

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 22 July, 1986.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: Committee, please come to order. We are on Page 50, Resolution 46, Item 1.(b) - the Member for Ste. Rose du Lac.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: There was a survey taken, I understand, by the department probably about two years ago. "Public Attitudes to Education," was the survey. Is the Minister familiar with that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I know that we had a freewheeling discussion somewhat earlier this afternoon, however, the area where the question of planning and research comes up would be under Appropriation 1.(c). So if we could just proceed in perhaps some order this evening, I would get to that question; perhaps the member could raise it at that time.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: It was related to some of the questions that you were answering, that's why I brought it up at this point. That's okay with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, as the Minister points out, we had a rather freewheeling general discussion - certain philosophical base, etc. I think we should try and obey the rules. Rule 64(2) says that questions should be relatively specific to the item at hand.

We are presently dealing with 1.(b); if there are no questions on 1.(b)—pass?

HON. J. STORIE: I can answer that question generally but we can . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c) is the next item up.
The Member for Fort Garry.

HON. J. STORIE: What are we on - still 1.(b)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b).

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister explain what is included in this Executive Support and why there was an increase in the salary allotment?

HON. J. STORIE: The salary cost adjustment was basically related to normal merit and salary increases. That accounts for the \$11.5 thousand increase. There are nine staff attached to the Minister's and Deputy Minister's offices.

MR. C. BIRT: I take it that this is the support staff for the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's offices?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister nods in the affirmative.

MR. C. BIRT: Could then the Minister just break it down, is it secretary, executive assistant; could he give me that breakdown please?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, in my office there are a special and executive assistant, and Minister's secretary and two secretaries. In the Deputy Minister's office there is an executive assistant, an administrative secretary, and a secretary. That would give us a total of nine.

MR. C. BIRT: Could you tell me who the special assistant is, and the executive assistant is, to the Minister, and who the executive assistant is to the Deputy?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, my executive assistant is Mr. Chris Galay; the special assistant is Lynne Toupin. The Deputy Minister's executive assistant is Irene Young.

MR. C. BIRT: Is the executive assistant to the Deputy like a political executive assistant, or is that a Civil Service position filled by a civil servant?

HON. J. STORIE: That's a Civil Service position, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: 1.(b)—pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass.
1.(c) — perhaps at this point, I'll recognize the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: My question actually was along the philosophical lines, as you indicated the discussion was earlier. In the survey that I referred to, I understand, I'm told by my colleagues that the vast majority of the respondents did not feel that more money would improve the quality of education, and if additional funds became available to the government that education would come somewhere about fifth or sixth in their list of priorities.

If those are correct assumptions, how has the government decided, or how has the department decided to deal with those conclusions? Do you accept the fact that more funding will improve the quality of education?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, appreciating that this poll, the results were conducted before my tenure, I'm not as familiar with the results as perhaps I should be. Staff indicate that along with the question about whether they would support additional funding for education, there was an additional question which said that if there was some way to assure that the quality of education would improve with additional spending, would it be supported.

In those cases, the vast majority said yes, they felt that it would be worthwhile, which raises an interesting

question about them and one that I'm sure has been raised in the member's mind, as well members of the public's mind about whether the additional money that is being spent is actually increasing the quality.

I think it's safe to assume that the quality of education has improved over the past years and decades. It's also true that it's taking an increasing amount of money to sustain the system and there are a number of reasons for that as well.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Are the increasing costs that the department is faced with, would you say then that they are mainly to sustain the system or are they, in your opinion, improving the system?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I don't know that I would want to make that final determination with respect to every school division. Clearly, there are school divisions who have, for whatever reasons, rearranged their priorities, attempted to make the educational system more accountable and more effective in certain school divisions who have made changes within their own systems to accommodate that. Others who have been less aggressive or perhaps more satisfied with their system have simply increased according to the needs of the current system. So it varies very much between divisions. It depends on how the trustees, the elected officials, the administration view the current system, basically whether it's adequate or lacking in some respect.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Well, I guess this does get into the area of the variance of funding between various school divisions and I would ask whether or not this is an area that you wish to discuss under Planning and Research.

Other than this survey, are there other figures to show - or any surveys that have been done - the relative effectiveness of various jurisdictions, various divisions across the province?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm not aware of any major survey that has been undertaken. There has been no major survey undertaken by the department with respect to the public's attitude toward education. However, I believe the member has access, or I will certainly get the member a copy of some work that has been done by Research and Planning with respect to a survey of graduates of post-secondary institutions in Manitoba, part of a larger study that was done by Statistics Canada, which shows that our community colleges in particular are doing an exceptional job amongst community colleges across Canada.

But in respect to the public school system, there is less firm data and I guess other than comments one hears from time to time from the system itself and from the university system, very little concrete data.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: I would defer further questions if this is not the correct area to raise these questions. I'm thinking in terms of the ability of divisions to pay and combined with their ability to provide quality education. I really wonder if the department has done anything in the last year or two to determine whether or not there is a level of funding that is practical across

the province for funding of school divisions in various jurisdictions or . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I could suggest to the member, it would seem probably that this would be most appropriate under 3., which is Financial Support - Public Schools.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Well, I'm talking also curriculum, however. I can defer the question till later if you wish, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, if the Minister wants to respond to you now? If you want to get into it, it seems more appropriate under 3., but I think that would be between the committee member and the Minister.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: If I could just clarify that a little bit, I'm trying to determine also what other areas this branch gets into.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Research and Planning?

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Yes.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, Research and Planning, basically its activities are assumed by its name. It's involved in preparing data base material for various branches within the department, for analysis on funding questions, on assessment questions, on other issues that are raised from time to time within the department.

I could go through and list some of the accomplishments as seen by the division. I think it would be equally possible for the member to refer to the annual report of the department for some of the major accomplishments, but the branch is involved in essentially tasks as assigned in terms of determining specific statistics on any aspect of the educational system, whether it's graduates or other aspects.

MR. C. BIRT: In the preamble on Item No. 1, it says, ". . . and provides strategic and operational planning and policy support for the department." Does all of the strategic and operational planning and policy support flow out of Research and Planning for the entire department?

HON. J. STORIE: No, I don't think that would be accurate. Essentially, the Research and Planning prepares the data base for any particular problem that the department wishes to address. So if we wished to address the question of assessment of science curriculum, Research and Planning would then be responsible for pulling together the background information, any available data that comes by way of assessment activities within the department, compare it with interprovincial statistics or whatever. That would go again to the relevant branch where senior management and senior personnel across the department would be involved in developing additional policies based on information obtained.

MR. C. BIRT: Then does each other division or department have its own sort of policy research area that creates the policy?

HON. J. STORIE: In essence, what you have is a team of people in the department, senior management, who interact very closely in developing policy. Whether you're talking about the Curriculum Branch or Child Care and Development, the information base would come from Research and Planning. Any additional questions related to or flowing from the management, the executive if you will, discussions would be reviewed by Research and Planning and reported back to be a part of, or a form, of foundation for any policy issues.

MR. C. BIRT: Would it be fair to say then that all legislation would flow through this office, then to the Deputy Minister's office?

HON. J. STORIE: Not legislation, no. Perhaps, however, if we were talking about new legislation which we were developing and we were assumably basing it, or there was a necessity to base it on some statistical research data, then obviously that branch would be involved; but in essence, they act as a backup to the policy makers in each of the branches and the executive of senior management and the Minister to act as an assist.

MR. C. BIRT: You used the word "data base." Then is this like a resource library of information then to the other departments? Is that my understanding?

HON. J. STORIE: Could I just provide an example? The department, or the Research and Planning Branch, was asked to prepare some information for myself and the previous Minister on the status of immigrant professionals. The question was: are we moving quickly enough to make sure that professionals who come here from other parts of the world have their credentials verified, etc.? Are there professionals out there who could be working in our system or professionals who could be working in other professional capacities in the province who are being left, in a sense, in limbo?

So what we want then is a data base. We want to know how many people may or may not be affected, how many people there are in the province. That kind of information is invaluable in forming policy.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm trying to determine the dimensions of the department in the sense that if I wanted to know about how you're trying to establish the high school review or this quality of education, would this be the area in which we would be asking those specific questions or would that fall into other areas? Because I don't see any other Research and Planning area in the department.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I think we're talking about the review, at least in its initial phase, is going to be much more broadly based than a statistical review of what's going on in the province. However, I would certainly see Research and Planning being involved in reviewing what's going on in other provinces, in pulling together information, for example, on career patterns into the 21st Century being used as a gatherer of information and providing the first level of analysis in support of the work that the committee will be doing, or in the work that individual branches are doing.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister provided me with a couple of copies of some research done, I presume, by the

same department, one relating to grad survey, and one for universities, and one for trade and vocational.

Is this the type of research document that is produced by the department on an annual basis?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that particular piece of research came about as a result of some data sharing between Stats Canada and the province. There is no set agenda, if you will, for Research and Planning. They respond very much to the interests and the needs of the branches, the Minister of the government.

MR. C. BIRT: So there are no, sort of annual surveys or research documents that they produce on a regular basis; it's just information as requested?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct. I would assume, and I think the member has alluded to this in his question, that much of the activity of Research and Planning over the next 12 to 18 months will, in fact, focus on the questions that are being raised by the High School Review in particular.

MR. C. BIRT: Then does it flow back into here, or do we ask those questions later on in the Estimates? We want to get specifics. If it's sort of an ancillary aspect to the larger issue, then we'll deal with those issues in a more appropriate spot. That's what I'm really trying to get at.

HON. J. STORIE: Given that essentially we would be dealing with hypotheticals in terms of their involvement in any case, we could perhaps deal with the fundamental question of the review at a later date.

MR. C. BIRT: I had asked at the beginning of this afternoon's deliberation that the Minister give me some information about the allocation and review of, I think, it's called the Canadian Jobs Strategy Plan, does that fall into this area or is that another separate area again?

HON. J. STORIE: It would normally fall under the post-secondary and adult continuing education.

MR. C. BIRT: I'll deal with it then because I want to get into a series of questions on it.

HON. J. STORIE: That's fine. Don't forget that one.

MR. C. BIRT: Can the Minister tell me how many staff man years are involved in this department?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are 11 staff years involved in this appropriation.

MR. C. BIRT: Are there any vacancies or are they all filled?

HON. J. STORIE: At the present time, there are no vacancies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: Is this the department where future curriculum planning is done by?

HON. J. STORIE: Curriculum Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(b).

MR. L. DERKACH: Does this department have anything to do in terms of the research that goes into the implementation or the bringing about of new curriculum in the future?

HON. J. STORIE: Not normally, Mr. Chairperson. Two years ago, apparently, the branch did a review of curriculum implementation, an evaluation, but they are not involved per se in the development process.

MR. L. DERKACH: Does this department gather information on things like provincial testing, the results of provincial testing? Do they compile that kind of information and make that available to the department?

HON. J. STORIE: The answer is no. Generally, those questions would be better asked under 16(4); 16(4) is Curriculum Assessment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's no 16(4). It's 4.(b) - the Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: My question is: is there any connection between this department and the Curriculum Development Department in terms of, do they provide that area with any research?

HON. J. STORIE: As I indicated before, the Planning and Research Branch provides support to the various branches, so there would be some data collection and some again first-level analysis. But the branches themselves establish the policy and set the direction, if you will.

MR. L. DERKACH: For example, the pre-kindergarten testing that has gone on throughout the province, has this department done anything in assessing the value of that kind of testing throughout the province for pre-kindergarten children?

HON. J. STORIE: I presume the member's referring to the Early Identification Program which some divisions operate.

MR. L. DERKACH: Yes, that's part of it.

HON. J. STORIE: The Research and Planning have not been involved in that recently, although there was some early involvement, I understand, several years ago in some of the preparatory work.

MR. L. DERKACH: So the parameters of this department have changed then in the last year. Is that what you're saying?

HON. J. STORIE: I think the explanation is that this branch, in essence, does the groundwork for many other departments. Once we're into the implementation phase, it's back to the department for implementation. So while the branch was involved at some point in designing the assessment tools that were perhaps used

in the Early Identification Program, it is implemented and its development has since become a part of Child Care and Development.

