simply will not accept that a highway construction project is Jobs Fund, is something created by the Jobs Fund. They know they can't get away with selling that kind of fraudulent advertising. They know that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The member please choose his words carefully. He used two words today - gang and fraudulent.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Okay, Mr. Chairman, I will continue to choose my words with very great care.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister, the government, the advertising bureaucrats - one of which he has now placed in this department - know they can't sell highway construction as Jobs Fund creation. People know that

has been something the department and the government has done for years and years and years and expected to continue to do so. So that's why they have pulled \$25 million from this department and slopped it over into the "fraud" fund, the Jobs Fund, which is the "fraud" fund.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Fraud, again, is another word. The Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the greatly misleading Jobs Fund, for the greatly untruthful Jobs Fund, for the highly misleading Jobs Fund. Are any of those unparliamentary, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Misleading, untruthful, all of those are unparliamentary.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Well, unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, they're all the truth about the Jobs Fund, and I'm sorry if I have to come here and be unparliamentary when I'm describing the Jobs Fund in truthful terms, because it is fraudulent, misleading and untruthful.

Mr. Chairman, I won't refer to those words anymore seeing as how you object so strenuously to them, but in addition to stripping \$25 million from departmental revenues and putting it into the Jobs Fund, they're stripping \$2.8 million out of Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and paying less money out of the Motor Vehicle Branch to lower their operating deficit to make the government look better; but the drivers in Manitoba are going to pick up every nickel of that \$2.8 million that they forced Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation to contribute to the Department of Highways, so it isn't a tax saving.

It allows the government to misrepresent their deficit position and it strips Autopac of money so, Mr. Chairman, I have no course of action other than, with the way this Minister has handled the department, has been unable to get money from the department, for the department, for construction, that was there, I have no other option but to move, seconded by the Member for Roblin-Russell, that the Minister's salary be reduced to \$5.95 plus sales tax.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Business Development and Tourism.

**MR. S. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, just one small correction, and that is that if the Member for Pembina wishes to check back into the record he will find that during the Schreyer period, year over year, there were a number of years where we had increased expenditures in Highways quite significantly and more than ever before.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, just on that, in '74 it was . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. If there is a motion, the member has to write the motion.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** You want it written, you're going to have it written, if I can find it.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, while that's being written, I just wanted to point to a few of the details

that the Minister of Tourism is referring to. In '74, there was a 15 percent increase; in '75, there was a 20 percent increase; '76 there was a 12.5 . . .

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, this is a non-debatable motion. Let's get on with the vote.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** . . . just for the records.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Then I move the question be put, Mr. Chairman.

**A MEMBER:** Closure.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** You betcha, and he's getting six times what Penner's getting.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The time being 5:30, this motion shall be the first order of business this evening.  
Point of order.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** I see the clock showing 40 seconds left. The opposition critic has moved that the question be put on his motion and we're prepared to vote on the motion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is there a seconder to the motion?

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** No seconder required in committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It has been moved by the Member for Pembina and seconded by the Member for Lakeside that the Minister's salary be reduced to \$5.95 plus tax.  
As many as are in favour of the motion, say aye. As many as are opposed, say nay.

The motion is defeated. A formal count is being requested.

As many as are in favour, please raise your hand.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** A point of order is being raised.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** A formal count out in committee requires the calling of members of both committees.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The formal counting will have to be done in Chamber.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order, may I suggest the count out take place when we reconvene at 8:00 p.m.?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** This is not after 10:00 p.m. so that rule does not apply.

What is the pleasure of the committee? A point of order.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** The time is now past 5:30. To call a recorded vote, count out, of the full committee, both sections, you would have to report to the Chairman in the other committee. He would then ask that all members be called in. I suspect, sir, with respect, that the Chairman of the other committee has already left,

so I was suggesting, for the convenience of members, that it be done at 8:00 o'clock. If members opposite insist, we can recall the Chairman into the House for the other committee and sound the buzzers, but I think 8:00 o'clock is a reasonable suggestion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We'll do it the first item this evening at 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY - EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** Committee come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Education. Does the Minister have an introductory statement to make?

Madam Minister.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's my pleasure to introduce the Estimates of the Department of Education for consideration of the House. I'd like to make just a little bit of a summary of the programs and activities that were undertaken this year.

Our total Estimates, including expenditures related to capital assets, were \$654,351,700, and that is an increase of 5.7 percent above our 1983-84 Adjusted Vote. That is largely made up, Mr. Chairman, of the 3 percent increase that went to school divisions, an increase that was required under the Teacher Retirement Fund; an increase in our colleges of about 2.4 million that are related to the reforms and changes in our college programs this year; and about 8.5 million that we are diverting, or allowing access to the colleges and universities through the Federal Government Skills Growth Fund.

I guess I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that although we know that there have been limited resources made available, more limited in the education system this year, that in the last two years with increases of 12 percent and 10.4 percent, due to the fact that we had offset the health and education levy for our educational institutions; and recognizing the fact that Manitoba has been hit harder than, I believe, any other province in the country, Mr. Chairman, with cutbacks of Federal Government contributions to post-secondary education in Manitoba. Last year we lost \$5 million which was a blow; this year the blow was much more serious and our loss in federal dollars will be \$12 million.

So, I think it is fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that we have been maintaining, for our education system, an exceptional level of funding in the first two years in spite of this, and this year, although the resources and the increases aren't quite as large, that we are putting the money - and I think we will demonstrate this - where the needs are the greatest, and we are allowing access to particularly our post-secondary training system by significant increases in the Skills Growth Fund which will increase equipment and facilities in a very significant way.

The Federal Government also - and when I say we're being hit hard it's important to look at the full extent of the impact of changes in both Federal Government funding and policies, because we are presently trying to determine the full extent of cutbacks in terms of the purchase of training days because we know they are cutting back. It may be as high as 40,000 training days

which is a decrease of about 6 percent in total training days purchased by Ottawa. This, along with the cutbacks in federal funding, is hitting us hard, Mr. Chairman.

I want to spend just a minute or two talking about the changes that came into the Federal Student Assistance Program. This was through the Federal Government; it was for part-time students. At the time, we had identified this as one of the top priorities in student aid for the students in our province, since half of the students in our existing institutions are part-time students and there was no student aid program for them at all. It was on the basis of our information to the Federal Government, I think, largely, that they instituted the program in the first place. However, we were very concerned about the way they set it up and we indicated that at the beginning. We are now more concerned than ever looking at the results of the program and recognizing that the things we pointed out initially are, indeed, demonstrating that there are serious problems in the program.

I would just like to outline what the two major deficiencies are. It's all in the form of loan, no bursary money at all for part-time students, and they are forcing them to repay their federal loan from the minute they receive them. Well, this doesn't happen with any other student loan program. So that we really are discriminating against part-time students, putting them in an impossible position where we are asking them to start paying back their loan the minute they start getting the loan and, of course, the reason they need the loan in the first place is that they don't have any money. We are so concerned about this program that, at this point - and I don't like to say this, but I feel that I must - I have communicated my concerns to the Minister involved and I am seriously considering withdrawing provincial administration from the program because of its serious deficiencies. I will be discussing that a little more fully when we get to that point.

I might just say there that we are the only province that I know of that took the Federal Government Skills Growth money and gave access to post-secondary education, colleges and universities. I am not sure what the other provinces used it for, I do know they did not use it for post-secondary education, and that was a way that we gave millions and millions of increased dollars to our post-secondary institutions by allowing access to the Skills Growth Fund. So, we have \$8.5 million in funds for capital assets through the critical Skills Growth Fund which has given us a 39 percent increase in expenditures for capital assets this year. What it will do is beef up and improve our equipment and our facilities.

We are going to be playing a major role in helping Manitobans receive training for jobs of the future and I think that that was clear in my announcement to the House when I talked about the major reform of our college system. We are going to be training for emerging jobs in high technology fields. One example, Mr. Chairman, is that this past year we've doubled the number of child care training spots available throughout the province. This, of course, is in direct response to the changing social conditions that we're dealing with, which is the large number of single parents, working mothers, in the labour force; and, of course, not the least of which is to meet our requirement within a five-

year period to meet the regulations and the requirements of the new Day Care Act, in terms of training for people.

We are going to be using the new technology in our college system to both train and teach, and we are going to use it to get programs out to remote communities in the North, to small farming communities in agricultural areas, and it is going to, without question, increase accessibility to students across the province so they do not have to all go south, or all attend our big southern training institutions in order to receive the training. We will have six regional satellite centres, one attached to each college, and there will be 10-15 programs offered right in the communities so that they can, in many cases, stay in their own communities and receive their training.

Last year, in co-operation with the Federal Government, we established the Manitoba Technical Training Centre and we've graduated over 200 students into computer-related jobs, and this year we're expanding the number of students served. We are meeting our priorities by increased accessibility; we are going to be looking at the relevancy of our courses that we're offering, the 1500 courses in the colleges, applying a 7-point criteria so that we know which courses to eliminate in order to bring in the new technology and the new needs of the economic and social arena.

We are going to give credit for knowledge and experience already achieved, although it may not be through the college system. But we are going to bring in challenge for credit where people can be tested and they will be given credit for the knowledge that they have and they, therefore, don't have to go and take all of the entire program over. We have to make very sure we are avoiding unnecessary duplication. Presently, or prior to these changes, we had a strange, I think, situation where our colleges, some of them offering the same programs, did not give the same credit. In other words, you could have a student taking a course in Assiniboine College who would get a credit in Assiniboine College; come down to Red River and be told that that credit was not recognized. So I think we cannot do that to the students of Manitoba where they take the programs and the courses and they are not recognized and given credit.

We are increasing our capacity by about 20 percent just by going to modular instruction, and avoiding duplication. We are going to have a \$100,000 program for retraining existing workers for the new jobs created through the introduction of new technology. That will be a pilot project probably in two critical skills areas that are still to be determined.

We are going to have the use of a \$1.2 million Micro-computer Training Centre at Red River Community College for adults. I think this is a very important area, for the Post Secondary and Adult Education Branch, to recognize three things, Mr. Chairman.

One is the fact that Manitoba has the highest number of immigrant populations in the country. We are almost at the top in terms of our illiteracy rate and we, like all other provinces, have an aging population. The baby boom is soon going to become the senior boom. Recognizing those three things, we will be bringing in new adult literacy programs, Adult ESL programs and programs for senior citizens.



I mention, with this, we are bringing in the satellite centres. We are going to have made-a-student advisors and integration of financial aid, personal counselling and academic support at each of our colleges. We have one at one of the colleges, and we have already demonstrated with that one individual - I'll give the figures later - that the retention rate has increased significantly as a result of that made-a-student advisor, and we are going to expand it to the other two colleges.