MR. L. DERKACH: Then in the area where the Department of Education has decided to now undertake the building of day care facilities and add them to the schools and sort of encompass that in the Department of Education's parameters, did the research for that take place in this department?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Then can the Minister tell me where specifically the planning and research for that concept came from?

HON. J. STORIE: The assessment of the needs comes from the Department of Community Services and Corrections. They establish the necessity. There has to be obviously a core group, an interest group interested in proceeding. It then falls to the school division to become interested, indicate their willingness to become involved, but I'm not sure in what area you would see Research and Planning be involved. They certainly haven't been to date.

MR. L. DERKACH: At the present time, as I understand it, the capital funding for nursery and day care facilities comes out of the Department of Education. It's funded directly by the Department of Education. My question is: was Research and Planning involved in the development of this concept, whereby the Department of Education would undertake the responsibility of funding the capital portion of nursery and day care facilities?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson. It's a small point, but the funding for the additional capital dollars for the day cares which are attached to schools comes from the Public Schools Finance Board, who does the assessment of the building and provides the capital for construction.

But again, I indicate that the needs assessment, a decision to provide spaces comes from Community Services. That is essentially where the impetus arose, and the needs and the assessment will and has been done and will be done by the Department of Community Services. They're the ones who allocate day care spaces, not the Department of Education.

MR. L. DERKACH: Well, then, can I ask the Minister to give us some further elaboration as to what the 11 staff years do in terms of their parameters?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I indicated that there are eight professional staff, three support staff. Part of their mandate would be to coordinate departmental planning, as I've indicated and we've discussed some options; environmental scanning session for directors in the department; in other words, identifying potential issues; identifying areas that are in need of research evaluation; developing proposals again; flushing out proposals, if you will, from senior staff in other branches; working with other branches; developing policy

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statements, for example, the one on AIDS; conducting training sessions on graphics production, word processing, communication skills, those kinds of things; developing a data base - again, I've mentioned this as an important activity of the department - data base dealing with educational funding, enrolment, staffing, teacher mobility, all kinds of demographics, part of which may be used by the department, information which is often requested from us by teachers, school divisions.

They're responsible as well for reviewing, assessing the technology that's used within the department, the appropriateness thereof; developing informational bulletins for school divisions, for their own purposes, information on computers, software, etc.; doing evaluation such as an analysis of the Statistics Canada data on post-secondary education - I mentioned this one - conducting the study of immigrant professionals; conduct analysis of student academic record systems, making recommendations to the department. Basically, it's duties as assigned. When you're talking about research, it is extremely time-consuming. They act as a backup to professional staff in every department, to the senior management, the executive, the Minister, as part of the foundation upon which policies are based.

MR. L. DERKACH: Then is this the department that did the planning and the research for finding out the number of teachers there are who are going to retire in any specific year? Did they do the planning and the research on teacher retirement?

HON. J. STORIE: They were involved.

MR. L. DERKACH: So, therefore, do you have information now in terms of the number of teachers who are going to be retiring at the age of 55 within this year, and how many are going to retire in the next five years?

HON. J. STORIE: I think it's 248.

MR. L. DERKACH: What's 248?

HON. J. STORIE: The number of teachers who are going to retire this year.

MR. L. DERKACH: What about subsequent years?

HON. J. STORIE: We can have that data for you tomorrow.

MR. L. DERKACH: So, therefore, is that the department that will also know the costs impacted by the retirement of these teachers?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, that's not necessarily the department, but that's the Research and Planning Department. They can find out.

MR. L. DERKACH: Okay. One last question, what is that department working on right now? Is there any specific project that department is working on right now?

HON. J. STORIE: They have given me too many here. For example, right now we're very much involved in

evaluation of the changes that we have made in the PACE, the community college system; looking at the effectiveness of the individualized competency-based learning programs that have been introduced; trying to assess the impact of our Affirmative Action policies; gathering information on numbers of students, tracking students, etc. So that's an example of the kind of thing that they're involved in at the current time.

They're also very much involved in developing tools to assist the department in the evaluation of numerous programs that are operating, and where requests have come in, say, we need an instrument that will tell us how we're doing in this area for this program or that program. I read off some of the kinds of things that

MR. L. DERKACH: So is this the department that is going to, in essence, establish the criteria for such things as the High School Review?

HON. J. STORIE: No. What the Research and Planning team would do is say, here's something we're trying to achieve. Let's say, we're trying to get more Native students, more handicapped students into our community college system. Track over a number of years, saying how have we done? What's the data base? How many were there in 1980? How many are there now? Where have they come from? What has been most effective in getting them? What supports did they require? So that we can build that into planning for more effective student services in the community colleges.

The Planning and Research Branch may, in fact, be involved in the High School Review when the committee itself, the review panel or review committee, starts to deal with the issues and wants to know how many high schools have vocational training capability. What kind of training are they capable of? How many students are currently involved in training? What is happening to those students with that training? Is that training proving effective in the job market, or are they having to take additional training?

So those are the kinds of questions that they would be asked by the review committee, but it would be referred to them. They would not initiate per se.

MR. L. DERKACH: Have there been any new positions added into this department?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you.

I'm trying to find a comparison between the chart on Manitoba Education on Page 4 of the annual report and this, and I'm having difficulty, because in fact, if one looks at Administration and Finance, one would see Research and Planning, but here Administration and Finance are in fact on the same line. So who does Research and Planning, in fact, report to?

HON. J. STORIE: The Deputy Minister.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: So it would be directly to the Deputy Minister?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Do any of the other post-secondary, adult, PACE program or Administration and Finance itself have their own Assistant Deputy Ministers, or are there no Assistant Deputies in the Department of Education?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are four Assistant Deputy Ministers, and I can name them all except one.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I don't really want their names. What I'd really like to know is: where in the line graph do they fall?

HON. J. STORIE: There is an Assistant Deputy Minister of Administration and Finance, Assistant Deputy Minister of Programming, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Bureau de l'Éducation Française, Assistant Deputy Minister of PACE, Post-secondary Adult Continuing Education.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Under the Planning and Research Department, the information that's compiled there, you indicated that some of that would be for consumption of school divisions. Is there a considerable amount of information that goes out of there for public consumption? Is that information generally available for public consumption?

HON. J. STORIE: From time to time, there are studies that are made public. The Member for Fort Garry, I believe, has a couple that have been made public. I think if you checked in the Legislative Library, you would find quite a few studies that had been made available or made public over the past number of years.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: Is there any amount of money under Other Expenditures that is designated for publication of public information?

HON. J. STORIE: Not specifically this year, Mr. Chairperson, no.

MR. G. CUMMINGS: One last question from me in this area, he indicated there had been no staff change this year. Was there in the last three years an expansion of this area?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe it's dropped one position in the last two years.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister tell me the kinds of personnel they're looking for here in Research and Planning? I ask that question specifically knowing that, in Curriculum and Development, it is most frequently people who are trained as teachers.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, generally I'm informed that the professional staff, they are looking for people with educational experience as broad as possible, but also a background in the social sciences with research methodology background as well.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: That's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2)—pass.
1.(d) Personnel Services - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you. Could the Minister advise the number of staff persons involved in this division, please?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there are eight staff involved; no change from the previous year.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister give a breakdown? Is it all support staff? Is it professional staff?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm having a little trouble here defining what a professional is. If a payroll supervisor is a professional, there would be five and three.

MR. C. BIRT: Five professionals and three support staff?

HON. J. STORIE: Depending on the definition. I'm having a little trouble with the position title.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister explain really what the function of this department is?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the Personnel Services Branch functions in a support capacity to departmental management and to employees of the department. The branch administers the Affirmative Action Program and coordinates what is called a CAMEO program, which is the Career Advancement Manitoba Education Opportunities, to enhance upward mobility for clerical support within the department and provides other personnel and payroll services.

MR. C. BIRT: Did the Minister say this is the area that looks after the affirmative action for the department or is it just the collection of statistics in a support sense? I wasn't clear what he was . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Chairperson, it is responsible for implementing the affirmative action policy and providing whatever necessary support services are required.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister advise just exactly what this division does as it relates to affirmative action and give us greater detail?

HON. J. STORIE: I suppose one of the functions of any branch that's responsible for affirmative action is to ensure that when there is a bulletin, when there is a candidate search, that affirmative action candidates' qualifications, etc., are reviewed and that there are not unnecessary impediments to the advancement, the hiring of groups who would fall within the parameters of affirmative action groups.

MR. C. BIRT: Does not the Civil Service Commission have the responsibility of the Affirmative Action Program? Is this a duplication? I'm trying to figure out why you would have it here and not in the Civil Service

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Commission, or maybe it's not in the Civil Service Commission.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it is both in effect. The Civil Service Commission has the prime responsibility, but within each department there is also a responsibility to make an additional effort to ensure that bulletins are widely dispersed, to make sure that candidates that are referred meet with the overall government objectives. I don't think we can have too many people working to ensure that affirmative action is a reality.

It's not a main function of this department as I indicate. It is only one of many that Personnel Services is responsible for.

MR. C. BIRT: How many people of the eight are primarily responsible for the affirmative action?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, just one person, and again, only part of that person's activity.

MR. C. BIRT: Pay equity has just started its way through the Civil Service Commission in government. Would this department, Personnel Services, be responsible for the pay equity negotiations and discussions within the department or is it looked after someplace else?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, of course, the Pay Equity Bureau has again the responsibility for leading in that sense, but this branch, yes, would be involved in any interdepartmental discussions with respect to pay equity.

MR. C. BIRT: So they would be responsible for the internal department aspect of the pay equity?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, this branch would be responsible for providing information, assisting in whatever way they can to the Pay Equity Bureau in their efforts.

MR. C. BIRT: There is an increase of some \$7,000.00. Is it just a cost-of-living increase in salary?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: And were all the positions filled throughout the year?

HON. J. STORIE: One was filled in the last three or four months, but there is a full complement apparently.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was interested in the CAMEO. I find in education everything has letters to it and they're awfully hard to remember. I wonder if he could explain it a bit more fully.

HON. J. STORIE: Essentially, what they are trying to do is identify within the staff of the department individuals who have obvious potential for advancement

and, in essence, to develop a career plan for individuals for advancement through the system into different levels of employment.

They have a number of different approaches that they use. There are training opportunities which may be provided to these people, in-house training opportunities; courses that are offered through the Civil Service Commission simply involving them at another level with other departmental members; there are lateral job exchanges that can occur, job rotation. There is also, I suppose, the potential for part-time and fill-in term staff years in other areas of the department.

They try and really maintain some flexibility within the staffing, and it's not only for secretarial positions, but other lower level positions can see a path in the Civil Service for advancement.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I guess we can assume that most of the clerical, the lower end of the scale, anyway, workers would be women in those positions.

Is there any encouragement also for job sharing? Is that part of the affirmative action and helping women to sustain work while they're possibly raising children?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I don't think that the Personnel Branch would rule anything out that could be worked in, again remembering that this is for advancement generally within. However, if someone is working on a part-time basis, or whatever, and opportunities became available and this person fit and could work into a job-sharing opportunity, I'm sure there'd be no problem. I'm not sure that that's happened to this point but it raises an interesting possibility.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'm just wondering if the Minister would consider having it as part of the policy so that women would know that this is one of the possibilities that they could look at at the same time if they want to continue or need to continue working and yet are able to do it on a part-time basis, that job sharing is a consideration that they might look to.

HON. J. STORIE: As a matter of fact, I misinformed the committee. I understand that there is a situation where job sharing is actually occurring in a school, as it turns out, Falcon Lake School, but we directly administer it and it's part of our jurisdiction.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Has there been any upward movement of clerical into higher positions at this point?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, four people have already made advancements. There have been some significant movements, yes.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister indicate the levels that these movements have been made, like from where to where?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, three of the four individuals began at the secretarial level and have moved to administrative officer level. The fourth moved from a secretarial to a personnel officer.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Chairman, with respect to secondment, is this the department that also is involved in the secondment of staff for the department?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, in a peripheral way. Personnel Services obviously are responsible for the payroll and would make sure that whatever secondment took place that the rules were understood and there was an agreement in place between the department and the school division or whatever; but, initially, the impetus for the exchange, if you will, or the secondment, would come from a department, perhaps Curriculum Branch or Regional Services or whatever.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Why does the Personnel Services Branch not look after the personnel who are in the PACE Program and, if they don't, why doesn't that show up in a budgetary item under PACE?