We are giving the University of Manitoba \$200,000 and they are going to adopt their undergraduate courses so they can be delivered to Northern and rural areas using distance education. People are going to be able to get degrees off without ever setting foot on campus. We will be developing an international centre to act as a clearing house for highly trained Manitobans who have training skills to offer developing countries. We have become increasingly aware, Mr. Chairman, that Manitoba is recognized as having a highly skilled professional work force in post secondary education, and that where we can offer support and help to developing countries, to their benefit and to the benefit of Manitobans through the buying of equipment and giving access to our professionals, we would like to do that.

There have been significant changes in student aid for the first, I suppose the most important one, for the students, is that we have reduced - and I wish I had a copy here - the application to one that had about eight pages, and was a monumental effort to work your way through, down to two, and we are still getting all the information that we need. We are not putting the students through a very time consuming and very complex student aid application form that is much more complicated and much more time consuming for both the students and my staff and the department to deal with.

We did have a significant increase in the demand for student aid services last year, it was 17 percent, and we are expecting another increase in the area of about 12 percent is anticipated this year. As I said, the services are going to be integrated for students, and each of the community colleges will be combining academic with personal counselling. We are going to be calling on the students in the colleges to take a very active part in working out the implementation of the changes that are coming about in the colleges. The students will have representation on all of the implementation committees and to a very large degree they will be involved in the decisions that are related directly to student services. In other words, we are going to have support centres in all of the colleges and we'll be bringing in all of the support and help to students in the one place. The students are going to be very involved in helping us decide how to set that up.

There is much discussion about the funding level to school divisions, and I suppose that what I would say there is that what we attempted to do this year with the money that was available was that we attempted to meet what were recognized as the major deficiencies in the Education Support Program. We attempted to meet those things that we considered to be the highest need, most deficient, greatest-need areas for students. On the one hand, the greatest deficiency in the Education Support Program, it would be expanding

and increasing the supplemental program. In the highest need area for students, it would be the compensatory programs that we brought in for high-risk disadvantaged students and I suppose the early identification program and the Native ESL Program would be three that I would put in that category of very high need; and we attempted to move in an area where there was a tremendous thrust and give additional support and that is in computer programming, software and hardware.

The public hearings, as a response to the Nicholls Report, there was one held in Winnipeg, and because the response or the requests - I think there were two divisions that requested to come before the Nicholls Report - and because there were only two of them, it was Hanover and I can't remember the other division - they agreed to come into the Winnipeg hearings and make their presentations there. There were 11, I think, presentations at the hearing and overall we received 100 presentations in writing. They will be studying those in the next six weeks or so and I expect to have recommendations from Dr. Nicholls by about the end of June in that report.

We did, with the allocation of the funding this year, try to maintain what we call what the basic elements of the Education Support Program, Mr. Chairman. That is, we maintained the 65-35 split between consolidated revenue and the education support levy. We maintained the very important percentage of direct funding to school divisions, which was about 54.4 percent, which is the amount of money the province puts in directly. We did maintain that, and this year we have no tax increase in the education support levy. My recollection is it was 4.5 last year; 2.5, I think, the first year; and this year we made the decision to make sure that there was no increase in the taxes coming out of the education support levy.

I will give a quick summary on the areas that we chose to provide the increased funding in the Education Support Program with the general, if not the exact dollar, but the general amounts. The compensatory, the 3 percent increase allocation was as follows - and I can even give the member opposite a copy of the paper if he likes - the compensatory program received \$2 million; English as a second language for Natives, \$700,000; heritage language, \$281,000; the rationalization of the funding for the French programs between core immersion and seed comes to about \$1.5 million; the print and non-print is \$1.8 million, and that increase, the communication to boards was that it was our intention that that increase be for computer software, the development or buying of software, recognizing that that was a high-need area. Early identification receives \$250,000; transportation receives \$500,000; the equalization program received about \$3.7 million; and the basic operating unit that board gets received about \$5.5 million.

What we did with the \$16 million is about half of it went in block grant to school divisions to decide on the allocations, and about half of it went in categorical grants for things like compensatory English as a second language, heritage language, and we have maintained the ratio of block to categorical to be about 75-25. In other words, boards get about 75 percent of their funds still through block grant to do with as they wish, and about 25 percent are categorical.

I am pleased to say that as of September, all of our school divisions are going to be using the frame system

of accounting. I mentioned that in the previous Estimates because we have been working towards it for some time, but they now all are on frame and that means as of September we will be able to do a version, I suppose, of the mass cost study that shows where the money is going. It will provide for both better accountability, and better our ability to determine options in the impact on all school divisions because we will be comparing apples to apples and oranges to oranges for the first time. So it's going to be, I think, beneficial to the department in determining their needs and beneficial to the school divisions in terms of providing information. I mentioned that there was no mill rate.

I mentioned the heritage language. What we did there was provide the funding on exactly the same basis as the immersion French and core programs. It's \$100 for core and \$250 for immersion programs. I will be providing information about training and opportunities for retraining for unilingual teachers and our ability to meet our capacity when we get to that point in our Estimates, perhaps during the bureau's announcement.

Our Native Education Branch is going to have a reasonable increase in funding. Certainly I think it's beyond the 3 percent, and we're going to be working on language development, resource materials and teacher professional development in our Native Education Branch.

Our Communications Branch has really been concentrating quite a bit on public involvement and information to the public. Our public involvement seminars were - I think we had two of them - one in Brandon and one in Winnipeg; we had 350-400 people at both of them. The school divisions sent teams so that we had school trustees, superintendents, teachers and parents and they approached it on a team basis. They were very successful and we've had information that suggests there has been more involvement in quite a few school divisions, based on the team approach to working on their school division communication.

We have, I think - and I must say, I'm proud of this - and I wish I could remember; I meant to get the information that said what a best seller was in Canada when you have a book, and there's quite a small number that you need to be on the best seller list - well, we have, I think, a best seller. It's called "Parents' Guide to The Public Schools Act." It's the first attempt - (Interjection) - We've got to wait for that. This is the first attempt to take the laws that are so important to people, related to their child's education, what their responsibilities are and what their rights are. We take about 20 of them and we put them in layman's terms so that the public can usually understand them.

It's been out for three months. The first 12,000 copies are gone and we have requests for 20,000 more, so I don't think there's any question that taking something important like that and putting laws into simple, clearly understood pieces of information is something that is useful and that the public is interested in.

Our Regional Services Branch you probably will be interested in because it's the new branch that was created last year after the removal of the Field Services Branch. I want to say that this branch with, I believe it is about half the staff of the old Field Services Branch, is delivering what I think is some very important support and resources to school divisions. It continues to

administer, the very popular Small Schools Grant which we're maintaining. It is continuing to provide consultants to Northern school divisions for the special problems related to Northern education and it's providing special support and additional support in computer training to hundreds of rural and Northern teachers.

We're providing resources for teachers who are in multigraded, multilevel classrooms. This is an area we have identified as being one of the ones that teachers need the most help in dealing with, because it's not just rural communities, but communities or schools right across the province that are now dealing more and more with multigraded, multilevel classrooms, wherever there's declining enrolment or small numbers, so we're developing curriculum and support that specifically addresses that question.

And we're funding a child abuse co-ordinator for schools and that was announced in a general policy announcement related to the government's thrust in dealing with the whole question of child abuse. The programs are being delivered, I think, through the Attorney-General's office, the Community Services and mine. One of the very important pieces of information is that 80 percent of the cases reported are reported through the public school system and that 85 percent of the children that are being abused are school-aged children. So I think it shows that the role and the part that teachers are now required by law to play, it's very important for them to have support and help to do that.

In Curriculum Development and Implementation, we have shifted the emphasis on development to implementation. We have moved and redistributed resources, money and personnel to that end.

For children with special needs, there are important developments in a number of areas. The Instructional Media Services Branch has now got automated Braille equipment that's allowed us to produce learning materials for blind students. This is an area, Mr. Chairman, where there isn't a lot being done across the country and I'm proud to say that the materials that we're developing are being called on and used by other provinces. I think we're leading the way there.

Manitoba School for the Deaf. The mandate of the school has been broadened to provide community-based support and in diagnosing children with special needs which we're using the School for the Deaf now as a provincial resource, we're making plans to establish a second diagnostic centre in the coming year to 18 months outside of Winnipeg.

I mentioned earlier that we are going to have a program for early identification for children with special needs.

I think that, in terms of capital expenditures, we have \$22.7 million in expenditures related to capital assets for universities and the public school system, with another \$9.4 million providing assistance for university and public school projects through the Manitoba Jobs Fund.

These projects include \$17 million for school division projects, \$4 million in miscellaneous capital grants to universities and \$1.6 million for the Brandon University Building. We're proceeding with the capital projects at all the universities, the Earth Sciences, the Field House and the Brandon Music Building.

We're also making progress in the development of a province-wide capital plan for the public school system



and I think I mentioned before that we were computerizing the age and stage and quality of the schools across the province so that we will know, when that's all on computer file, where the schools are that are in the worst condition, I suppose is the way I'm putting it and, hopefully, this information will help us avoid situations of having schools where their underpinning, perhaps, all of a sudden becomes a problem because they're sinking into the ground, because we'll have information that tell us ahead of time what the problem areas are.

Just in a very quick summary I think it shows that in dealing with the Education Support Program that we took the money that we had and put it in the greatest need. I described what they are before and that we have put additional money into the renewal of our college system to give increased accessibility and to improve our ability to train our students for jobs of the future.

In light of the very significant cutback in federal funding, Mr. Chairman, I think that what we've been able to do with the money we have is an indication of our continued recognition of the importance of the education system to Manitoba.

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

**MR. C. MANNES:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for her opening statement.

First of all, I welcome the opportunity to respond to the Minister. I'm afforded on this occasion, Mr. Chairman, my first opportunity to lead our party through some detailed consideration and review of a government department and I look forward to that.

As we all know, education is the second largest government department and in the light in some people's minds and, I daresay, mine, probably the most important.

Mr. Chairman, the Estimates procedure that our party hopes to follow this particular time around, is one that will hopefully cast some light on some specific areas. The Minister has just gone through a 15-minute dissertation of some of the areas which have received a major focus from her government, areas that obviously have high priority concern to the members opposite. I don't quarrel with those as such, but there will be some other areas that we would like to focus on to some degree through this process.

Mr. Chairman, I suppose most people know my personal views as to the Health system and how important it is, but certainly I don't see where it can be given any higher priority than the Education area. We're all reminded today of the financial plight of our province, both the deficit and, of course, the debts that have been accumulating for many numbers of years. These two factors leave a tremendous challenge to all our adult citizens, those just graduating and those to graduate over the generations to come.