HON. J. STORIE: We're not sure. It actually does. The Personnel Services now is responsible for the PACE division as well. I couldn't resist that, I'm sorry.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Just to go on from that, then, does administration and finance, under PACE, also now go back into Administration and Finance, or has that remained a separate department?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there are certain functions, some functions, that are done on a department-wide basis; other functions within PACE are done within their own Admin. and Finance section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.
1.(e) Financial Services - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister provided us with a copy of the annual report that is either at the printers or on the way to the printers. One of the sheets sort of gives a schematic diagram of the department. There's a new box created called "Internal Management Audit Branch," yet it doesn't show on current operating expenses; but there's also a Financial Services, Finance Branch, which I presume is the item up here under Administration and Finance Division.

Has the department been split or is this a brand new department and, if it is, why isn't there a separate line for it in the Estimates?

HON. J. STORIE: The Internal Audit group is a part of this division and the figures are amalgamated in the figures that you have before you, but they were not last year, or they were last year for the first year last year.

MR. C. BIRT: Were they a separate division and they've been merged or they've been moved out of the Financial Services Department or whatever?

HON. J. STORIE: They are a section within the Financial Services Branch and have been for two years.

MR. C. BIRT: But the schematic that is here shows the Internal Management Audit Branch answering, I take it, directly to the Deputy Minister. So that doesn't seem to square with what the Minister says.

HON. J. STORIE: It reports to the Deputy Minister but the operational end of it is through the branch and the ADM.

MR. C. BIRT: Why was the Internal Management Audit Branch created or, alternatively, or as a second question I should say, why would it be shown as a separate entity, then, on this proposed schematic and not broken out separately in the financial figures we've got in the Estimates?

HON. J. STORIE: It's a very small branch performing, obviously, the internal audit function. I presume that it's shown on the schematic because it is important, certainly important to the department and important to the government as a whole and the Provincial Auditor. It's simply shown in that way but it has been a part of the Financial Services now for a couple of years. I don't know if I can give you any more detailed explanation as to why it has shown up in the schematic in that particular way other than to highlight the fact that it exists and to show its reporting relationship.

MR. C. BIRT: Was this set up as sort of an extension or to work with the Provincial Auditor? Was it as a request of the Provincial Auditor? I mean, why did it come into place, and does it have a relationship to the Provincial Auditor's Department?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, as the member appreciates, the department deals with many millions of dollars. The Internal Audit group serves a function within the department by keeping managers abreast of the accounting, making sure the procedures are consistent and followed according to the Manual of Administration. They would also be the group that would respond to enquiries from the Provincial Auditor, requests from the Provincial Auditor, etc.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm not trying to simplify the Auditor's function and, as I understand, the accounting function within government but primarily, if you wanted to make an expenditure and there was no approved authority for it, then it wouldn't get processed. If that's my understanding of how primarily the accounts flow in the government, is it this job to say, yes you have the authority; yes you can spend it? In other words, there is some allocation. Yes, it's in the Estimates. You've got your Order-in-Council or whatever it is. In other words, it's sort of a fail-safe system?

HON. J. STORIE: Normally the audit is basically an accounting after the fact of the expenditures of the department or the branches. In essence, the Internal Audit function is to ensure that the monies are accounted for, monies as expended are accounted for in a comprehensive and thorough way. So they would not, as a matter of course, be involved in preauthorizing per se the expenditures. That would normally be done for any large amounts through Treasury Board, I presume.

I'm advised as well that the departmental accounting services within this branch would normally ensure that the proper procedures were followed in the approvals that are necessary for expenditure.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister just tell us how many are in the Internal Management Audit, and then how many are in, I guess, the rest of the Financial Services Department?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, accounting for the 25 people, I can inform the member that there has been no change in staff years as opposed to last year. There are four staff years in the Internal Audit Division, seven staff years in Budgeting and Accounting, and 14.26 staff years in Finance.

MR. C. BIRT: There is a \$37,000 approximate increase in expenditure over last year. Why the large increase?

HON. J. STORIE: It reflects the general merit and salary increases.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay, thank you.

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

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

In last year's Estimates in the Salaries, it was estimated there would be 1.02 million, and I take it the left-hand figure shown in this one is the actual expenditure of \$974,200.00. Why the difference between the estimated and the actual?

HON. J. STORIE: Over the course of the year, there have been a two, almost three, staff year reduction.

MR. C. BIRT: Is this reduction as a result of that jobs were no longer necessary, or is it due to attrition and they haven't been filled, or there was a designated cutback of a certain number of positions?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairman, one of the positions was transferred to Administration and Teacher Certification. The remainder of a year position was eliminated, because the arrangements had been made for students at Red River Community College to basically input their own data on their computers. There was a change in the student records procedures at the department, which allowed for the reduction of an additional staff.

MR. C. BIRT: What was the reason for the transferring of one SY out of this division into the Teacher Certification Program?

HON. J. STORIE: There has been a transfer of some responsibility from this section to the Teacher Certification and Records, and a staff position was transferred with that responsibility.

MR. C. BIRT: Can the Minister give us a brief history of what this department does?

HON. J. STORIE: Well the department's, I guess, titled major accomplishments have included the Professional School Personnel System. This was enhanced during 1985 to include teacher experience information. I'm not sure if the member is familiar with that service, but the department compiles a great deal of information on a teacher's history, class size, all kinds of information relating to the school system through this department. It's made available on a confidential basis to the

Manitoba Teachers' Society, and divisions can access this data for their own information.

As well the Manitoba Student Aid system, over the last couple of years, has been computerized. Previously, individual files were prepared and kept over the course of correspondence with the student. It is now computerized, and the department has been involved in that by this branch.

The Public Schools Finance Board's financial record-keeping system has also been enhanced by this branch. A micro-computer version of the Public Schools Finance account system, called FRAME, was introduced. This micro-computer version allows school divisions the option of submitting their budgets and financial statements electronically, improving I guess the feedback between the department and school divisions.

A fully integrated computer system was implemented for processing of college students' records. I should indicate that much of this, in its effect, will allow us to reduce personnel as we computerize much of the record-keeping across the system.

An Information Centre has been established at the Robert Fletcher Building, 1181 Portage. Those are some of the major accomplishments.

MR. C. BIRT: The information that is taken in, it's person identification; in other words, the information that you receive, you could identify it as Teacher A or Teacher B or is it in a generic safe sense that, you know, there are 20 teachers using 30 students in School X; in other words, it's a safe type of information where you can't get personal identification?

HON. J. STORIE: Individuals can be identified; however, there is a confidentiality arrangement, an understood arrangement, between the Teachers' Society, and, for example, an individual school division would have access to its own data which it could compile any way, but new school division X would not have access to school division Y's data.

MR. C. BIRT: I guess the concern that I have is the degree of protection of that confidentiality. Is it built into the computer system - I'm presuming this is all on computers - and that when people access in, such as a school division, does it only have a certain key or access and the other ones are not available to it? That would be one area.

The other area of concern would be to ensure that people such as the Teachers' Society do treat that information on a confidential basis.

HON. J. STORIE: The individual interdivisional data is separated and there is protection against accidental release of that information. To my knowledge, there have been no problems with the confidentiality of the information and the Computer Services Department has gathered that information for many years.

MR. C. BIRT: So I take it, as the information is fed in from whatever source, the department can access it and use it for its own basis. When people who are not departmental then from the outside, whether they be Manitoba Teachers' Society or any other organization, what is in place then to protect? Is there some sort of

an insurance agreement, some undertaking? How do you ensure the protection, the anonymity of the data?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand - staff informed me - that there is a formal agreement between the department and MTS with respect to confidentiality. I should indicate that MTS members are the individuals filling out these forms and providing this information in the first instance, so it would be rather counterproductive for that kind of breach of confidentiality on the part of MTS. It has been a fairly secure system and, as I've said, I filled those forms out some 10, 12 years ago and, to my knowledge, there has not been any problem.

MR. C. BIRT: Other than the immediate users in the educational system, are there any other people who can access the data base for research purposes? I'm talking other than school divisions or the Teachers' Society.

HON. J. STORIE: Not without our authority.

MR. C. BIRT: Do they enter into a similar type of a protection agreement or a confidentiality agreement should that occur?

HON. J. STORIE: They would have to.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister indicated that as use of the computers increases, there will be a reduction in staff.

Has the Minister some projection in the next two, three, four years as to reduction in numbers or the transferring of staff positions out of here because of that use of computers?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, without wishing to advance the Estimates debate beyond 1.(e), just an informal example, the Student Aid Branch has dealt with a dramatic increased caseload of student aid applications and they have been able to do so without a significant increase in staff, in fact I don't think any, whereas in effect they have doubled the productivity of the branch. The alternative would have been to hire X number of more people, and perhaps we're talking in the neighbourhood of 7 to 10 people. So that's only one example.

The same is true in the Library, the Instructional Resources Branch Centre as well.

Mr. Chairperson, another example - a more concrete one perhaps - is that the automation that's occurred with student marks and teacher files has allowed the reduction of six staff years over the last three years.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister indicated though that there would be some reduction. His first two examples related to sort of greater productivity because of the computers. The second one, over the last few years, there's been a phasing out of some six positions. But his comments were to the effect that there would be further reductions in this area as we use more computers

I'm just wondering what sort of projections are they looking at as far as staff reductions in this particular division.

HON. J. STORIE: Again, the area of records keeping, generally, whether we're talking about teacher certification . . .

MR. C. BIRT: I'm sorry, I'm dealing with numbers.

HON. J. STORIE: Specifics?

MR. C. BIRT: Yes. If there are 12 people there, are we going to be doing away with 3? That's the sort of thing I'm looking for.

HON. J. STORIE: I can only give you the specifics that have happened. I was referring to generally that this branch has provided us with services within the department that have allowed these kinds of reductions. I've given two examples where they have, in effect, saved staff years for the department, either saved us from adding additional staff years or, in fact, allowed us to reduce staff years.

We're at the beginning. We have by no means completed the potential for automation in the department. It has a tremendous records keeping capacity across departments, but I couldn't give the member a specific number other than it will be an ongoing process of reduction.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister made reference to I think something called FRAME, which is I believe a method of system budgeting for school divisions, and he indicated that some are now onto computer where the division is considered indirectly. Is this the budgetary system that the divisions have to have in, I think it's about the 15th of February each year and, if it is, how many are actually using this process?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm informed that every school division submits its budget and financial system on the FRAME system.

MR. C. BIRT: So then if there are any questions or changes in the budgetary system, and there may not be, is it all done electronically? Is it sort of like the electronic highway, they speak back and forth, or is it just the sending in of information and the department then uses it for their own purpose?

HON. J. STORIE: That would only be true where the division had opted to use the microcomputer version of FRAME, and then there would be that ability. Not all divisions are using that system. There is still a manual system and the budgets are submitted through the normal course.

MR. C. BIRT: How many are on the electronic process and is the department trying to encourage all of the divisions to get on it and, if so, what are they doing to encourage them?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, we certainly are encouraging the use of it because it facilitates our work in terms of it streamlines, I guess, the process, and we are working with MASBO, which is the Manitoba Association of School Business Officials, to facilitate the development of that system.

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MR. C. BIRT: The number I had asked, is it a third, half, or more that are on the electronic system?

HON. J. STORIE: Almost a half.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister advise how many staff years are in this department?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there are 32.1 - whatever that means.

MR. C. BIRT: The Estimates of last year and the actual expenditure for last year, there is some almost \$80,000 difference - \$849,000 to an actual expenditure of \$765,000.00. Why was the large drop? I'm talking about last year's Estimates and last year's actual expenditures.

HON. J. STORIE: Last year's estimated and last year's actual?

MR. C. BIRT: Other Expenditures.

HON. J. STORIE: That's a very good question; we're glad you asked. Can we take that under advisement as staff don't have an answer readily at hand, but I'm sure there is a logical explanation?

MR. C. BIRT: I'm sure there will be one found between now and then, even if there isn't one.

HON. J. STORIE: It will be yours in due course.

MR. C. BIRT: There is a reduction of some 78,000 between the expenditure of last year of 765 going down to 687 this year. Why the reduction?