That's why I feel that every decision, every action of this Minister of Education, whatever that may be, must be directed towards quality of education, in dealing with all areas, whether it's teacher legislation, appointed boards or governors to university boards; whether we're dealing with limited finances or new curricula; whether

we're dealing with added streams, whether we're dealing with tuitions and enrolment curtailment or trustees, all those decisions have to be made in light of what the quality of education on average is reaching within our province.

Of course, I think the theme that will come through in my remarks as we begin the estimate process in this department and as we continue for the next number of days will be the quality of course must be maintained throughout. Somebody who wants to find quality, I suppose, is readying the student for opportunities, at least this is my definition - employment, household and however defined - to contribute to society versus readying the student for society. I think there is a subtle difference in that definition.

Mr. Chairman, I do not doubt the Minister and her government's sincerity towards the quality of education. I have no doubt that she feels the word "quality," as defined in our definition, this government has not done nearly enough. Their commitment, although reasonable in dollars - and I'll give the government credit for that - I think is reasonable in dollars, lacks in my view in understanding and in reality and in a strong sense for the future.

Events are unfolding very quickly these days and I sense a department today that has sort of lost sight of the large picture to a large degree and I am very concerned as to the direction it is heading as we move forward. I suppose the first signs that we have that the Minister and her government are out of step is what people really want to see were offered by the Minister herself in her own department survey when she said that she thought that by the results of that survey indicated that 50 to 59 percent of people within this province thought the Department of Education was doing a good job and by her own admission she felt that this number was not high enough.

I can even quote her, as I will a couple of times in my opening remarks, for saying something in the bulletin, "The Manitoban," specifically regarding the importance of education. She says to the question of "If there were additional money available, where would it be prepared to have to go?" and the answer was - the results of the survey listed them in the order of firstly, jobs; second, housing; thirdly, health; fourth, energy; and fifthly, education. I think it should be higher. I don't question that, but I have a feeling that society as a whole is beginning to lose some touch with what education is doing.

Also I referred to a research bulletin put out by the Institute of Social and Economic Research. The attitudes of the Manitoba population toward education in Manitoba, where there are a number of areas, a number of tables quoted under the quality of education and I would point out it's the people who developed the survey's heading - it's not mine - where the results I think were a little staggering, much more so than just interesting, I would say, they're staggering.

The answers to questions such as: "Overall, high school is easier now compared to 10 years ago"; 42 percent of the respondents agreed to that. Similarly, "Discipline is a problem in Manitoba schools"; 71 percent of the people agreed with that. "Generally speaking, high school graduates use English less correctly now compared to 10 years ago"; 67 percent of the respondents agreed with that. "Teachers are less

committed to their jobs now compared to 10 years ago'; some 45 percent of the respondents agreed to that statement. "Overall, the quality of education in Manitoba schools is improving"; not even 50 percent agreed with that statement, roughly 50 percent.

So the only conclusion I'm trying to draw at this time is that there are people who are very concerned about the quality of education and I say that has to be, in spite of all the areas, and I know many of them find themselves in the purview of the Minister of Education, it's a massive department. But obviously that has to be the most major consideration in dealing with every and any topic of the day around any decision.

Well, Mr. Chairman, today I wouldn't say that we have a crisis in education, but citizens are becoming of course restless in what they see occurring within the whole area of education. My concerns are rather than reaching out to people and to parents, I guess those that are discontent in attempting to address the problems real and perceived, this Minister will of course, or appears to us at least, that she will only seek the views of the professional educators in this province, that she will spend millions of dollars if necessary to give parents or citizens more information on supposedly what a good job her department is doing. Again, I'm not going to make light of the fact that it's not an easy department to administer.

It's massive in size but I'm a little concerned and I know my party is also with the attitude of the Minister that maybe obviously we're doing a good job and it's just that people don't recognize it. Well, I can't accept that, Mr. Chairman. People inside the department lead me to believe that the Minister has very few new ideas in dealing with education today. There are no major thrusts in the area of dealing with quality of education and I don't want to belittle many of the attempts to reach out to certain disadvantaged groups within our society - and I give the Minister credit within that area - but still the major overall picture of quality, I think, still demands some major concentration and I believe it's lacking at this time.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the area of Finance, of course, I was a little disappointed I suppose that the Minister in her opening remarks didn't give us an opportunity to hear some of her feelings as to what was coming in the area of educational finance. We, of course, are well aware that Dr. Nicholls has been working for some time in the area of developing a new program, but I think the government's time is running out as to how long they can continue to push off this whole area of financial review.

Of course, we're well aware that there's another area that ties in very closely with this and that is the new assessment rules that may or may not be forthcoming from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. But people who are paying property taxes and who are locked in a situation that spell of total inequality are not going to wait for a long period of time, and again I can't help but stress that fact that it comes as some disappointment that the Minister, particularly in her opening statement, had nothing new to offer within that whole area of where we're going as far as our province supporting education. Maybe as we move into the detail area the Minister may have more to offer at that time. But I must say that property owners within this province aren't going to be prepared to sit back for a long period

of time or a much longer period of time while this government tries to determine which the best course of action is to follow.

Mr. Chairman, we are well aware of the government's January announcement, that education support levy would not increase, it remains at I believe 43.7 mills on farm and residential and some 81.7 on other properties. I suppose that was welcomed news in these difficult times that property taxes, specifically related to those areas, are not increased. Of course, we paid credit to the government at that time when that announcement was made. We say how could government realistically be expected to increase property taxes when they had done so by the tune of some \$37.4 million in 1982 and another \$29 million in 1983, some 12 mills in total in the former year and 9 mills in the year previous to this. Of course, our Member for St. Norbert has on many occasions addressed this particular concern and the overriding concern within our party, Mr. Chairman, and I would daresay within a large cross-section of the Manitoba population again remains in the assessment area in the lack of action that this government sees fit to direct towards that major inequity.

I want to be mildly critical of the Minister at this time in the sense that I don't see where her department is pushing this Minister of Municipal Affairs. We on this side and large numbers of citizens of this province for some time have been told that it's one area's concern, that we have to wait for this area, and then we're played off against that area. I don't think we can wait much longer. I would appeal to the Minister of Education to begin to pressure her colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to move quickly in this area.

Mr. Chairman, there are many areas of the Nicholls Report that I think we would like to move into with some detail, and I would hope early on in the discussion the Minister might tell us to what degree we will be able to discuss portions of the Nicholls Report.

Mr. Chairman, I think the final comment I may make within this financial area is that I am sure that the Minister really enjoyed this year when she announced that levy, the education support levy, was not going to increase; that for once she probably didn't have a backlash of ratepayers and trustees coming to her and complaining. I suppose the only point I would make, other than that, is that obviously the Minister then can realize what an impact inflation has on all our departments, and how much easier it is to administer departments and how much easier it is to probably bring in greater equalities amongst those disadvantaged. You are not having to deal with inflation amongst the whole broad spectrum of spending.

I only point this out so that when she listens to her Minister of Finance talk about some of the broader issues of economics of the day and when she hears him sort of spout views that would probably be more supportive of measures that would bring about inflation, that maybe she would tell him how much more and how much easier it is to deal with spending when there is not an inflationary factor to consider. I only use that, not for levity, Mr. Chairman, because I am very serious in that particular area, but I think that the Minister knows exactly of what I am speaking.

The area of special grants, Mr. Chairman, continues to be a major concern with us. We will spend

considerable time trying to again determine the criteria associated with many of the compensatory grants in all the special grant areas, and I would dare say that we will be spending a fair amount of time in the area of support for independent schools.

I feel badly again that the Minister felt that she did not have to make an announcement in introducing these Estimates as to the amount of support that would be forthcoming to independent schools. Obviously, she will save that for probably Section No. 3.

So, Mr. Chairman, I guess I would want to go on the record saying that it's very incumbent at this time, at least from our view, that the government pay heed to the demands coming forward from the private and parochial schools during these days when I think parents are becoming more aware of what's happening within the public school system. I think they want to be able to provide for themselves some safety measure whereby, if they are not happy with some of the curricula being offered in public schools whatever that may be, that they still will have the right to have their own schools, and funded to a fair degree by the Province of Manitoba. Later on, we'll show in considerable detail that this province really, within the context of the nation, is probably offering the least support. There is no "probably" about it. It is offering the least support of any provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman, again, I look forward to a major dialogue with the Minister within that whole area, and I know the Member for Elmwood will probably want to become involved in the issue also.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Not to speak of the Member for Lakeside.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Oh, I apologize, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lakeside too.

The final comment as far as the area of support to independent schools, Mr. Chairman, again, I found it odd that Dr. Nicholls in his report offered no formula or no percentage of public spending per student that could be applied to private schools. I can see the political reason for him maybe not wanting to do so but, nevertheless, I think it's a whole area that isn't going to be allowed to be kept under a blanket much longer.

Mr. Chairman, the program, Development and Support Services Area, is one where we will have a number of questions. The Minister indicated in her opening remarks that the emphasis and the thrust within that area now would be shifting from program development to program implementation. Of course, we will be interested in questioning the Minister on all areas of curriculum, and I would dare say fairly specifically in the area of the new health curriculum. We have had many many questions proposed to us on this side, and let us be quite clear, Mr. Chairman, that our concerns certainly are not specifically related to the optional family life area. Certainly we have some questions there, but there are other areas within the required six basic units that also will require some questioning. So we will be posing some very specific questions through that section.

I think that the thrust will be that we will be challenging the Minister through the development of any curriculum

that purports to, of course, carry biological health to mental and emotional health. We have a feeling today that within the biological health area, we have no major concerns, but we see this major stride by the department to move into this whole new area of dealing with students' minds. Of course, we all believe that a healthy body and a healthy mind and a healthy person and, I suppose, vice versa, one could say are the same.

I think we're prepared at this time to discuss this whole area fairly openly. A few parents that I know are prepared to abdicate totally their responsibility of teaching their children society's norms in all areas to the public school system, and if that system is not going to tell children what is proper behavior in the way we live together as a group of people, I suppose where we have some of our strongest concern is where the attempt is being made by some of the curriculum at least to move into an area where values are not included at all.

I don't want to make it a major area of concern of this at this time, but I have to take some exception to the Minister's remarks because it seems to me that's what permeates or - pardon me - totally umbrellas her whole attitude towards the public school system when she says, April 11th in *The Manitoban* - we're talking about the liberal arts, but I think this is her attitude specifically maybe in all areas of education, she says: "Yes, I do first of all see a role for any kind of education at any time of your life, so I don't have a perspective about what is good learning or what is bad learning and what is useful or not useful."

Mr. Chairman, there are some of us that can't accept that. I suppose, as parents, if we are going to be sending children to school who are going to be presented with guidelines and rules that are going to try and direct them to the proper decision, we feel that that leaves too much to doubt and a time has come where there are values that should be brought forward into a curriculum that attempts to again make one have a healthier mind.

Sir, we're concerned about some of the changes. I don't say, we're concerned but we'll be asking some specific questions regarding the change in the English Program and some of the attempts to combine some of the high school courses. Of course that smacks to us unless the Minister can tell us differently of some watering-down, particularly in those schools that probably do not have the opportunity to offer both existing extremes. We want to know specifically what's in the department's mind as we consider the English curriculum.

The whole post-secondary, adult and continuing education area, Mr. Chairman, is one that also brings forward some concerns. In terms of financing and restructuring, of course, and course limitation and semi-political interference by this government, an area of appointment of political people to boards; it probably comes as no secret the situation at the University of Brandon has grieved us for a long period of time. It's our intention to pose some very direct questions to the Minister regarding her responsibility as far as removing appointees from the community, the Brandon University community. It is a contention of ours that this government is leaving the whole situation at Brandon and trying to say that it has nothing to do with this government. I, Mr. Chairman, honestly don't believe

that. We will be posing some direct questions in that area.

Universities, in general - it is my contention that the government is leaving the administration of universities swinging a little too freely when she says on one hand, she'll increase their budget by 3 percent; on the other hand says, now you work within that limit. I know times are difficult and I know universities treasure very much their autonomy. But I think it has become the time where the government has to become a little bit involved as far as trying to work together with universities to try and decide where the resources can be best spent because in all honesty I think we want to make it easier for everybody who's in this area planning and taking these scarce resources and directing them to where they can do the best.

In closing in the university area, Mr. Chairman, I think we have been very impressed by the fact that university students have been prepared to accept increases in tuitions of 9.7 percent for the year coming and I suppose a little disillusioned at the Faculty Association at the universities for not consenting to reviewing their demands. Of course we realize this somewhat outside the responsibility of the Minister, but nevertheless, we're all in this problem together and we all have to work together towards finding the better and the best solution.

The community colleges - we'll spend a considerable amount of time in that area, Mr. Chairman, as the Minister did in introducing her Estimates. This is probably the major thrust area I can see within her whole department, the restructuring of community colleges so that they may be able to offer to our students those courses which may be and which are the most important and which provide the greatest opportunity for employment in years to come. We've had some distressing news from the colleges which would tend to conflict with some of the comments made earlier by the Minister whereby staff and students have not been involved, have not been asked to be involved, in the process of rationalizing and altering the offerings of the community colleges.

As a matter of fact, I have a number of letters that have been addressed to me saying things exactly opposite to what the Minister indicated in her opening remarks. There's no doubt that students graduating from public schools today have a very uncertain future and one holding area obviously does become the secondary educational institutions within our province. I was happy to receive some research work done by the Department of Education, the new planning and research branch, one of the studies done on the intentions of Grade 12 students. It is pointed out and I quote, "approximately 70 percent students responding indicated that they were considering going on to some form of post-secondary education in the fall of 1984."

Mr. Chairman, those are large staggering numbers and there's no doubt that the Minister in this department and the government has to have in place the best possible learning institution and courses of education to offer to this very large number of students.

Mr. Chairman, we will be asking some specific questions regarding new legislation. Of course, we are very dismayed on this side that the Minister saw fit to proclaim Section 92.6 of Bill 77. It smacks to us of a situation whereby the Minister felt that she had no

alternative but to support the position of the Manitoba Teachers' Society. On many occasions we've asked her to tell us specifically how the quality of education would be enhanced by that particular proclamation. On almost every occasion, she has declined to give us answer. Maybe this time around the Minister may consent to do so.

Mr. Chairman, these are basically the ends of my remarks. I thank the Minister again for her opening statement. In just reviewing my notes, she has spelled out some of the changes within the areas of curricular development and where the emphasis has gone in funding in this particular year. She again lays on the record that part of our problem is the changes in the Federal Government cutbacks to supporting education. Again we point out to people who may be listening for the first time, these are dollars that were never had. These were expected dollars and I think that it's incumbent upon the Minister and indeed all of us that we never count anything from a higher body of administration until we receive it. Of course, these dollars had never been received. Maybe the Minister will tell us exactly how much more money in actual dollars is being received in 1984 compared to 1983?

Mr. Chairman, this basically ends my opening remarks, but lest somebody construes my remarks to mean that I am more concerned about finance and some of the grittier issues than education, I want to put those to rest immediately. I am a very strong supporter of our public school system and its future vitality, probably more importantly than that, the measure of the quality of education it'll afford to not only my children, but all the children of the province. Probably when one tries to define education - I was looking for some quotes - and I'll lend my portion at this time by quoting something that Sidney Smith said. He said, "The real object of education is to give children resources that will endure as long as life endures, habits that time will ameliorate, not destroy, occupations that will render sickness tolerable, solitude pleasant, age venerable, life more dignified and useful, and death less terrible."

I look forward to the Estimates procedure, and I'm sure over the next number of days the Minister and I will get to know each other even better.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(b). The Minister may bring in her staff.

Madam Minister.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I wondered if, Mr. Chairman, and the member opposite would allow me - I had one point I wanted to make in my opening remarks and neglected to, and since I've announced it today I would just like to touch on it, and that is that we've made a decision; school boards have been telling us for years that one of their problems is having to pay interest costs because of the slow payment of the money that they get from the department, and we've all recognized that as a concern, and to that end, I've announced that beginning next January the government's going to provide approximately \$76 million in grant advances to school boards.

At present, they receive about 40 percent of their estimated support in April, four months into their fiscal

year. Under the new system, they'll receive 10 percent of their total estimated operating support in January and similar amounts in other months while schools are operating. What this means is that we're going to spend, I think, it costs the government about \$750,000 to give this early pay out to school divisions and it will give them an additional access to \$2 million in their budgets that they can apply to programs instead of applying to interest rates, and we would all rather have the money spent on programs for children than interest rates. I think they will see that as an important move and a recognition of a point they've been making through resolution for years.

I thank you for letting me add that to my statement.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, just a short reply, Mr. Chairman. That's a most welcome announcement, and I know that school boards within the province will welcome it also.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 1.(b) Executive Support - the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a few remarks here because this is the central portion of the Estimates. I intend to make remarks as we go along, particularly as we get well into the Estimates. I want to discuss the general thrust of the department with the Minister. I think there's going to be two major debates, as I see it - I'm sure everyone has their own priorities, but I note two areas where I think there's going to be some differences of opinion, and I also would hope some discussion, and that is one on what I would consider to be the overemphasis on French as a second language in our school system and on the question of immersion. Secondly, obviously, a fundamental difference of opinion on the question of aid to private and parochial schools.

I don't know where the Minister is going to stand, but I can see that the Conservative Party, given the questions that are being put and the stance of the Member for Morris, and probably the Member for Roblin-Russell and others, that there's going to be some support and pressure brought to bear by the official opposition on the government to increase funding. I will be one of those who will not support that thrust, and it'll be very interesting indeed to see what the position of the Minister and her colleagues are in view of the fact that for some 50 years the New Democratic Party has not been in favour of public aid to private and parochial schools, more on that later.

We await the Minister's announcement. I have an uneasy feeling that she's going to add 10 percent or something this year. She did that a year ago and it wasn't appreciated at that time in some quarters of the public and in the New Democratic Party in particular, but we'll see what she has to say when she says it.

Mr. Chairman, I'm concerned about some of the thrusts that are going on in the public school system. I want to just focus briefly on the Kindergarten to Grade 12 portion and hold the universities until later, but to simply say at this time, as an initial statement, that I think there is an overemphasis in this province on students learning French as a second language. I note that we're getting all kinds of programs in our schools

at this time of French immersion kindergarten. We're getting summer schools, we're getting French immersion day care centres. I suppose it isn't too far from now when we'll have French being taught to children in the hospitals the moment they are being born. This is something I think that has to be thought through very carefully.

I have a concern that with all this emphasis, that other subjects are suffering in comparison, that at least in relative terms the amount of emphasis placed on the English language, which can never be too great, is wanting, that the amount of emphasis on history, which seems to be an ever-declining area of interest and of subject in the high schools, is declining, that even though there is quite an emphasis on computer sciences and certain other subjects that nevertheless when the history books are written in the field of education, it will be said that this was the period of great interest in French.

I have a feeling, Mr. Chairman, that this will prove to be a fad, it will prove to be a trend which will run its course. We have seen all too often trends, and fads, and fancies, and fantasies in education. Every couple of years there's something new and everyone gets on the bandwagon and pushes it, and then a few years later, we all wonder how on earth this began. I have been in the profession myself and those who read the literature and go to the conferences and listen to the speakers, and so on, know that every few years there's something new, something different. So, there's nothing new in that.

I hear horror stories that I want to discuss with the Minister, and one of them, of course, is the fact that a lot of teachers who have a great deal of ability are finding it difficult to find employment in the school system, people who are academically qualified and experienced and are finding it difficult because of the fact that in some instances they are not bilingual, and that is the dimension that I want to discuss with the Minister.

I was talking to someone the other day and I want to try to track this further, but I understand that some school trustees do not want to hire any new teachers unless they are bilingual, regardless of what openings there are in the division or in the schools at that particular point of time, so that even if there are no openings, the policy is becoming, or people are beginning to think about hiring only people who are bilingual, because of the day in the future when everybody from birth, womb to tomb, is bilingual in Canada. Well, that day, of course, will never come, because it isn't practical, but nevertheless, that's the direction in which we're moving, putting everybody, regardless of inclination, regardless of employment opportunities or prospects, regardless of need, regardless of cost, everybody is stampeding into this particular program.

I also would like to discuss with the Minister, and this is something where she is more learned than I am, but I am told by people in the profession that the grant structures are geared to encourage divisions to hire bilingual teachers as opposed to unilingual teachers. So, I'd like to know a lot more about that. That is what is told to me by people who are in the public school system.

It would also be interesting to know more about the guidance and counselling that is being offered to

students in terms of courses that they select and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I think I could almost summarize my concern by saying that I heard an interesting program on the CBC a couple of days ago. I guess it was last week, probably on Friday morning. A student from Sacre-Coeur who was quoted as saying that she had been through the program, had been out a number of years and had almost entirely forgotten her French. She did not find much use for it in the world around her or in the high school she now attended. But she said, in spite of that, in spite of the fact that I've lost almost everything that I learned or a lot of it, let's say, she said, I think that in terms of my parents, it was the best decision they had ever done. Well, among many other things, her English grammar isn't very good and that I think can symbolize what one of my concerns is that, namely, are we turning out people who are literate and articulate in the French language at the expense of other subjects and other priorities? So I'm saying to the Minister, perhaps this is a time for re-examination.