HON. J. STORIE: A combination of effects within the branch, a reduction in operating the day-to-day mileage and courier services, etc., as well as a delay of bringing on stream some of the additional Information Management Services to Student Aid Branch and relating to school bus reporting, and a delay in bringing the Bursary Assistance Program from the bureau onto the computer system. This is simply a slowdown of some of the activity in the branch.

MR. C. BIRT: Is the slowdown just because of sort of administrative problems or has there been a deliberate hold put on this transfer of responsibility?

HON. J. STORIE: I think there's only one area where there was a problem. The rest of it was slowdown.

MR. C. BIRT: There is a Recovery item of some \$250,000 from Canada. What does that apply to?

HON. J. STORIE: That's a Recovery from Canada, I guess through Employment and Immigration, for manpower training services delivered through the community college system, administrative costs that we recover.

MR. C. BIRT: If I look at the - I'll have to call it the proposed schematic in this proposed annual report -

there's no corresponding computer services section to this particular schematic and I'm just wondering why.

HON. J. STORIE: You would find that under Management Information Services.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay. Is there a close connection between the computer services section and (c) Research and Planning? Does one have a hardware base and the other the research? Is that my understanding?
Okay, thank you.

HON. J. STORIE: The answer was yes.

MR. C. BIRT: He confirms yes.

HON. J. STORIE: I nodded as loud as I could.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't hear a thing.
The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: In respect to the FRAME accounting, school divisions submit their budgets and they are done in this computer services area. Does this area also give them their quarterly reports and that sort of thing?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the Computer Services Branch provides the information to Finance Branch who deal with the school divisions, but essentially they crunch the numbers as it were.

MR. L. DERKACH: Are school divisions assessed any kind of a fee for the services this department provides for them?

HON. J. STORIE: Good idea, but they're not at this point.

MR. L. DERKACH: Even if the school divisions are on the on-line, so to speak, service?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Thank you.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I assume that when we're dealing with computers here, we're dealing with a large main frame computer.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In the fact that we have moved at least one staff person into Certification and Records, is there an additional computer record keeping going on in the Department of Education?

HON. J. STORIE: No.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In terms of the record keeping with respect specifically to students, what kind of student record keeping is being kept at the present time?

HON. J. STORIE: The department has changed its policy - it's not a policy; it's a practice - over the last

couple of years. Currently we keep, essentially, backup records. School divisions now have the prime responsibility for keeping student records and the department maintains a backup to that system.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: So, for example, students of the future will not go to the Department of Education for transcripts. They will, in fact, go to their school division for a transcript.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, yes, as a matter of course, yes, they would.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Are students being provided with any copies of the records as they are being given to the Department of Education, which they used to be provided with, as I understand.

HON. J. STORIE: The department does not provide that. That should be available, I presume, through the school division, the individual schools.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: As I understand what's happening now, the student in fact, certainly in Winnipeg school divisions, get their computer record from their own school. Presumably, that is then fed into the main frame at the Department of Education and one has to just hope that's been fed in correctly, because the student gets no verification that the records that you have are identical to the ones that she or he got from the school.

HON. J. STORIE: That's true.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Do the school divisions get such a record?

HON. J. STORIE: The only other backup to that would be that the school and the school division have copies.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: So there is in fact no checking procedure to make sure that the marks recorded are an accurate reflection of the student's mark?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education's nodding negatively. Is that a negative nod?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, no; the answer is no, checking as far as the department is concerned. — (Interjection) — It sounds like this . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just in case Hansard misses the response and it seems like there was no response . . . is not unusually surprisingly non-verbal.

HON. J. STORIE: The school division has the prime responsibility.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: From what date have students now been told that they are to access their division or their school, rather than the Department of Education?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, this year school divisions were informed that our role would be as

backup and that their responsibility, that they would have prime responsibility for providing student records.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Has the student body been so informed?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm informed that the previous Minister alerted school divisions that this policy would be coming into effect. I can't say that individual schools have relayed that information. I should indicate that there has not been a large demand for student records from the department even over the last two years. This is one of the reasons why the transfer occurred.

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

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister give us a brief outline as to what the function of this department is?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, H. Smith: The Minister of Education.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the Communications Branch is involved in a number of different activities within the department. They attempt to keep in touch with the public through a number of communications vehicles. The department publishes Education Manitoba, which I'm sure the honourable member has seen, basically Education Manitoba - we consider it a professional journal - is published eight times a year.

The Communications Branch is also involved in preparing messages, etc., that the department circulates amongst the organizations; corresponding with organizations; responsible for responding to media requests for information, information about the department, its activities from the public as well as other duties as assigned; responsible for preparing press releases and so forth and getting them through Information Services.

MR. C. BIRT: Is this the area that has the responsibility for the annual report publication?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, they are responsible.

MR. C. BIRT: I notice that there is a \$30,000 reduction in this year's estimates over last year's expenditure. Is this the reason the report is so late in coming to us?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, the reason is fewer words. — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairperson, the reduction is in the area of Salaries. It relates to staffing adjustments. There was a transfer of one staff, a specialist into Manitoba Education TV.

MR. C. BIRT: Is this educational TV part of this division or is it found someplace else?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, it's part of four - Correspondence, whichever number that is.

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MR. C. BIRT: Would that be 4.(g)?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: In relation to just costs, and I just want to get an approximation, it doesn't have to be specific, but on the budget of some 173,000-odd, what is the approximate cost of putting out the eight editions of Education Manitoba and also the cost of putting out the annual report?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm informed that the production of Education Manitoba costs approximately 50,000 and approximately \$2,000 for the annual report.

MR. C. BIRT: These costs, are they strictly the printing and setup costs or do they include staff writers, photographers, layouts, all of that or are they on permanent staff positions and it's not costed into the production costs?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there is a full-time editor of Education Manitoba who does the layout production, essentially a one-man show.

MR. C. BIRT: So I take it then, the costs of 50,000 and 2,000 are really the creative costs, are the production, the material being produced and it's being sent out. It's not a staffing cost included?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the 50,000 would include the one staff.

MR. C. BIRT: Oh, it does, okay.
If the expenditures . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I stand corrected. I'm informed that the one staff is in addition to the 50,000.

MR. C. BIRT: That makes better sense. To make sure that I understand it. It says Other Expenditures some almost \$80,000 of that 52,000 really go into these two types of publication.

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

Could the Minister advise how many staff positions there are in this department and are they all permanent Civil Service positions - staff years or any here on contract, term position?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, they are all Civil Service positions. There is one on term currently, although anticipated to be a permanent position, although it hasn't been transferred to permanent. There is a director of communications, a media specialist, and information writer - the editor of the magazine we just discussed, "Education Manitoba," and a secretary-receptionist.

MR. C. BIRT: Could the Minister give me the names of the individuals dealing with the term, the director -

what is it - media specialist and then the editor? I take it there are just the four people then on staff?

HON. J. STORIE: There are six, four professionals and two support staff. The director is Mr. David Church; the media specialist is John Shalagan; the information writer is Carla McLeod; and the editor of "Education Manitoba" is Lee Malcomson.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Deputy Chairman, has the number of positions been constant, say, for the last two years? Has there been an increase or decrease in the number of positions in that department?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there has been a reduction of one, as I indicated earlier, and that reduction is a transfer of a media specialist to Manitoba Education TV.

MR. C. BIRT: That represents the full \$30,000, the reduction of the one person?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I guess it's my understanding that the annual report falls under this department. Is that correct?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Can I ask the Minister whether or not, when we meet on the next day, we will have a proper annual report placed before us, rather than this mess of paper that we're trying to attempt to decipher as the proposed report?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I do apologize for the fact that the department's annual report has not been prepared. It was submitted some time ago to Queen's Printer. Unfortunately, there is a backlog and I understand that, despite the fact that it is at the printer's, it will not be available for some time.

If the member wants some additional explanation, there has been a government-wide decision to move departmental annual reports to a fiscal year basis rather than - there was an amalgamation or a conglomeration of annual reports. Some were required to be tabled; some weren't required to be tabled by legislation. So you had a staggering of tabling of annual reports throughout the legislative Session. Because of the requirement, there was a delay in beginning the work to prepare the annual report by approximately three months. That also explains the additional delay.

I have made draft copies of the annual report available. Basically, that's the best I can do at this point.

MR. L. DERKACH: I would hope that, in future years, this report would be available prior to the Estimates debate, so that there could be some research work done on our behalf in terms of analyzing the annual report before we come to Estimates. I don't believe this is adequate, and I think that it has to be mentioned.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I appreciate the comments. I hope the member will appreciate that this

is an unusual circumstance, including the sitting, the way it has come about. However, we will endeavour to make sure that annual reports are tabled in the appropriate time frame.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: As I recall, "Education Manitoba," which is this journal, is a glossy magazine which has some 24 to 48 pages, depending on the edition. I'm amazed that it can be produced for \$50,000 a year. Is it produced internally, even the production of it?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm informed that essentially most of the work is done in-house. The individual who is doing the editing has many other talents, which she puts to work in the production of "Education Manitoba." The only function that is outside the department is the printing. The typesetting and everything is done in-house. As well, the department sells advertising space to other government agencies on a cost-recovery basis.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In terms of the advertising revenue, is there an offset here then, that your costs are 50,000 but in fact it may cost 100,000 to actually produce?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm informed that the recovery only amounts to about \$8,000 a year, so it is done rather cheaply, I understand, at approximately 35 cents per copy.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Could I recommend that he not let this person's name loose, because "Maclean's," "Time," and others would be very interested in getting a hold of same.

HON. J. STORIE: I understand we have every reason to be grateful that she is employed in the Department of Education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(g)(1)—pass.
1.(g)(2) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Just one question, it was indicated that there was a lot of in-house work done on these particular magazines, and typesetting was mentioned. Does the department then have its own printing presses, etc., or is it just the mock-up that is done in the department and then it is farmed out?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand that the process is that the information, the content is transmitted electronically to a typesetter. It comes back to the department, and the layout is done in the department.

MR. C. BIRT: Is it a private printing company or something that has the source, and then there's an electronic link between the department and the private printer? Okay, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(g)(2)—pass.
1.(h) Administrative Services - the Member for Fort Garry.

Could you speak up a little bit, because it's difficult to hear with the fan?

MR. C. BIRT: Can the Minister give a brief outline as to what the function of this department is and how many staff persons are involved?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are some 34.5 staff years in this branch, unchanged from 1985-86. The primary functions of the branch are to provide leadership and coordination within the education system, as well as management direction and internal administrative services to the department. As well, it supports functions within the department such as school building projects, administration, pupil transportation services, special school administration, legislation and regulations administration, statutory boards and commissions, including the board of reference and the Manitoba Education Advisory Board, as well as maintaining and providing information on teacher qualifications and student academic records.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister used a phrase, and I think this is what was said: "provides leadership and coordination for the educational system." Could the Minister elaborate on what that means or, if it wasn't the exact phrase, the phrase that he used?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, this particular branch provides leadership coordination - I guess leadership is not the correct word - coordination and support services to each of those various functions, you know, general administration of the department, pupil transportation, administrative support to statutory boards and commissions within the department. As well, as the title implies, this branch maintains the teacher certification records, qualifications, etc., information on teacher certificates throughout the province.

MR. C. BIRT: The Estimates last year showed an approximate figure of, well it was \$939,800.00. If the actual expenditure was 1.1156 million, why the increase?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, again we're referring to information that comes from last year. It is not available. We'll get that information back to you tomorrow.

MR. C. BIRT: I find it surprising that you can have a staff of 34 on a \$1 million budget. Is it primarily support staff? Is that the bulk of the 34, in other words, low-paying, clerking-type jobs?

HON. J. STORIE: Certainly, Mr. Chairperson, much of the responsibility in this branch relates to records keeping.

MR. C. BIRT: One of the functions, I think he said, deals with legislation and regulations or something to that effect. Is this just in the sense of getting the bills printed and out, or is it the creation of a piece of legislation, for example, the one that's coming before us shortly, The Teachers' Pension Act? Is this where it flows from, or is it just an administrative function as it relates to legislation?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson. Essentially the initial drafting, the drafting of the principles, would be

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done in this department through this department, the support services provided and then, in conjunction with the A-G's Department, translated I guess into legalese, back to the department for review and to make sure that it keeps with the intent.