I'm also concerned, like I think everybody in the Chamber, with the fact that the public school system is under attack from forces in our society. Declining enrolment, which is one that concerns us all, and as a result of that the loss of neighbourhood schools which is ever continuing, chronic, a very serious problem. At the same time we're in a bad economic period and a lot of people are staying in school maybe longer than necessary, maybe as an alternative to employment and I note what was said by the Minister and the Member for Morris, something about 70 percent are going to continue, and I find this happening every day.

University students, instead of going to work, are going back to school. It's very interesting to have people with PhDs driving cabs, but it's a case of overkill and over qualification, and I'm concerned about people who go and take their Masters and then take their PhD and then may wind up being told that the people who do the hiring don't want someone with that advanced education, can't afford them, don't need their qualifications and so on.

I think a question there to the Minister might be are we over educating some of our students? There was a concern years ago that people weren't staying in school long enough. We were worried about the age of leaving, whether it should be 15 or 16 or whatever it is at present, now for some students I guess it's probably 26, because they're getting all those post graduate degrees and then they're going to presumably take a second PhD, like Mark MacGuigan, who is so educated and so intelligent that he's totally ineffective and unrealistic and a bad example of somebody who has too many qualifications.

**A MEMBER:** Would you vote for him, Russ?

**MR. R. DOERN:** No, I certainly wouldn't, not if he was the only candidate.

Mr. Chairman, what I hope to do and there are many other members I know who want to participate in the debate on this department which I think is "the department," in many ways, I hope to reawaken in the Minister some of the dangers, both internal and

external, to the public school system and I don't want her to become defensive. I don't want her to simply defend. She is not the defender of the faith. Madame Sauvé, I believe is that and Her Majesty, but I don't want her to simply come in here and, with every criticism, every suggestion offered to her, defend the status quo. I would like her not only now in debate but in the future, in particular, to re-examine and rethink and reassess some of her programs, including some of the ones that I have just mentioned.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Without going into a lot of defensive response to the points made by the Member for Elmwood, because I think the details will come up at the various categories when we'll get into in-depth discussion, I would just like to say that I think that we will. I welcome the discussion that he wants to have on curriculum and on programs and that the points that he wants to make about what he considers to be an over emphasis and I think his description was sort of bandwagon, because I think we can demonstrate - and I don't do it defensively, but to provide facts - that Manitoba has been one of the provinces in the country that has the least tendency to jump on the bandwagon, and that we can demonstrate I think the maintenance of what we would call basic programs and important programs like the English programs. We can demonstrate that other programs or any expansions have not been done at the expense I think of the existing basic programs, but I think I will leave those points to come up at the appropriate time through curriculum.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott:** Mr. Manness.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, before we begin in detail, I would ask if the Minister or her staff could provide some basic parameters. Firstly, I spent a fair time on the Department of Education Annual Report and it does a fair job in providing an awful lot of material. I refer to Page 103, Table 9, Student Enrolment by Grades over the last number of years, and I'd like to get a feel for where we're going.

I'm wondering if the Minister could share with me her department's latest projections for enrolment for 1985, 1990 and the year 2000. Also I'd like to ask for the pupil-teacher ratios for 1970 - what existed in 1970, 1975, 1980 - and whether there are any projections associated with those ratios for, let's say, 1985 to 1990.

I'd also like a projection of university enrolment and also of community college enrolment for the years, let's say, 1985 to 1990. I'm wondering if the Minister could begin this process by providing those types of statistics.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I'm quite happy to get into the details of the statistics that the member asked for. I didn't expect them to come up under, I suppose, 16.1 or in these early stages, and what I might do now is indicate sort of general trends and if he wants the specific statistics - do we have them here with us? No, we don't have them here with us, so I think I would take as notice that he wants to get into detailed discussion about enrolment projections at all levels and we're quite happy to do that. We just didn't expect it to come up this afternoon.

Basically I think that we do know that we have pretty well come through the decline, and that is in the public



school system. The decline is declining. We are bottoming out, if you want, and reaching a stable population that actually, if my recollection is true, starts to increase through the late 1980s, and there is some decline in the high schools. So in terms of the public school system, it's generally stable and holding its own; some increase later on in the decade with some decline in the high school system, but I think we'll have to wait until we have the specifics to give him exact numbers.

**MR. C. MANNES:** My intent was not to move into a long discussion and figures, it was just to try and gain some feel as to what the department has to work with and the overall consideration of education as we move forward and if she could share those figures with me in a very general nature. It's not my intent, like I say, to move into them, it's just to have the same background of information that she and her department have.

Specifically under 1.(b), Mr. Chairman, I noticed there have been some different type of breakout this year compared to last. I'm wondering if the Minister would like to tell me why there has been a change in the format under this heading of Administration and Finance. I'll leave it at that at this point.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, there are a number of changes in the categorization of information, I suppose, and they basically are the following: we have taken Financial Services and Administrative Services which was one unit before under Finance and Administration and we have broken them into two separate units and that was, I think, mainly for the purpose of showing more clearly those things that were related particularly to finance and those that were related to administrative costs; that the Computer Services was called previously Management Information Services, it is exactly the same function and we're now calling it Computer Services, so I suppose that's a title change; we took the Teacher Certification out and put it into 16(2), because we felt that it was an operational support to school divisions and could more appropriately be described there. I believe that those are the major changes.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Could the Minister indicate what portion of the schematic hierarchy as shown, I believe it's in Roman Numeral, Page 4 of the Annual Report, is covered by the executive support. As she makes reference to those positions, could she tell me specifically what individuals are heading up the various branches?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think we would have the information today on whose heading up the branches. If the member has selected a section from the Annual Report and wants to relate it to figures under certain categories in this section, we don't have that figure handy, we'll have to get that for him, if we understand that question properly.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, no, it's not my desire to know that much detail. I'm just curious as we see Executive Support, that's the classification in which we're discussing at this time and I'm just curious as to what individuals are covered under that.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I'm sorry, I didn't quite hear. I thought he referred to something in the Annual Report and was relating it to that.

This department is the staffing that is in my office and the office of the Deputy-Minister, the Executive Support is those two. Is that the question? There's no change in staffing in that department.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I see where the Salaries component is dropped some 3.7 percent and this seems to be a general throughout many of the areas. Is there some general consideration that the Minister would like to share with us at this time as to why that's happening, given that the staff complement is the same, or are there specific reasons under every classification that salaries have dropped.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, I appreciate the question by the member, because frequently I think we will show where there is a major reason, a unique reason, we will show that reason for either staff increases or decreases. In this case, it's what we're calling a cost adjustment and that will be the case for reductions in a number of our departments and the cost adjustment includes reclassifications, merit increments and personnel turnover. So what that means is that we'll have some changes in the various departments where we reclassify an existing position and it may be reclassified down.

Another cost adjustment that would impact on that figure would be the fact that we have 26 pay periods and last year we had 27 pay periods.

So, it's a variety of factors like that and no big sort of unique factor that we can pull out and say that we've reduced staff or something along that line.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, I'm well aware of the discussion surrounding the 27th pay period from last year. Certainly, I don't have to discuss that area in any great detail, but are there or were there any merit increases through the department at all offered coming into the 1984 year?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, there would have been regular pay increases for staff, but no merit increases.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Deputy Minister in the Annual Report indicated that the organizational changes evident in 1982 have been consolidated. Were there any significant changes whatsoever throughout the department in 1983?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think that we will identify the major change. There are such a large number of departments and sections that we will identify the major change as we get to each department if there is any change at all. The two that come to mind immediately, of course, would be in colleges where there have been announced major change in structure, organization and program. There has not been what you would classify as a major change as there was last year with the removal of Field Services Branch, although there have been some changes in functions and activities in the various branches.

One that would come to mind that we'll be getting into the detail of would be teacher certification, where the branch is there, some of the functions and activities they were undertaking have been withdrawn or moved over to another more appropriate branch. So there would be changes like that, but nothing of the scale that we had last year.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Pass.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(2)—pass.  
1.(c)(1) - Mr. Manness.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Maybe we could begin by asking the Minister again to give us the rationale as to why this particular branch was brought under Finance and Administration rather than being left in its own area as it was last year?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, there was a very definite reason for the change and I think it indicates what we have been stating about the changing role and function of the Research Branch in the department from one where it tended to just evaluate existing programs or examine some of the existing programs and provide information on their value to becoming an integral part of the planning system of the Department of Education and all of its branches. So it is at the centre, I think. It plays a very important role, not just in a very narrow research and planning role where it does a certain number of studies, but the information it generates and its capacity to generate information helps the branches and the department, and in fact the public school system determine its programs and the value of its programs. So I think it's showing that increased role and increased emphasis.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Can the Minister indicate what main areas of research are being conducted at this time. She may want to make reference to the Annual Report, it may be in there, I don't know. I couldn't find it but, if not, maybe she could disclose them to me at this time.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll just touch on what I consider the major accomplishment or activities of the grant.

First of all, it's related to planning and the point that I just made. They have initiated and helped develop and are working with the other departments to implement a planning process for the department. That's very important because I think the Member for Morris made the point himself in a certain way when he was making his points about the importance of planning, of knowing what it is you're going to do, and the ability to plan and get information.

We've completed two major studies, the public attitudes, teacher attitudes survey, which we have talked about before in which he referred to in his speech. We have several smaller studies related to access in post secondary education, and the intentions of Grade 12 students that he referred to before. We're currently completing two major studies on Curriculum Implementation Special Needs Program Review, and I expect those reports will be ready this summer. We

have provided an analyzed data and policy in areas that were important to us such as Native education, heritage language and enrolments. We've produced literature reviews on Vocational Education Training Programs, small schools and compensatory education, and I might talk about that function.

One of the things we have decided in the Research Branch is that we do not need to always do our own research; that it's very important that we search out the existing literature where we have policies or programs that we're looking at, so that we're the beneficiaries of work that is already done and do not unnecessarily duplicate. So that's why you will find us talking about literature reviews on major issues. We made a presentation on computerized data at the MAST Convention which the trustees are increasingly turning to the Department of Research I think to get information that we have on computer that helps them determine their needs, such as the needs for the Compensatory Program where they do not have the computerized data themselves. So this is a case where we have data systems that will help them make decisions on their own programming. So that's also a major activity. We're working with the school divisions to develop the common computerized data handling for budgets, enrolments and school management. I think that probably is a fair beginning of major activities.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly do not argue for the need of a planning and research group, however, I'm a little curious as to how many of the reports that have been completed have been made public. I've received one, and I made reference to it earlier. I may have received more, I don't know. It's the only one I could lay my hands on.