MR. C. BIRT: So if a particular piece of legislation, say it was developed under Program Development for a particular area, it would be given to this particular sub-section or to Administrative Services who would put it into some form of legislative format so it would then go into the system. Is that correct?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: Perhaps while your staff is checking, they can also find out - there was an estimate of 230,900 for Other Expenditures for last year, but you spent 273,600.00. Again, I would like to know why the increase was higher than the estimated amounts. If you take that as notice and come back on Thursday, that's fine.

There was Recoverable from Canada of 76,000 in last year's Estimates, but only 18,000 for this year. What is this for, and why is there a reduction in the Recoverable?

HON. J. STORIE: Again it's the recovery of administrative costs for the provision of administrative services such as pupil transportation, I understand, in remote areas in particular where the prime responsibility would be Canada's.

As an example, I'm told the airport in Clearwater where there is some transportation involved, and the recovery would come through this department.

MR. C. BIRT: If the Minister can't answer now, I can appreciate maybe the next time we meet. If these costs are ongoing - and they use the example of the airport transportation - why would they have been so high like for last year and so small this year? I mean, what has caused the difference?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I would be only speculating at this point, but I remind you that the transportation of one, two or three students in an area who no longer require transportation for whatever reason would make that difference fairly quickly.

MR. C. BIRT: These recoverable expenditures then are primarily for the transportation of students? Is that what it's for?

HON. J. STORIE: It also would be recoveries for administration of tuitions that should be coming from Canada to the province in some way, tuitions that they should be paying, in other words. It would be non-resident student fees, that kind of thing.

MR. C. BIRT: Then is it fair to say that this particular item fluctuates each year, depending on the number of students who may be in a particular location or taking a particular course or being transferred from one area to another? Is that what it really is all about?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay, thank you.

MR. L. DERKACH: My question is with regard to the pupil transportation or the transportation system. How many school divisions in the province at the present time use the provincial bus transportation, as opposed to the independent contract type of transportation?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are very few that don't have their own. However, some do have a combination such as Winnipeg 1, which uses some of its own and some contract. There are a few situations where it is contract only. I can think of one, and that would be Flin Flon.

MR. L. DERKACH: Can you be more specific in terms of the number of divisions that have contract school buses?

HON. J. STORIE: I will have the information for the member tomorrow.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Chairman, with respect to per pupil cost, at the present time, what is the present per pupil grant for transportation?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the per pupil grant is \$410.00.

MR. L. DERKACH: For those students who are transported by contract buses, is that the same?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Has there been a cost study done in terms of whether division-owned buses as opposed to contract buses are more expensive or cheaper?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Has there been by the department a directive to its employees to try and convince school divisions to go on a division-owned bus transportation system?

HON. J. STORIE: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Chairperson. That decision is within the responsibility of the school division.

MR. L. DERKACH: If that is the responsibility of the school per se, I have information which indicates there has been a hard sell to get school divisions to go from contract bus to school division-owned buses, indicating that it is cheaper to transport students by divisional buses than it is by contract buses.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, if that is occurring, it is occurring without the knowledge or directions of anyone within this branch or within government. I am not aware of any information which would corroborate that kind of suggestion. It may be a personal opinion. But if that is occurring, I would certainly be more than happy to look into it, because I do not think it's appropriate.

MR. L. DERKACH: The school divisions that have contract bus service, can a school division apply for a stand-by bus from the department for that school division?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. L. DERKACH: Will that school division be allowed a stand-by bus?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, if they're available.

MR. L. DERKACH: What does that mean, if they're available? I mean they build school buses all the time.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the school divisions order buses through the Department of Education, so obviously, if it's a contract, they would not be using that bus.

MR. L. DERKACH: Okay, I'd like to get it a little more specific than that. A school division has its entire transportation needs contracted out, but there are instances where a school division may wish to have a stand-by bus in cases of an emergency, especially during the winter months, where a contract bus may break down somewhere in the middle of nowhere; and also for the transportation of students for extra-curricular activities which is part of the school program. Now, if the school division applies for a stand-by bus for that particular use, would they be considered, if buses are, as you say, available?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, my understanding is - and it would seem to me to be good practice - for the school division who is using contract buses, to ensure that part of the contract they had with the bus contractor, to ensure that he had stand-by equipment. I assume that is part of many of the contracts the school divisions have with bus lines or individual owner-operators.

I'm not sure whether the member is suggesting, as a matter of course, that the public, the Department of Education, the Public Schools Finance Board should be financing stand-by buses across the province; it does not sound to me to be a reasonable suggestion.

MR. L. DERKACH: But, in fact that is the case for divisions who have division-owned buses. They do have, as a matter of fact, stand-by buses and buses that they use for extra-curricular activity. That is a cost to the public as well.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I agree. In this case the school division is providing the service and I would expect the school division to have a stand-by bus, as I would expect a private contractor arranging with the school division who is purchasing service, the contractor should be able to provide the service. If his equipment breaks down, then he provides the back-up.

MR. L. DERKACH: But the school division does not contract out the extra-curricular trips, the field day trips, all the extra-curricular trips that a school takes part in in the division. Those are not contracted out. Will

that division be allowed a bus for that purpose if they request it from the department?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the department policy does not allow school divisions who have their own bus service - does not allow them stand-by buses for extra-curricular activity. Some may in fact use stand-by buses for that purpose, but that was not the intention nor is it the policy to fund that kind of activity.

MR. L. DERKACH: But I am suggesting, Mr. Minister, that there is discrimination in this area, because it is a known fact that school divisions who have division-owned buses do use their stand-by buses for extra-curricular functions. For a school division that has contracted out its daily operations — (Interjection) — That's not hard - daily operations does not have that luxury. What I am asking is, why are they being discriminated against in terms of being able to apply for a bus for those purposes and for a stand-by bus?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there is no discrimination because no one is allowed to apply under those circumstances for a bus, so there is no discrimination. I point out that - I was going to draw an analogy with another service, but I won't.

Suffice it to say, that if you or I were contracting for a service or someone to provide us a hauling service, and they couldn't perform because of failure of equipment, I don't think it would be left to our responsibility to find substitute equipment. It would be the contractor and I think that's a pretty reasonable policy to follow.

School divisions certainly are free to contract transportation services and some do so. I think it behooves them to ensure that whomever they're making arrangements with has the necessary equipment to provide the service, and service in the event of an emergency.

MR. L. DERKACH: Does the school division have to contract out its entire - or the school division wishes to go on divisional buses for part of its route? Can it do that or does it have to go in total.

HON. J. STORIE: It can have a mix, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. L. DERKACH: Seeing that there is no capital investment on the part of the province when a school division contracts out its buses; there is no capital investment for the province on buses, garages and that sort of thing, then should there not be some consideration given to those school divisions that contract out buses and don't demand the capital services from the province to at least have one bus that they can utilize for their extra-curricular and out-of-school or after-school functions?

HON. J. STORIE: It hasn't been a matter of policy to consider those kinds of alternatives. You know, I think a case can be made, I suppose, for either argument. It seems to me that the services that the division requires, if they are contracting out transportation of students, whether it be for classroom, extra-curricular activity for standby, could be subject to negotiations

with a contractor and perhaps should be if there is a concern or an indication that that kind of service is needed in the division.

MR. L. DERKACH: Would the Minister also undertake to have his department be more open-minded in terms of allowing those school divisions to perhaps contract their needs, allow those school divisions to apply to the Department of Education for buses for the types of needs that I have suggested?

I know that the policy at the present time does not allow for that, but would the Minister look at changing that policy because there is no demand from these school divisions on the province for capital for supplying buses for that particular division. Therefore, that is an actual cost-saving and there is no demand on having garages within that division. In most divisions, it's more than one garage that would be required.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, as I have indicated, this is another in a long list, I suppose, of requests and concerns that are going to be expressed by individual members and have been addressed to me through letter and meeting about the need for additional funding, the desire for additional funding for capital equipment, buildings, services.

I guess while I can certainly take as notice the member's concern and the issue he raises, I would like to point out that extension of services, that change in policy will cost the province in one area, and that will have to be any change and cost there too would have to be weighed against the other priorities within the educational system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll just point out to the members that the time is 10 o'clock, I assume we wish to continue to finish this tonight.

The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: Well, Mr. Minister, it's not going to be an additional cost because if that division is forced into going the route of having divisional buses, then there is an additional cost because not only will the province have to supply the buses, they will also have to supply capital for the building of garages to service those buses. That's got to come out of somewhere. That's either an additional cost to the province or on special levies, so therefore it's a cost to the people of Manitoba. That is a big cost as compared to supplying one or two buses to those divisions who will have contracted out their services.

I know, from sitting on a school board, that there was a definite push by the department to have divisions go - provincially-owned buses as opposed to contract buses - because of the fact that they indicated that it would be cheaper, but the things that they didn't take into consideration were the cost of buses; the cost of garages. When they were confronted with these two things, their response was well that's supplied by the province anyway. That's still a cost to the taxpayers.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I appreciate the point the member is making. I would indicate only one additional fact and that is that the province does not provide garages. The Public Schools Finance Board provides the buses.

MR. L. DERKACH: Well, the garages don't just get there; the taxpayers still have to support the building of these structures to service the buses. In addition, they have to have compounds to store those buses in. That still comes out of the taxpayers' pockets.

At present, for those divisions that have contracted buses, the only thing that the province is responsible for is the per pupil grants. Now, if you compare that to a similar division that has divisional buses, the costs are considerably different.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the member raises a valid concern. As a result of his queries, I will be asking some questions and have staff do an analysis of the relative costs if we can find some comparable divisions with comparable mileage and comparable student populations, etc., where we can draw some legitimate comparisons about the relative costs of each system.

I would indicate that there is a policy in place. There is no discrimination. We do not provide standby buses for extra-curricular activities. We provide standby buses for emergency purposes.

MR. L. DERKACH: How many buses is a division allowed as standby buses? Is there any specific number or does it go in accordance with the number of buses that a division has within its . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it's related, obviously, to the number of buses that the division has. I don't have the ratio but it can be made available.

MR. L. DERKACH: Well, if that information is going to be made available, I'll wait until that information is brought forth. Maybe at that time he can also bring forth the - because those costs are available or there's been a study done on per pupil costs in either division-owned or contract.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the transportation issue would probably be better discussed under 3.(a), as well, so we will have that information for you at that time.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I was just interested in the transportation issue but more of a philosophical transportation issue than an actual dollar-and-cents transportation issue.

The problem with young children today is that their home residence is often not the place they are early in the morning, and frequently, that is not where they are returned to later at night. There seems to be a great deal of difficulty, particularly, I will admit, within the urban divisions within the City of Winnipeg, who very clearly say the child lives at such-and-such an address, and at that address that child is not entitled to bus service. However, the child is at a day care centre at eight o'clock in the morning, from where he or she gets picked up from school and where he or she is to be let off.

Is the Minister looking at trying to work with the divisions and to try and give a different definition to residence than has been given in the past.

HON. J. STORIE: There have been a significant number of requests to the department to look at that issue

essentially over the last year. For some reason, it has become more of an issue in the recent past. It is one of a number of transportation issues that we are going to have to address, I believe, in the near future.

I appreciate the problem that school divisions have with, I guess, opening that Pandora's box because it could lead to considerable confusion, additional administrative costs, as you track people and children from service to service. So it's a difficult issue.

However, I certainly appreciate the concern expressed by parents who, from their perspective, say this is no additional cost. It's not a question of more transportation or less transportation per se; it's a question of an address and convenience for parents.

My staff point out that it's a more acute problem for those with students in kindergarten who only attend half days, and that's certainly true.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: When the Minister gave his introductory remarks to this particular section, he talked about teacher qualifications. Would he rather deal with that, however, under the whole certification issue?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, this would be appropriate. Teacher certification records and teacher qualifications are under this division.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In the discussions that I have had with the Faculty of Education, there seems to be a grave concern as to whether we are presently educating our teachers in the most appropriate manner. There also is grave concern, certainly at the University of Manitoba, that many who enter education straight from high school graduation have, in fact, a far higher failure rate in the 15 to 20 percent range in Year One and Year Two as opposed to those who enter after post degree, after a B.A. or a B.Sc.

Is the department, in fact, looking at the whole area of teacher qualifications, and are we examining the question of whether teachers should have a two-year general B.A., B.Sc. training similar to that afforded to the medical school student, the law student, the dental student?