My question, are all the reports that are prepared by the department in a research capacity available? And, most specifically, the Minister has made reference a number of times, on a number of different platforms, to the Public Attitude Survey that was completed. Is that a public report? If it is, can I have a copy of that, please?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** First of all, to the specific question about the public attitudes, I have made reference to that report in a couple of speeches, the MAST, and the MTS annual meetings and conventions. I gave most of the information, have already given most of it publicly, but I will have that ready I think, if it isn't here with me right now, I'll have it tonight or tomorrow, so I'm quite prepared to make the information available. All those mentioned are public, so if the member opposite accepts the public attitudes and teacher attitudes, which I will have available for him tomorrow, but all of the other ones that I mentioned, other than those that are in process that I expect to have completed this summer, are public documents.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister then indicate that a conscious decision has been made by her department, that every study that is entered into by this branch is a public study and, as such, can be attained by any person of the public?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't make a blanket categorical statement like that because it depends on the purpose of the study and the use.



In some cases some of the studies and the materials, or the statistics that are prepared, are done for internal use for us to make decisions about our program and our funding. I wouldn't see either the value or, you know, of releasing some of that material. Some of the things that we prepare would be at school division request, for instance, where a school division needs information to deal with an issue and we wouldn't necessarily release everything. In some cases there have been things we've dealt with that have been co-operative programs between a community and a school, and what has developed would be for their information.

So I think that we can make a general statement that in most cases the studies and the information that are developed by the Research Branch are certainly available and will be made available to the public, but not necessarily every piece of statistic or document that they prepare.

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I can accept in part the Minister's answer. Certainly I can see situations where an agreement has been entered into by the department and the Minister with a school division, school board, an attempt to try to uncover or find selected information. I can accept maintaining the confidentiality of that type of analysis. However, I suppose my more specific concern is the background information that is used for the development of criteria that go into determining who will be eligible for grants, the whole myriad of grants that this government has seen fit to administer.

More importantly, if one looks at Dr. Nicholls Report and assumes that that may become the framework for financing and bringing greater equity into the system, that grants will have a larger role to play. And, of course, determining who will receive those grants requires criteria; of course, to build criteria you need analysis and research. Will all that be made available in a public fashion?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, it might be. It's a little difficult to know exactly what the Member for Morris is getting at. Like, if he could give an example of something that he believes there should be some background information on that isn't being made available, I'd be happy to hear it.

In terms of the point he's making about the information for grants, the fact is that most of that information on determining grants does not come from the Research and Planning Branch, although they may take a look at some of the information that comes out, that it comes from the Administration and Finance Branch that has the accounting system, the frame system and the computer system with the data on it related to all grants that we give.

When we are making decisions about increasing or decreasing grants - we hardly ever decrease because once you've given a grant that's a pretty hard thing to do - but increasing grants or bringing in new grants, it's really a matter of their determining through very complex formulas what the school divisions are getting, and what they need through their existing budgets, and

through the identification by us of provincial priorities I suppose that are ones that we want to meet as a Minister of Education and a government so that we would make grant changes based on very direct specific information about funding formulas that exist to the school divisions and then try to do what we would call "filling in the holes" in what are high education, high priority needs.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, again I can accept most of what the Minister says. My concern is that whoever is in the department develops the criteria for administering, particularly, grants, and I'm well aware that, as the minister has just indicated, certainly that's not in the total purview of the Planning and Research Branch, but if they are involved to any degree in developing and helping develop criteria, and if the public is going to develop confidence in the Research Branch, such that the research that it undertakes will be valuable to everybody, then there has to be a belief that whatever it does, has to be basically public, because I would say that governments are just too prepared and people in power are just too prepared at times to release the good news and at times not to release the findings, maybe, of the poorer news. That's why I ask specifically to this branch whether all their reports and all the findings of their work will be made public, notwithstanding the fact that situations where there's an agreement between the department and an individual school division, that the results of any research should be maintained in confidence. That's my purpose for bringing it forward and I guess I twigged upon it because I haven't had an opportunity to see the other published reports.

I then would ask the Minister, do I leave it to herself and the government to release these reports, or do I continue to ask for them as I feel they may be completed?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, no, we will make an effort to get all of the reports that have been released and are public available to you, and I think that a reasonable point was just made perhaps, when he suggested, "Do I have to ask?"

The fact is, if they are going to be made public and you are the education critic, you should be automatically getting them, so I will direct that that happens so it doesn't require somebody to remember that you should be on all lists for receiving documents that we send out to the public.

When we get into the Education Support Program, where we're talking about allocation of funds and grant criteria, we will be quite happy to discuss the details of the criteria, for instance, in the two probably major areas, which are Compensatory Programs and Early Identification.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, that answer satisfies me. I suppose I want to see maintained some degree of purity regarding this branch also, so that there can be some common trust directed toward it.

Is this branch at all involved to any degree in the development of a new educational finance formula?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Very, very minimally, Mr. Chairman, if at all. The major thrust in activity would

be coming through the Financing Administration Branch under Dr. Nicholls, Finance Branch.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** I would ask then if this branch is involved in the support of curriculum development in any way, particularly, I suppose computer education? I was reviewing the estimates of last year and in reading through them, it appeared that it was involved in some curriculum developments, specifically in that area. If that's the case, I would ask if it's involved in curriculum development in any other area?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think I would describe their activity in curriculum development to be more of an indirect role than a direct role. Probably the main activity they would undertake is in the form of program evaluations. I think it is quite possible that where we have programs in place, that they might carry out a direction or a responsibility to provide information on the programs that exist and one of the examples would be one of the major studies that I mentioned in the review, the overview of their activities, and that was the Special Needs Program Review.

We know that we have a lot of money in that area, about \$35 million, now. We have not, since it was designed, really been able to, or received any information that tells how it is being used and to what degree of success. A fair amount of it is up to school divisions to decide how to institute programs. However, if we're going to look at continued funding; and this is where you may get the relationship of the funding decisions or grant category decisions, with some involvement of the Research Branch, I could see that for instance, before we make information about putting additional money into that program it's very important that we have some information that tells us how it's being used and how successfully. So to that end, I can see the Research Branch being specifically directed, providing us with useful information that would help us look at our programs and perhaps determine our funding levels to some degree.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly, I suppose, can accept that also, but then taken back to my earlier question, will this Research Branch make available the evaluation it does on a favored government program, because obviously the Government of the Day, particularly in areas in which the Minister has made reference, that's a political decision to move into those areas of support. I have no concern with that. My concern is that if there's an in-house evaluation done, within the Planning and Research Branch, that the results of that be made available, not only to the government, but to those of us in opposition.

Is that the intent of which the Minister speaks when she said earlier that, "More reports will be made public?"

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I was responding to our general trust and my general intention, that to this point all of the reports have been made public that I had mentioned previously, and I also said that I couldn't, say ahead of time, make an arbitrary definite statement that everything that was ever done or studied or every statistic would be publicly

released, because I'd have to review the purpose that it was done for.

What I could say related to this, the special needs as an example, is that I would certainly want to, and be prepared, I think, in general to provide information that we find about the special needs programs in the Province of Manitoba, and to publicly talk about any major deficiencies or problems that we identified through that study. What I would probably be reluctant to do; and I'm just speaking about this one off the top of my head, because I haven't yet seen the information and determined how we would handle it, I would be reluctant to pinpoint or provide information that may talk about specific children or a very specific program in isolation, because I'm not sure that in terms of public interest that that would be useful. What's important is that we know how the money is being used, how successfully and what if any deficiencies or problems are resulting from both the programs and the funding levels.

In fact, I could see wanting to share that information, because, if we were going to make changes in the funding or additions in the funding based on that information, we would certainly want to use the survey and the statistical information that we got it from to support what had been done.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** The Minister is hedging somewhat now and I certainly can see the department and the government wanting to use the results of any such research, of course, to allow the creation for a program that would attempt to resolve the problems. I suppose my concern would be whether the Minister would release a report saying that the program in effect had been adopted by that very program, had been a dismal failure. I don't want to belabour this point. I just again want to maintain some degree of confidence within the Planning and Research Branch, and if it finds itself in the position of doing research and trying to reach conclusions, that, of course, can be acted upon politically, that's all fine. All I ask is that everybody have access to the same information.

Last year, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated the most pressing areas of development in this area would be the development and implementation of an internal-planning process, and I think she's made reference to that. Secondly, the assessment of the data needs of the department and commencement of a co-operative effort by all branches toward an integrated data base system. How are we proceeding along those courses? Are those functions just about completed at this time?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I just want to, while neither one of us wants to belabour it, I just want to make one final point on the release of information. Where we look at our programs and study them and we have deficiencies and problems, I am quite prepared, I don't intend to be nor want to be a good-news Minister. I think it's important that we recognize deficiencies. In fact, I've been talking about both issues. I've recognized the major benefits and the major advances and the major deficiencies in our programs, both in the department and the public school system since I took office, so if we get information that shows a program isn't doing

what we want it to do, I will say that when I talk about what we need to be doing.

I think both of those major things are largely completed. The planning process we've spent quite a bit of time on, and there was a reason for that. We found that our branches in the Department of Education, through no fault of their own, because they were operating the way they were set up to operate, were really operating in total isolation of each other, and, that is, that they did not share information, they didn't know what information the various departments had.

We found some amazing things when we brought them together where they've learned that some of the other branches and departments had information that would be very useful to them in providing their programs, they didn't even know the information was being gathered. I would say that we have had our top administrators meeting on a very regular base identifying a planning process that integrates all of the planning for the department, so that they all know what's happening throughout the department. The data base, I think that it will be implemented in this coming year through the Management Information Services. In other words, our data, our information, and our capacity should be ready to go for full implementation this year.

I think by September, we thought that we would have the necessary information on computer to provide a total examination of funding; in fact, the alternative to the cost study, the MAST cost study, that we would have the data required to produce that information for school boards in September.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** . . . (inaudible) . . . pass.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister, what is involved specifically in this area?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think that this is the branch that is involved with the management of our personnel. In other words, all of the things related to the hiring and the payroll of people on staff is done through this branch. They act in a support capacity to the department management and to employees of the department. They would have a very large involvement, for instance, in the removal of the Field Services Branch last year and the changing in the organization because it involves individuals on payroll and people who are members of staff, and, therefore, they would work very closely with them on an individual basis in our working-out of the transition process for the Field Services Branch. Also, they would then once again be involved in the changes that are being made in PACE this year in the reorganization and redeployment of positions. That would be a large part of their function advertising in determining the criteria and qualifications needed for the various sections and branches of the department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass,  
1.(e)(1) Financial Services, Salaries - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister, when I asked her to review the different format this year may have specifically made reference to this already. I would

ask her again to repeat whatever she may have said specifically to Financial Services and tell us whether this was formerly under the larger grouping of general administration as shown the year previous?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it previously was combined in Finance and Administrative Services, and is separated into two separate sections, one Finance and one Administration. So, this is the one dealing just with Financial Services under Administration and Finance.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.  
1.(f)(1) Computer Services - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNESS:** Mr. Chairman, in addressing some of the questions we have in this area - I will use as a reference the Annual Report, Page 47 - I first of all, I suppose, question why there was a change in name. The Minister may want to give me the answer to that at some point in one of the questions. I'm wondering if the Minister could also indicate whether the department has its own hardware, in the sense that it has its own computer, or whether it use a government computer, I'm just curious for the sake of information.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, to the name change, I suppose we could have left it as Management Information Services since almost all of the activities that it deals with are dealing with the data collection and computer programming requirements of the entire department, that the Computer Services is just a very simple description of the actual functions of the branch.