HON. J. STORIE: I was trying to just think through some of the statistics and the issue that the member raised about the success of graduates moving into the faculty.

As a matter of principle, I think that a post-certificate degree, or pre-certificate degree, I should say, is an excellent idea. I think, as a matter of course, it allows for a much broader perspective, and I think it makes sense in terms of the education system and the education that's transmitted to our children in the long run.

However, I guess this debate has gone on across many jurisdictions for some time about the most appropriate level, degree and range of qualifications. I don't know that I can say much more other than it is a concern.

Our teachers generally are improving their qualifications year by year. I believe some 80-plus percent now have at least one degree. So we are seeing an increasingly well-educated teaching force and I think that in itself bodes well for the future.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I think that there is certainly no question that our teachers are better educated than they have ever been in the past. Statistics bear that out.

But I think that there is an increasing concern among those who are now getting undergraduate degrees that, despite relatively high grade-point averages, they can't get into certification programs, either one-year or two-year certification programs, because there are very limited spaces at the University of Manitoba for such programs. Yet you can enter into a four-year B.Ed. program with a 67 percent average in your top three-300 courses, but you are having difficulty getting into a certificate program or a post B.Ed. program with a grade point average of three.

Have any discussions been held with the university as to creating greater accessibility for teachers who are going in post degree?

HON. J. STORIE: I can't say that there has been any discussion at this point. I have not specifically met with the Deans of Education. I have talked informally with the Dean of Education from the University of Manitoba. However, these specific issues were not raised. We are in the process - in fact, we'll be making an announcement shortly - about the post-graduate certificate course that will be coming up.

However, the point you raise is an interesting one in terms of admittance to the four-year Bachelor of Education Program. It's quite true, although I think I'm safe in saying that the qualifications and the marks that are required to get into the four-year program have stiffened considerably over the past few years as has the grade-point requirement for entrance into the two-year certification program.

Again there are a lot of reasons, I suppose, for the difficulty of those with degrees getting into the two-year certificate program. Part of that, of course, has been the tremendous increase in applicants. Teaching is one of the areas where there are still relatively good employment prospects seen as a relatively stable professional opportunity. So there has been considerable competition for the space which has obviously made it more difficult for those with albeit acceptable grade points to get in.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: The stats that I have indicate that 325 students will be accepted into the four-year program and only 110 will be accepted into the post-degree program. I think that there is no question that the individuals who have degrees have a maturity and certainly an academic excellence proven that is not indicative of those entering right in off high school. I would hope that the Minister would undertake discussions with the universities about broadening this particular program and making it more accessible.

HON. J. STORIE: I can only say I think the member raises a good point, and it is something that I will be raising.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(h)(1)—pass; 1.(h)(2)—pass.
That would be a sufficiency.
Committee rise.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order. We have been considering the Estimates of the Department of Health.

We are now on Item No. 2(p), Manitoba Health Research Council - the Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, did the Minister of Health have any response to the comments that were made this afternoon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: For the sake of brevity, I wasn't, because my honourable friend repeated and repeated himself, with his eye on the clock, with the intention - I spotted what he was doing - to try to keep the thing going until four-thirty.

I'll just answer this. My honourable friend suggested that the money coming from the Lotteries, it's clear that he doesn't understand or did not want to understand the Lotteries and I was going to invite him - I intend to be present when they have the Estimates of the Lotteries - and we can debate the Lotteries.

He wanted to know, first of all, approximately what they would make. We didn't like the idea of giving that but we finally got that because they insisted. We got some information, a kind of a rough guess because you never know, especially in the first year of the Lotteries, and it was less than that.

My honourable friend wanted to know how we can reconcile that when there was more money than anticipated in the Lotteries. He forgot that when they're saying that there's more money in the lotteries, in general, when we talk about Lotteries, that's casinos, that's lotteries, that's bingos, that's everything.

The way it is set up that the research gets the revenue of a particular game, the break-open tickets sold in hotels, that's what they're getting and they had some problems at the start. They made a little less money than anticipated but they still received \$787,000.00. They are going to receive that, and received that last year, and also approximately 800 from the revenues, and actually you can say that the money that went for research is another 800,000, because that was for capital. I explained that earlier, so I think we've pretty well exhausted this but, if my honourable friend is not satisfied, we sure can discuss that under Lotteries.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could explain to me whether there's any money for cancer research under this line or does it come somewhere else, provincial funding or provincial grants for cancer research.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's really the intent of forming and bringing that, creating the Manitoba Health Research Council. It is not predetermined so much money for cardiac research or cancer. The demand, the application has to be well-prepared, and to qualify, of course, they are checking to see that there's no duplication. The council decides where the money will go, so there could well be for cancer. This is the money that comes from Manitoba only; the rest, the grants that come from Ottawa, that's decided in Ottawa.

I'm sure that there must be in there, with this amount of money, money for cancer research, but I guess the final report - they have a report periodically, of course, - and they have to give the information, it is public, and they talk about the council now and they would indicate where the money went. I'm sure that there's money for cancer research.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Can the Minister to indicate to me then - this is for the upcoming Estimates - in the last year if any of this money from the Manitoba Health Research Council did go to cancer research?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, as I say, they're independent from government. I must have the annual report somewhere, so if my honourable friend can't obtain the annual report from the Research Foundation, I'll see that she gets it.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, as indicated earlier by the Member for Pembina, the Federal Government does contribute a fair amount to cancer research in the province - I believe it's about \$1.4 million - and it seems to be a practice of many of the other provinces to contribute equal amounts to match the Federal Government as far as grants to cancer research.

Can the Minister inform me whether this government has the same policy?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I tried to explain. I believe my honourable friend wasn't here before the dinner hour or didn't get the explanation. We don't do that at all; we don't pick and choose. Any money that we feel should go in research and, as I say, five years ago, the total was \$200,000 from the province, and now there's this amount. So I'm saying that money goes to the Research Council and they decide, they make the decision.

The only place where we earmark funds is because there is a different act, and at first we felt that should be done. We still feel that it should come from there because we wanted to designate that because it was an act that is through the Mental Health Research. There's \$40,000 to \$50,000, which is an increase from the 15. All others are just strictly to the council. We do not dictate where the money will go.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Can I ask the Minister, then: Who is responsible for the Manitoba Health Research Council? It comes under your department. Are you not ultimately responsible for the council?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll try again. I am responsible to provide the funds and that council was set up so any money, it could be done in either of two ways. We can decide that we would put a certain amount of money for research and the Department of Health and government, the Minister of Health, through Order-in-Council, would say \$100,000 to cancer research, \$100,000 to cardiac, any way at all. We chose, at the request of the Medical Society, and the experts and that, the researchers themselves, they felt, and we agreed - we wanted to set this thing up - that we were not qualified to do that. That would be hit and miss and would lend itself to partisan politics, if you may.

So we said, all right, whatever money we can scrounge and get together and so on, we'll say here, we'll give it to this board and that's it and we don't interfere with them and make sure that the money is spent, that people are not going on holidays, of course, and so on. They have to account for it, but we have nothing to do or we don't try to influence them or anything when it comes to that. So we see that the money is spent; we see that they account for it. They have to give us an annual report. They give that to the public; it's public, and that's it. We don't interfere with them at all.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, might I ask the Minister then if I could obtain a breakdown of where the money does go?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I've got to talk louder. I said that you can and, if you can't get it, I'll get it for you. See how friendly I am?

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: So cooperative. Okay, under this line, it says that it provides for health research grants, personal support awards and administrative costs of the council. Can you tell me what portion of that \$787,000 are administrative costs?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Wait till you get the report

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Pardon?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Wait till you get the report. It'll be in there.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: It will all be in the report? Okay, I guess we can pass that one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(p) Manitoba Health Research Council—pass.

Item No. 2.(q)(1) Northern Health: Salaries, 2.(q)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, seeing there are no Salaries under this line, can the Minister tell us what the Other Expenditures are, the \$48,500.00?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is a staff that comes under the ADM, Dr. MacDonald. That's where it paid. That money is to help in some of the expense supplies in the Northern Station, the health station. Also, it's for expanded delivery in primary care and preventative health service in the Northern area and difficult of access places in the North and, as I said, for some of the equipment or whatever is needed in those stations, and also for staff training and development of personnel in that area, local people.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Can the Minister indicate what areas in the North are included in this line?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The Norman region, Grand Rapids, Moose Lake, Easterville, Cormorant, the Thompson region, Wabowden, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Ilford, that was for primary care. Preventative health, the Norman region, Grand Rapids, same places,

and Thompson region, the same places, that's for preventative health and primary care.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the services that are provided under (q)(2), when the Minister is mentioning some of the Metis communities, are those services primarily to Metis Manitobans?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I beg your pardon?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Are those services primarily to Metis Manitobans?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, it is. Most of these Northern areas are mostly Metis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready to pass this item?
2.(q)(1) Northern Health: Salaries—pass; 2.(q)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Before we pass the resolution, Mr. Chairman, this afternoon, I had an opportunity to go over it over the supper hour. The Minister presented some travel expenses for the ADM, Dr. MacDonald. Now I note, from the Order-in-Council appointment, that the appointment to ADM was made I believe effective on November 9, 1985.

Mr. Chairman, the first sheet of expenditures indicates a trip to Ottawa representing the Provincial Advisory Committee on Community Health. It was indicated in this that it was taken in September, 1985. That would seem to indicate that trip was taken when the incumbent was the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Were the expenses totalled in the September, 1985 trip accounted for in the position as Chief Medical Officer of Health, as well as in the ADM line?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It was paid from the same budget, but it was done by the office that Dr. MacDonald held at the time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So it was paid from the budget as Chief Medical of Health is what the Minister is saying. Was it also claimed as ADM?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Claimed twice, you mean?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Not that I know of. When Dr. MacDonald had that trip to Ottawa, she submitted the total bill to Ottawa. Ottawa paid only part of it. She then submitted the bill to Manitoba. There was an error submitted twice, and that was repaid by Dr. MacDonald.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Would the Minister care to provide a little more clarification on how the double billing occurred?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Dr. MacDonald at first was submitting her own bill. It was submitted, that portion, just the hotel bill. Then her secretary included it in the total for the money. When it was discovered, it was

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brought to the attention of the ADM and Dr. MacDonald was notified and repaid the amount, the second. It was an error done in submitting the bills between Dr. MacDonald and her secretary.

MR. D. ORCHARD: When was it repaid, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Recently. I don't know exactly when. It was brought to her attention just recently and paid recently.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, let me understand what the Minister is telling me. The Minister is indicating to me, and I presume we're talking on the September 1985 trip to Ottawa when an expense account was submitted by Dr. MacDonald herself, as well as by her secretary. They were one and the same expense accounts, both paid and reimbursed, and presumably the reimbursement was made in each case to Dr. MacDonald, and that just recently the error was discussed when this happened for a trip out of province, September 1985, that just recently the error was discovered and reimbursed? I'd be interested in knowing how recently.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Roughly around the time that there were changes in the department. There was a trip; part of it was paid by the Federal Government. Dr. MacDonald submitted all the bills, the hotels. The amount that my honourable friend is talking about is \$164.20. It's not that large an amount. Dr. MacDonald then was informed by the Federal Government that they didn't pay the hotel. She submitted that bill directly, just that bill alone. Later on, at the end of the month, I guess, or no, the final bill was submitted in 1986, and in that the secretary included everything, including this amount. So there was payment twice.

This was brought to her attention by Mr. Maynard, and Dr. MacDonald was made aware of that and she repaid the amount in total.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I'm not particularly interested in the number of dollars that are involved. Is the Minister saying that in September 1985 the Federal Government was billed for the \$164.20?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: They only reimbursed the air fare out of that total expense package that was submitted. As a result of that, Dr. MacDonald then turned in an expense account, as she was entitled to do, for \$164.20 that was not reimbursed by the Federal Government because it wasn't part of what they were going to reimburse; received payment for that from the Provincial Government, as she was entitled to do; and then the Minister is indicating that at a later date her secretary then turned in an expense account, reincluding the \$164.20, which was done, presumably, the Minister says in 1986. Does that mean when in 1986? January of 1986?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then in January of 1986 the \$164.20 was again reimbursed to Dr. MacDonald with

the balance of whatever expenses were included in that expense account; and then, just recently - and we don't know how recently - the Minister should be able to find that out because a cheque should have been issued for the repayment and, indeed, a receipt issued for same by the department - that that error was discovered just recently and reimbursed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, presumably, Dr. MacDonald cashed the original cheque for \$164.20 back in September or October of 1985; presumably cashed the same cheque from the Government of Manitoba for the expenses reimbursed on an account submitted by her secretary.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know how many people, in terms of their expense accounts, don't find out exactly whether they've been reimbursed completely and checked through.

Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if this reimbursement and the discovery of this error and the reimbursement to the department has any coincidence with my posing the questions on the expense account during the course of these Estimates, because the Minister hasn't indicated to us when this reimbursement took place, when it was discussed, when the error was discovered, or when the double billing was discovered. That hasn't been indicated. All we have is sort of a loose framework of time that it was discovered by Mr. Maynard and, subsequently, Dr. MacDonald was notified and, subsequently, she repaid the overbilled amount which, if it was done this month, that means some five months ago the second cheque was cashed inclusive of the double-billed expense account.

Mr. Chairman, that brings into question a number of things, and the Minister should tell us tonight, if he has the information, as to when the reimbursement was made. Was it made today? Was it made yesterday? When was the reimbursement made?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The information that my honourable friend received was prepared by Mr. Maynard's office, that is when it was discovered, but Dr. MacDonald was informed by the Deputy Minister, who had been informed by the administration, and paid immediately.

I wonder if my honourable friend is implying motives because this could be very serious. I think if I take the amount and all that, that it was a mistake, it was wrong, I certainly don't think that we should imply motives. We have no proof of that at all. I don't think that people in that position of Dr. MacDonald, especially for \$164, would stoop to that. I think it's very serious to imply motives. Mistakes have been made in the past and I'm satisfied that it has been an honest mistake.

Dr. MacDonald, no doubt, will be very careful in submitting the bills. It was at a time when there was a lot of commotion in the department also, and she wasn't used to that. She submitted her bill. She didn't know the part that Ottawa was playing in there. The secretary then resubmitted the bill, not that amount, and that wasn't discovered until this information was prepared.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the Minister is saying, but we have a circumstance here that does beg questions. For instance, on whose

advice did the secretary prepare Dr. MacDonald's January expense account? How did the secretary include in that an item which had already been reimbursed? Did she just pull it out of the air?

Because Dr. MacDonald, as you indicated earlier, had already been reimbursed for that by separate billing to the Province of Manitoba after that expense account was turned down by the Federal Government. Now presumably, the secretary did not simply pull a bunch of figures out of the air to create the expense account that was turned into January. They had to come from somewhere. I've been a Minister and I've had secretaries prepare expense accounts for me on the information I've given them.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Let's understand each other. At no time am I saying that Dr. MacDonald is not accepting the responsibility. It was prepared by the secretary who got the information together, but it was signed. As my honourable friend knows, when he was the Minister and the same with my expense, it is prepared by the secretary but signed by the person involved. Dr. MacDonald signed that and accepts the responsibility, and assures me and the Deputy that it was done in error.

I'm not going to imply motive. I'm ready to accept that. I think probably everybody learned their lesson. I don't know how it took so long to discover it. We had to look and compile all that. That's unfortunate, but I'm not ready to imply motives at this time. I was informed of that the day we prepared that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So then in fact the reimbursement has occurred either today or yesterday on the basis of this information being compiled. — (Interjection) —

So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister doesn't want to imply any motives or anything like that, but I simply point out to the Minister that this is a senior officer within his department responsible for major responsibilities in the department. As I mentioned to the Minister when we started this area of Estimates, you have a morale problem over in this whole division. You've got people who are upset, disturbed with the way certain things have happened in the department; the movement of people and the bringing in of new staff. I have to tell you in all candour and in all honesty that your new ADM is often referred to as part of the problem.

This instance of a miscalculated expense account and double billing, which hasn't been discovered until I raised the question and until the expense accounts are prepared yesterday and a cheque is cut to reimburse the double billing or the double expense reimbursement until yesterday or today, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has to ask himself whether the morale problems are indeed attributable to his new ADM and the lack of leadership that's there. This certainly, as coincidental and as mistaken as the Minister is making this incident, it hardly brings the staff to a level of confidence in the new ADM, given the problems that have been created since he's been put in there.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Minister, I think, has to understand that his department must function with a full understanding and a full belief that his personnel are operating in the best interests of the department at all times. Anything that doesn't indicate that is

causing and will continue to cause a lack of morale in the staff. When you don't have staff who are motivated and who are ready to accept the leadership of the ADM and others in the department, then you have staff who are not delivering properly. When they're not delivering properly, that costs all Manitobans not only tax dollars but costs the people to whom the programs are being delivered.

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister doesn't now have flag for some issues that he should take hold of and get control of within this part of his department, then I don't know what other kind of warnings he needs.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is incredible, Mr. Chairman, to go after people in that method. I've never seen this in this House before. If there is a problem with morale in my department, it's certainly not helped by the actions of my honourable friend today. It hasn't helped at all. That is not a way that you deal with morale.

Dr. MacDonald has the full confidence of the Minister, I can tell you that. There has been the best morale in the department. There's a lot of dead wood in the department, people who have been there a long time, an old boys' club who have been protecting each other and who do not like any changes at all. Dr. MacDonald came in and did some of the work that is needed to get an efficient department, and that is not easy. She stepped on toes. If anybody has any problems, should they go to somebody else or go to the Minister responsible? How do I guess those things if they come and tell you and you bring it here? I'm ready to listen to anybody any time, and I have.

It's obvious in a large department like that, some people at times are not satisfied. There are some political friends of different parties in there, and there is more heat in that department than anywhere else. That is not loyalty. If those are the kind of people you trust, if you ever get in government, you'll see what happens. That is not the way to try to change it. How can I guess what's going on if I'm not told by these people? All they have to do is they can go to the Deputy Minister, to other people.

There has been some resentment of some of the changes that are going on, rightly or wrongly. I'm not saying that these people are all wrong, but how can you rectify things when you don't know, when nobody is bringing this to your attention, all down the line, through the ADM's and the directors and so on, and when you have to learn it from somebody else who is in Opposition. Those are not things that are obvious. That is information that doesn't belong to anybody else but the department.

I've never said anything. I'm ready to keep it as open as possible. But tonight, I think you've gone a little too far. You've implied motive to a professional for that kind of money. Fine, it's a mistake. She accepts responsibility. I, in turn, as the Minister have to accept responsibility. How do you think I could find out about this? Do you think I check every single expense account of everybody in the department, of all the staff who we have and so on?

This was brought to our attention. Sure, you knew something. Why wasn't that information given to me? Why are those people not saying, hey, Mr. Minister, there's something wrong in the department and we

have a protest, whatever they have? That would be investigated. I can't investigate the things I don't know. I think it is unfortunate.

I'm glad that came to the surface. I don't like the way it was done. I don't think that it was fair, somebody who can't defend himself at all. It seems to me that could have been brought, even by the member of the Opposition, if they want to just try to make points. I can't see where that's going to give you brownie points. That is not my responsibility to check everything at all. We could have looked at it. We could have brought in Dr. MacDonald, and at least let Dr. MacDonald defend himself. I think that to publicly make a statement like that for that kind of money, I don't think it's fair. I think it's wrong.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, if this Minister was truly interested in providing the information to the House, why did he table this document this afternoon, knowing that the ADM had double-billed an expense account and had a cut a cheque to pay for the extra billing? Why wasn't that part of this full information that the Minister gave me this afternoon? He says, oh, come on. He's now saying that I'm not supposed to bring up anything that's drawn to my attention in the department, because he should know about it from the departmental staff himself. Why do you think you pay ADM's and Deputy Ministers and directors in your department? It's to take those kinds of complaints from the staff and take them seriously and, if they're serious enough, to bring them to your attention. If that isn't happening, Mr. Chairman, then I suggest the Minister's got a lot more of an old boys' club over there, and he's not resolving it in the method that he's talking about in this House.

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister was wanting to be entirely up front and complete with the information on the expense account that I requested, why wasn't the double billing of the expense account listed here with the date in which the cheque for reimbursement of the double billing part of it? If you were wanting to be complete and honest and forthright with myself and members of this committee and the people of Manitoba, why wasn't it spelled out here? Why did I have to ask further questions to get it out of you tonight?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's obvious why, Mr. Chairman, this wasn't done. My honourable friend asked me information about the trips. I didn't know if he had anything. I didn't suspect anything at all. I didn't know he was driving at that. I don't know that he was given any information. I thought he wanted to know how much money, if there was some abuse in that department in general, if there were so many tricks, not that somebody was double billing. I didn't think of that for a minute.

I've asked. Then he said, well I can refuse that information. I don't have to go to individuals and give that in the House. I've never refused anything in this House. I give all the documents that I ever have, as much as anybody on this side or anybody across there, more. I've always given all the information. I've always been candid in all my answers.

When I was asked this information and then, through my Deputy Minister and my Director of Administration that were here, they were told to prepare that as soon

as possible, so I could give it to you. I didn't prepare that. It wasn't discussed with me at all. That was prepared, and my Deputy Minister then told me about this at that time.

I said, well, what's the explanation? Did you call Dr. MacDonald? He said, Dr. MacDonald is coming to talk to me on that day, and then he told me what it was and I accepted that, fine. What can I do? I've got to accept people's words. I've got no proof. Dr. MacDonald is not a criminal. This is the first time that I've ever heard anything like that and, with a professional and the salary, I don't think she would stoop to that for \$164, especially billing the same people twice which is bound to be found out, either that or Dr. MacDonald is damn stupid if she thinks she can get away with that.

The point is then that my concern was that it be rectified. I'm not blaming my honourable friend for what he's doing. I don't think that was proper, the way he went fishing after Dr. MacDonald and making these insinuations that Dr. MacDonald can't answer. That I don't think is right.

But about bringing some information, I am saying that kind of staff who are not loyal to their department - most of my staff are very, very loyal. Some of those people I've had problems with, because they had a cozy little thing. I'm not going to name anybody today but, press me, and maybe I will. Some of these people have been in this department for quite a while.

The thing is, Dr. MacDonald has a job to do. She's doing it; she's doing a damn good job. Some of the people who have been doing the same thing for years and years don't like it. They're trying to get after her, it's obvious, in a cowardly way. If there's something wrong, I'm saying to those people - you can go back and tell them if you want if they don't hear me that, any time there is something wrong, I have never refused to talk to anybody in my department who has brought that in. I don't know of any of my directors or Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister who has refused.

We are human beings. There are mistakes in a big department like that. There was a mistake made, and there's nothing I would like better than knowing immediately, if I think there's something wrong, to try to rectify it. That is my point, and that is why I'm a little annoyed. I'm annoyed on two counts, at those people who have been trying to work behind our backs for years. If you think that's healthy and if you can rejoice at that because you think you can make a few points, if you ever get in Cabinet, you'll see what it means.

We've had people like that before who were ready to play games. There were people before who went after telling you who supported what party and all that, trying to get people fired. That happened before. I don't subscribe to that. I never have, and I never will. When I leave up there, I will thank the people and say, be as loyal to your next Minister - and in fact I did that in 1977 - as you were loyal to me. Never once, did I try to get any information from any of them, ask for it in this House, not one bit of information. I didn't think that was right. My friend can do what he wants.

I'm not blaming him. He's not the first one to do it. I blame the staff, and I don't trust that kind of staff. You shouldn't trust them either, because they'll turn on you just as easy as they turn on me.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's attempts at justification of why we shouldn't

be examining his department in detail to point out to him problems that he isn't aware of. That's the purpose of the Opposition, to point out to government problems that he maybe is not aware of, and I will continue to do that. I don't consider staff members who provide me information, which is information that suggests changes need to be made - I don't apologize for five seconds to anybody in this House for bringing that kind of information to this Minister so that the problems can be rectified because we're here, all of us, to spend taxpayers' dollars wisely and to make sure that staff efficiently delivers programs.

If there is some reason that this Minister doesn't understand that is not happening in his department because of problems in his department, and he doesn't have the knowledge of that and his senior people aren't telling him that, I feel privileged to be able to tell him so that maybe he'll get on with the job of solving some of those problems.