In terms of the hardware, we have some of the hardware ourselves, some of the equipment, and have been, I must say, attempting to improve our capacity to deliver through our own equipment and some of it is rented.

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

**MR. R. BANMAN:** I wonder if I could ask the Minister, since we are talking about computers - I wonder if she could inform the committee - the department, I understand, was paying for a number of programs several years ago dealing with a company called Cybershare I have noticed that some of the school divisions through either regional schools or other facilities were employing the services of that particular company to do their own computer work.

I guess my question is two-fold: 1. was there a grant supplied for that type of computer work and, 2. are there capital grants being supplied right now to school divisions who wish to get into the computer field and run their own computers?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, we can try to deal with some of their questions and if the member wants more specific information on Cybershare, we'll try to get it for him.

In general, for Cybershare, it was a contract that we had with that firm to deliver a network of computer programs to school divisions. I'm trying to recall the number of divisions, and so I turn to my staff —

(Interjection) — 28 receiving service under Cybershare. We started looking at this program two years ago, and we had identified a number of - I don't know if deficiencies is the right word - but things we would like to improve in terms of services.

One, there were not enough school divisions in the province accessing and using the computer program through Cybershare, so that about half the school divisions in the province were attaching themselves to this network in what you might call special program; and secondly, it was a reasonably expensive way of delivering computer programming, not to all the school divisions which most of our programs tend to do. I mean when we're giving grants, we want them to be available to all the school divisions.

We served notice - and by serving notice I mean to both school divisions and Cybershare - that we would be changing our delivery and our support to school divisions and we indicated to them that we were doing it in the coming year. In other words, I think we gave them - and I turn to staff again - I think we started talking about this two years ago and have actually given almost two years advanced notice that we would be turning over the program not to these outside agencies.

We will be delivering an expanded program to take its place that I will just touch on the details now and there will be an announcement coming I think in the very near future, probably within a couple of weeks, but there will be a co-operative program between the Department of Education and the Department of Industry and Technology. We will be providing help and support to all school divisions in the province in the development of software, the evaluation of hardware, encouraging the development of Manitoba-designed software and professional development programs for teachers. So I think what we're going to have is a more efficient, less costly program that is available to all school divisions in the province. I guess what I'm saying is while that is going, the Cybershare, that there is going to be a replacement for the resource to school divisions.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Mr. Chairman, well, if we are replacing the one, I guess my question would be then who is going to be supplying the hardware? How is that going to be handled for this new program?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think at this point with the question being raised that all I can indicate that, yes, it is true that Cybershare is going out. We're withdrawing our contract with them, that there will be resource and support to school divisions, and that the details of that support will be made within I think about a two-week period.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to make an observation and I guess I'll be watching this. A number of years ago there was a company called Cybershare which was owned by the people of Manitoba. That company had signed an agreement with the Department of Education, which was I think helping that company survive.

My concern in this particular instance, since the company has grown in Manitoba, has provided jobs

in Manitoba and has basically served Manitobans well - I relay this to the Minister - is that I would not want to see her starting up another agency within government or using the Manitoba Data Services or something like that, a Crown agency, to supply something which the private sector has been supplying over the last number of years.

So that's my interest in the matter and if there is a possibility with regard to hardware, of using some existing facilities, using some Manitoba companies, as the Cybershare is, then I would urge the Minister to do that rather than setting up her own hardware system within the department or within the government.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I suppose the general response, it's important to say that school divisions are not precluded from continuing to use Cybershare or to network or to attach to them for computer programming. What will change is the department was funding that 100 percent and when the Member for Morris previously made a point about being concerned about special grants, I think this is the kind of thing we have to look at carefully, where we had a special grant to the tune of \$230,000 being made available to a small number of school divisions in the province without all the school divisions in the province having access to that network and that resource. I think what we're going to be doing is opening up the access to school divisions across the province.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** One more question: is the Minister saying that there will be no special grants for computers, in other words, if she will be establishing a new program? Is she saying to us that that program will be available if the school divisions want to use it, but there won't be an incentive to use one particular program? That's what I'm after. In other words, are you going to be coming on with a program saying that if you use this and this and this type of a method recommended by the department, then you're going to receive some funds either for capital or for operating, or if you continue on your current path, then you won't get anything? That's my concern.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, I understand the question now that the member is raising. First of all, there is a grant and I indicated it in the disbursement of the 3 percent increase and it's called print and non-print and it's \$1,847,000.00. That's a \$10 increase in the print per pupil grant, and when I increased that grant I indicated to school divisions that its purpose was to give them additional money for the buying and development of computer software, and it is up to them to decide what to buy. In other words, we will not be telling them how they have to spend their money, but we will be providing information to them about evaluation of hardware. In other words, there will be a resource through the department that helps develop software - because we can't leave it all up to school divisions to develop software - helps evaluate hardware because one of the problems we found is that a number of them may be buying quite a variety of hardware and then get a terrible shock down the road when they find that none of the software that's available fits what they have bought. So it is important that they have

information about the variety of kinds of software - Apple, Orange, whatever they're called - and they then will at least make their decision based on the best information the department has to provide for them. In terms of the spending of the additional money they're getting in print and non-print, it's up to them to decide what to do with the money, where to buy.

**MR. C. MANNES:** I have a few more questions in this area, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that under the existing situation that not all school divisions had an opportunity to access the outside private contract and, if not, why not?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, that's what I'm saying. I'm saying that only 26 school divisions were using or were tapping in. I will turn to staff to get some additional information. There might have been a variety of reasons. One is that they may not have all had computer programs because I think divisions have been at various stage of developing, and some were very early on developing computer programs, and some of them are doing it later. So they may just not have taken advantage of the program that was there, but what ended up happening is that we had a system that was providing a service to a small number of school divisions and it was quite costly, and that we believe that we can provide better services and support to all the school divisions in the province with the new thrust of support coming from the department.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Obviously, Mr. Chairman, this department has done a cost analysis to determine if all the divisions use the department's limited hardware - and I would take it in time expanded hardware facilities - and also made use of the software programs that will be probably written for them, that there will be quite a cost saving across the board, a cost saving that will be reflected to whom I do not know, the department or to the school divisions or both. I imagine the basic assumption is that there will be a saving if all the divisions are prepared to gravitate toward this new proposed department system, and these are my thoughts capturing the situation as I understand it.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, my feeling is that when the information is announced with the details of the resource and the support that will be available to school divisions, they will be very pleased with the combined approach that is dealing with the development of software, the evaluation of hardware and support for professional development programs, the training of teachers. So I think it will be an improvement, and I think it will be seen as an improvement to the province.

**MR. C. MANNES:** The Minister talks about professional development as far as, I suppose, teachers learning - and I'm a little vague on this - specifically computer skills. Is that what the Minister is telling me, that it will be a teaching device as such?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, when you're dealing with a new technology as education must be ahead of the game both in using and teaching, what

we have to do is develop the programs for teaching in the schools, and prepare the teachers, many of whom went through teacher training programs when there were no computer courses provided.

So that our thrust is twofold, I think, in the preparation of teachers. One is to have the programs put in place for those that are being trained now but, more importantly, it's to upgrade the sort of 12,000 or whatever proportion of those teachers so that they know how to deal with and they know how to teach about computers. We have teachers that have taught for a long time, many of whom are now expected to not only understand, know how to use but know how to teach about computers in the schools. They literally need training programs to teach them: (1) how to do it; and (2) how to teach it.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Will the Minister indicate where we will be able to, starting this year and years to come, trace the expenditures by this department on hardware and software, whereabouts within the Estimates? Is there a separate line for them somewhere further down in the capital area?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, this will come through a number of the branches, and I may not be able to remember them all, but certainly some of it will show up in the Educational Support Program under 16(3). Some of it will show up in the Department of Education budget when you're looking at a department like Management Information Services that has computer capability that is used by the department and the colleges, for instance. Some of it will show up through the skills growth, because we have used quite a bit of the skills growth money in the colleges and the universities for the expansion and development of computer programs, and the acquisition of microcomputers and computers.

So I can't give, you know, a total answer right now, because the computer program, computer equipment and computer support will show up in a number of areas.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I can't accept that. I can accept the operating costs and the time used by branches certainly being allocated back to every branch. But the specific cost of the hardware, that's a capital asset. It is something that can apply to the department as a whole. How can we trace the cost to the taxpayer of this province if there isn't a single line talking specifically about the hardware of the department?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, when we are on the different lines, we certainly can give that information. When we are on Capital Acquisition, we will be able to give you down to the penny the amount of money that is being spent on acquiring computer equipment.

**MR. C. MANNES:** There was a "Recoverable from Canada" portion. I'm wondering if there has always been this item. Is it something new? What is the reason for this? It's within the Estimates. I hadn't noticed it last year under the same area, and I'm wondering if this is a new grant program offered by Ottawa.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, that is a recovery from Canada, just under \$300,000 that is collected by

the college system. It's cost-sharing with the Federal Government with community colleges.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(f)(1) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Mr. Chairman, I just have a question on the computers. Did I understand the Minister to say that she will be announcing grants for computers in the divisions for hardware?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I already have announced that, Mr. Chairman, when I announced the allocation of funds for this year for the increased money that was going into the Educational Support Program. Print and non-print category went up \$10 per pupil. It was an increase of \$1.8 million to the school divisions, and the indication to them was that particular grant was increased for the purpose of helping them to buy and develop computer software.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** I did understand that there was that grant, but there was nothing at all for hardware. Is that correct?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, that's correct.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass.  
1.(g)(1) Communications - the Member for Morris.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if I might ask the Minister before we move into this area what particular time might be the best to address some specific questions, specifically regarding some of the recommendations that have come forward from the Nicholls Report.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** While I'm not particularly hung up on where we deal with things, I would suggest 16(3).

**MR. C. MANNES:** Could the Minister tell me how many staff-years there are now and the number of positions that are included under this section, (g)?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, the same number as there was last year, seven.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Last year the Minister said that of those seven, two were administrative secretaries, two were information writers, and two were vacant. Has the Minister finally found a job description to place on those two vacant positions, and could she tell me specifically what job descriptions those positions have been given?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, what I will do is go through the seven positions and indicate the major functions and activities of each of those positions. There are, of the seven, two secretarial staff. One of the positions deals with the Education Manitoba, and we have made some major changes that I can talk about in the information that has been provided through this document.

We have one person who I think was in the same position even before we took office. That staff person

deals with the internal newsletter that goes into all departments and, something that doesn't make a lot of sense but has been there a long time, the teacher exchange program has always been - I know, he's frowning and so was I - but this person has always been in the Communications Branch, is now and was when they were in government.

We took one staff person who was the communications person in Student Aid, the information officer and the communications person in our Student Aid Branch, and simply moved him bag and baggage over to this Communications Branch, because a large and a very important amount of communication that goes out to students is related to student aid. We simply wanted to consolidate all of the main communication functions. One of them is a clerk, and the other is the director who carries major responsibility for overseeing the entire department; those are the seven.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, either I wasn't listening too closely or otherwise I was obscured with my colleagues coming in, but I still don't have a clear feeling as to the filling of the two vacant positions that were indicated last year. The Minister says that one of the two information writers that were indicated as being there last year is involved in preparing the Education in Manitoba bulletin. I would then ask whether this department is totally in charge then and preparing all the press releases of the Minister, totally involved in preparing all the new service items that come out, and again maybe she can tell me what those vacant positions that were found to be in existence last year, whether they specifically have been filled, or whether there's been a removing around already within that department?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think that out of the two positions that one was the one that was filled by the person that came from Student Aid. In other words, there was a vacant position; we had a communications person in Student Aid doing a communications job. We moved that person over and filled the vacant position, and that the other one was the media clerk.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Can the Minister tell me the function of a media clerk?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, this situation was much like the other one. There was a person that existed but they were under John Dyck's department, under administration. It was a media clerk whose job it was to review information, review newspapers, and prepare a file, a newsclipping service. It's a half-time position that was being filled in the Administration Branch where we simply moved them over like we did Student Services, and that person's major job is clipping service and preparation in gathering of information that is being disseminated through newspapers, newsletters.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Is it also the primary role of this person, this media clerk, to prepare the Minister for questioning period in the House on a daily basis?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Chairman.



**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I almost have the feeling that after some period of time and some hard hard thought processes by the department they are finally able to find two job descriptions that they could move into these vacant positions. As my now Leader, and the former Education critic had to say last year within the Estimates process, it became very obvious that the government was seeking adoption of spending Estimates for particularly two positions that they really didn't know at that time for what use they would have for those particular positions. It seems to me, in light of the answer given by the Minister today, that finally they found the department has fallen upon some solution when one ties it into the Minister's statement on many other occasions where she indicates that she is of the opinion that we are not doing - being we, the collective government - their job necessary to convince parents and trustees and ordinary citizens that the Department of Education is doing its job, but then almost forces one to come to the conclusion that this very area is going to be used to do just that, to try to more fully enlighten the average citizen to the great increases that they, first of all, the government has directed they say to education. Secondly, they're outreaching for the supposedly disadvantaged to a larger extent, and also their maintenance of quality of education. I'm wondering if the Minister would care to comment on my comments, or whether she would have to accept what say.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** I'm not sure what the comments led up to, I'm not sure what the question was. Since you mentioned the point about public knowledge, then I might just make a couple of points there.

We have I think in this department made a major thrust in a top priority, both public involvement and public information, and that we can demonstrate that in a number of ways. One of them is that we put on the first ever the first two public involvement workshops where the Department of Education put on a workshop where the purpose of it was to talk about the involvement of the parents in the education system and how to do it, how it works, and how to improve the information they got and their access to it. The Parent Guide to The Public Schools Act, I think that I described before, is a clear example.

The guidelines that we put out for school closure where this department played a role in getting information out to the public on what those guidelines were clearly give parents both a right and an active participation in the process that determines whether or not a school will be closed. The Education in Manitoba, the magazine, I think the changes in it are considerable because they are just full of both policy and program and issues information that goes out to 17,000 educators and educational institutions in the province. Had we wanted to sort of beef up by taking empty positions - there were some references to empty positions now - I think that by taking people that existed in other departments and filling positions in Communications Branch that we were clearly doing what we said we would do, and that is that we wouldn't put people in there unless there was something for them to do. We didn't just want to add to the Communications Branch; otherwise, we could have left

the Student Aid Information Officer in Student Aid and filled the position, in addition, in Communications. So I think we've been very selective in making sure that we were not just adding staff to this branch, but that we were just adding people that were going to provide an improved communication system, particularly to the public.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, I would specifically ask the Minister then what directions she's giving her Communications Branch to attempt to wrestle with the concerns that she has so publicly stated, and they were twofold basically: one, that only 60 percent of Manitobans thought that we were doing a good job in educating students.

Our other concern is espoused in "The Manitoban," where she was concerned that the rank position people have selected for education, should there be additional funding, was fifth or sixth. I'm wondering what plans she has to use this Communications Branch to arrest those terrible problems, at least in her consideration.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, while I did indicate a concern for those percentages, I think that it wouldn't be fair to say that the entire responsibility for the percentage increase of supporter confidence in public education can be laid at the lap of the Communication Branch. Clearly, they have a responsibility and a role to play in providing better information to the public. I don't think there was any attempt previously - and I say this in all honesty - by the previous government there was no role, no function and no involvement by the Communications Branch in communicating with the public. It was all internal sort of communication and there was very little attention played to the public involvement or the involvement of the community, so that we started two years ago, even before we knew the results of that Public Attitude Survey, in identifying as a top priority for the Department of Education and the Communications Branch, reaching out to the public and providing them with more information. We have done it. I mean we can demonstrate that we have developed things that don't address all of the problems but address some of them - through the public involvement workshops, through the school closure guidelines, through the Parent Guide to The Public Schools Act - and I think it's also important not to overreact to the figures.

While I have said to trustees and teachers and everybody that I talk to that I don't think those percentages are high enough and that we have to do a better job - all of us - of communicating better with parents, we have to remember, too, that when you ask people how they feel about their school, in surveys done if you ask a general question about how do you feel about education, they will rate it much lower than they will if you ask a specific question, how do you rate your child's education in your school, so that they will often feel better about their child's school and have sort of general negative feelings about education.

I think it's important to say too and I don't say this just to get off the hook - I could read you a statement that would have been made by the people 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago, about the education system and it would have sounded exactly like the statements that



are being made today. In other words, while we have to concern ourselves about it, there was always a lot of interest, a lot of concern, and the adults of our generation tend to say the education is never as good as it was when they were in school and we were going to hell in a bread basket, you know. So I think that's the general comment of most of the times, but it doesn't mean that we shouldn't pay attention to it and try to do a better job.

**MR. C. MANNES:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I find the comments of the Minister a little confusing to say the least. Certainly, I am personally not overly concerned with a 60 percent rating of the public and I don't lay any of the blame on the Communications Branch like the Minister does. My question is, is the figure 60, once it becomes 80, is that the be all and the end all?

It seems - and the Minister herself was the one that's brought this subject up on a couple of occasions - to me that if the Minister received the statistical support that said that 90 percent of the people were happy with the level of education within the province, then she'd feel her job was done.

Well I tend to look at it from, I suppose, a little different perspective than that, and that's why I'm so concerned about how she'll be using this animal of the Communications Branch to her own end, firstly; and secondly, maybe the people are genuinely concerned with the quality of education, and giving them all the more information in the world won't increase the 55 or 59 percent, which I think the Minister is concerned about. It won't increase that figure one small degree at all, and that really possibly that Manitobans are well aware of the state of the situation and they're trying to tell the Minister that they have some genuine concerns, like they've had for 30, 40, 50 years, grant it. They do have some genuine concerns and they're expecting herself today, and our government that's coming in the near future, to do a better job.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, when I indicated some degree of concern over the percentages, I don't think I said it was a crisis; I don't think I said it was an alarming situation. I said I thought the numbers should be better. I said that I thought that receiving the information, I simply said I believe that I thought this was an important message for all of us. Not a critical message, just an important piece of information to both teacher and trustees, and the Department of Education, because while 59 percent, or the 60 percent may not be alarming I would think we would be not carrying out our responsibility if we didn't listen to messages like that from the public and say that we should work toward increasing that percentage, because the more they know what's going on in education and the more confidence there is in the public education system, then the more support there is going to be for our education programs at a time when resources are tight and some decisions have to be made on where the allocation of new resources will go. We do, some of it, it will make a difference.

The Member for Morris says, will it make any difference if you give them all the information in the

world? Will that have any effect? I think it will. Because I think one of the things that has happened, and it happens to everybody, is that they don't always know what's going on even in their own schools.

One of the questions asked them was if they were aware of any special needs programming, or any programs in their school for special needs or handicapped children? It was something, I'm trying to remember the percentage, and I don't have it here in front of me so I'm guessing, but it was a very large percentage of the respondents said they did not know.

We put \$34 million a year into the Special Needs Program, and almost every school in the province has some program for handicapped or special needs students. Now I believe that knowing that information, that there are programs, that there is money, might have an effect on their feelings about the ability of the school division to cope with special needs children. I think there would be a general public awareness that there is an increasing number of special needs handicapped children. Yet there is not apparently a corresponding understanding that we have moved both your government and mine, because I want to give you the Brownie points on this one that you brought in the special needs program. You know to what advantage is that \$34 million being spent? The advantage is, of course, the programs for the children, but if the public doesn't know it, then they don't have confidence that we're dealing with that issue.

There's one other major area that I'd like to touch on, because there's been a lot of discussion about the basics and I want to relate it to what was under way in the States where there was a major examination of the education system and a lot of pronouncements about its demise and what a terrible state it was in, and all the steps that they were taking to correct it.

There is a perception in that we have to counteract with information, both teachers, trustees, and my department, that whatever is the situation in the United States is the same here in Canada. If they're going to hell in a bread basket that so must we be, that whatever changes they made, we must have followed because surely we jumped on all of their band wagons. That's not true. When we get to curriculum and basics, which is an important issue of interest to the public, I think we have to do a better job of communicating the level to which we stayed with basic programs and did not move into those band wagon, sort of fad things, so that our public does not fall into the trap of believing that we have the same issues or problems as they do there. That's a clear case where I think the Department of Education, and the Communication Branch, and trustees, and teachers, can do a better job of improving the confidence in the public education system by explaining what we're doing in Manitoba, not having them scared to death about what's happening in Calgary and the United States.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please.

The hour is 5:30. I'm leaving the Chair and will return tonight at 8:00 p.m.