Mr. Chairman, it still doesn't answer why the Minister, in tabling this document prepared a day ago, knowing that there was a double billing, knowing it had been reimbursed, knowing that I was enquiring for expense accounts, wasn't forthright enough to include it in this information.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it was not a question of not being forthright at all. I did explain; I gave the answers. If he doesn't want to accept it, well that's his business. The situation was, he asked for information, how many trips were taken and the amount of the trip. That's what I thought he was after. I didn't think he was fishing and trying to destroy somebody; I didn't know that. I didn't know what information he had, and there's no damn way I'm going to help him do that.

The situation was corrected. That money has been paid back. I made darn sure of that. I accept it as a mistake and then, from now on, it is my responsibility. I'm the one who accepted it as a mistake. It was the first time. I'm not going to damn somebody when they tell me that it's a mistake, especially after the situation that I stated. That information didn't have to be shared, an error. There are a lot of errors that happen in every department, among the Opposition and different caucuses every day, and I don't think that has to be made public at all times.

There was nothing to gain by that. The point was that Dr. MacDonald was made aware of her error, and also that she reimbursed that. She gave an explanation that we accepted, and the matter's closed as far as I'm concerned.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister, when he was providing answers about an \$80,000 contract with the University of Manitoba, the Minister indicated that - if I can find the exact line. The information that I'm given is that we have some funds, but there is also an unfilled position such as the one that I mentioned earlier, the medical doctor that we haven't filled. Part of the funds have come from there to assist us until we can recruit the type of person that we want.

I want to make sure I understand again that the \$80,000 contract with the University of Manitoba is being paid in part or in whole from funds that are available from unused salary appropriation.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The information that I gave to the House and the information that I received was that this money came in for this agreement with the university, to pay this doctor through the university, came from money from positions that weren't filled.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, did the Minister receive Treasury Board approval for the transfer of Salary line funds to non-salary appropriations?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the matter is in front of the Treasury Board; it's being presented to Treasury Board now. It's in front of Treasury Board now, but the doctor is working with us at this time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What matter is before Treasury Board right now then? If the doctor is already working for you, it would seem to me that you've already made an agreement with the University of Manitoba for the \$80,000. What is before Treasury Board right now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll try and make sure that I get the information and give you a date and so on that it was submitted to Treasury. I'm told that the matter, the ratification of the contract is in front of Treasury, but the doctor has made one trip to The Pas.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, those dates would be most beneficial, because I want to quote to the Minister from an April 21, 1986 memorandum from the Chairman of Treasury Board to Ministers, Deputy Ministers on financial contracts, wherein on Page 2 it indicates: "In addition, Cabinet has directed that the restrictions on the transfer of funds from salary to non-salary appropriation will be continued for 1986-87."

Mr. Chairman, in taking the funds from salary to non-salary appropriation, which is obviously happening already because the individual is employed and on staff and working on contract, was that approval given for a change in the rules of operation within the department?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That special approval is what is in front of Treasury Board. That was discussed during the Estimates time at times with the Cabinet. At times, the direction was of course you have to go to Treasury Board. I'm not trying to say that was supposed to be by-passed with the understanding that then, yes, you could fill in with that position under certain circumstances such as this one.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So in other words, the Minister is indicating to us, given that the individual is already working, the contract is already in place with the University of Manitoba prior to Treasury Board approval because it's before Treasury Board right now, the Minister is telling us that he has confidence that Treasury Board will give him retroactive approval to this transfer of salary funds to non-salary appropriation, which appears to be against the directive from the Chairman of Treasury Board as a continuation of last years prohibition and restriction on the transfer of funds from salary to non-salary.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No money has been paid to the doctor as yet. No money will be paid until this is approved.

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MR. D. ORCHARD: I take from that answer that, if it isn't approved, the trip to The Pas would not be reimbursed to that doctor then.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's right, it would not be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we ready to pass the resolution?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 83: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$42,739,800 for Health, Community Health Services Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

Item No. 3.(a)(1) Community Health Services Operations, (a) Operations Support, (1) Salaries; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just while we're on this particular appropriation, I take it that what we are doing in Community Health Services in the Operations, in Operations Support and in (b) Regional Services, is coordinating in the various health regions of the Province of Manitoba many of the programs - in fact, I think it'd be fair to say all of the programs - that we just approved in the last Resolution No. 83. So what we have, in effect, in the Regional Services and in the Operations Support is an administrative structure in which the expertise that's available in the Appropriations 2.(a) through (q) are delivered to the people of Manitoba in the various regions. Is that a correct assumption?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That statement is correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, in terms of the Operations Support with the three SMY's, there are no vacancies. Is one of the individuals in Operations Support an ADM, or what is the senior bureaucrat position in Operations Support?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: John Robson is the Executive Director of the Winnipeg Region for both departments, the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay. Now, if I follow through on the Minister's organizational chart, we have Mr. Robson now as Executive Director of Winnipeg Regions really in the square where we have the Executive Director of Regional Operations. Is that a fair assessment of what is happening here?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, that will be made into three regions with regional directors in Winnipeg.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, the Minister indicated that he will have, under his jurisdiction, the service and program delivery of the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services as well within the Winnipeg region. It's my understanding that a Mr. Ross is in a parallel and similar position in Community Services, and is coordinating the delivery of Community

Service programs and Health Department programs in the seven regions outside of the City of Winnipeg. Is that a correct assumption?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Correct.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I guess then what we have here is an organizational chart of Manitoba Health that would need some changes in the Executive Director, Regional Operations, in that it should stop there and just be Executive Director, Winnipeg Region, and you should not have an extension to Westman, Central, Interlake, Thompson, Norman, Parklands, and Eastman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's in the process.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, Mr. Chairman, if I can attempt to establish what we're doing here now, currently throughout Manitoba in the Department of Health - and I presume in the Department of Community Services, although I shouldn't presume that because I don't know, but the way this organizational chart as presented, yet to be modified, indicates that we have an Executive Director of Regional Operations who is responsible for all eight regions of the province, Winnipeg being one region and the other seven regions outside of the City of Winnipeg.

That was, as I understand it, a position that was held by Mr. Bill Werbeniuk and he had responsibility, as Executive Director, for all of the regions of Manitoba in terms of Health programs, and I posed the question of whether there were any of the Community Services programs coordinated through Mr. Werbeniuk.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Werbeniuk was responsible for the region for Health matters only. Mr. Ross, I believe, was responsible for the same region for the Community Services. Now, the change that has been made, Mr. Robson is responsible for both in Winnipeg and Mr. Ross for both in the rural area outside of Winnipeg,

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I'll tell you what, if it would be all right with the Minister, how be it if we discuss in block, Operations Support, Regional Services, and pass them all at once?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me call Regional Services then. I've called 3.(a)(1) and 3.(a)(2).

Now I'm calling 3.(b)(1) Regional Services: Salaries; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the Winnipeg Regional Operation, as it is on this organizational chart, was that there were six area directors in the City of Winnipeg.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: With Mr. Robson now Executive Director for Winnipeg Regions, the Minister has indicated that there will now be three regions in Winnipeg and that each of those regions will have a

regional director, so that now the flow of administration will be an executive director, Mr. Robson, and then three yet to be hired regional directors.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated in previous answers that those three positions are currently being bulletined. Can the Minister indicate tonight two things. First of all, have the regional boundaries in Winnipeg been established? Secondly, what will be the position under the new organization of the six area directors who are currently servicing the entire City of Winnipeg?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The three regional directors for Winnipeg positions have been advertised and the boards have been held. The interviews have taken place also, but no selections have been made as yet. The department has a pretty good idea where the boundaries of the regions are, but that has not been determined as yet. That should be done fairly soon.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to go through an organization of the Winnipeg Region. Within the staff of Regional Services, we have 683.75 SMY's as of printing, and there is a request for two additional SMY's. With the reorganization, and given that the regional staff or Regional Services included the seven regions outside the City of Winnipeg, under the reorganization - presumably some of those staff would have been at Westman, Central, Interlake, Thompson, etc. - what is the new staff number to be once Regional Services, as it will appear in next years Estimates dealing only with the City of Winnipeg in the three regions that will soon be established, what will be the staff count in Regional Services?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The total staff count is exactly the way it is now. Any staff will be made up from within. We're asking for these two additional staff years, and that's it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay. So that all that is going to change then is basically the reporting system, in that in Winnipeg, reporting to the area directors or the three Regional Directors and to the Winnipeg Executive Director is going to include both staff from the Department of Health, part of which are in the 685 and, as well, staff from Community Services. The Department of Health will still pay the staff in the seven regions outside of Winnipeg, but they will report and have their activities coordinated by Mr. Ross out of Community Services.

That begs the question as to how does the administrative structure then of the various program lines that we've just passed in Appropriation 83, when you've got those regional staff outside of Winnipeg reporting to a regional director in Community Services, how does that coordinate, for instance, in Continuing Care to have the staff in Continuing Care in the appropriation we just passed coordinate that with a non-Department of Health Executive Director?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is a close liaison there. There has to be with the department when they're working together, when we're talking about single-unit delivery. There is no doubt that part of the problem that we talked about earlier, part of the morale was

especially when the two departments were divided and staff - there has been an awful lot of trouble, and this is why we were requesting changes. Things were bad in the morale; it was very bad.

Now, the situation is that Mr. Robson will report here to both Mr. Cels of the Department of Community Services, and Dr. MacDonald and Mr. Ross will do the same thing for the rural area.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, Mr. Chairman, right now program coordinators or program directors are operating within Winnipeg region. For instance, it's my understanding there is a program director for continuing care, for mental health and for public health nursing. When you have three regions being established in the City of Winnipeg, will those program directors be multiplied by three? In other words, will there be three continuing care program directors, one for each of the regions? Will there be three mental health directors, program coordinators or program directors? Will there be three public health nursing directors in the three regions? Is that the envisioned line of authority for the reorganized Winnipeg region where you have not one but three regions?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The situation as far as the reporting since the division to the department from one is no different than it was before. Mr. Werbeniuk used to report to two departments also, and that is the same thing. As far as the home care is concerned, the people in the region would handle the people for home care and so on. The work would be done. We have a director of home care and the assessment is done the way it was done before. The same thing in the rural area through the people in the region, would do the panelling together, a number of people would decide the care that is needed and so on and that was done.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay, so then is the Minister saying that with the establishment of the three regions, which is going to happen presumably within the next several months, that there won't be an increase in program coordinators, one for each region? Because now you have one for the entire City of Winnipeg; that one is still going to act on behalf of the new three regions. This is what the Minister is saying. The only increase in staff that we're going to look at between now and the full implementation is two additional staff.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The situation as of now is the same as it was. These directors of the different programs are the only coordinators, and as I say, we haven't finalized a region here. There could be some change, but so far there hasn't been any change. That is being implemented gradually with the proper staff and so on, and there could be a lot of changes with what we're contemplating to do, in general, with the change in the Department of Health and to try to get away from the institution, more in the community health and community prevention and so on. So that could change.

MR. D. ORCHARD: But the Minister is assuring myself and the House that with the implementation of three regions in Winnipeg that there is not going to be any

doubling up of staff, any duplication of staffing; that the current staffing complement is going to handle all of the services in the three regions that are currently being handled as one region and that's what the Minister is indicating to us.

Now, Mr. Chairman, that begs the natural question then: Why are you creating three regions in Winnipeg when you're not going to have a more concentrated staffing complement where you have program coordinators for continuing care in all three regions, etc., etc.? You're still going to have one. What's the purpose of making three regions in Winnipeg?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Actually, if anything, we are going from three regions. Don't forget, we had six different regions, plus rural Manitoba, and that will change. The point is that there might be a different line of responsibility but not with more bodies and, as I say, that is not finalized as yet. But the commitment is that we are not asking for any more staff except what we're asking for at this time. We'll have to make do with what we have.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I have to tell the Minister that I don't really understand what the purpose of the reorganization in Winnipeg is.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: . . . population.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates population. But, Mr. Chairman, the only change that I can see in terms of his reorganization is that what we had over here in the organizational chart that the Minister gave me at the start of the Estimates was one individual and at the time this chart was effective, presumably it was a Mr. Werbeniuk. He was the regional director of Operations for all of Manitoba for the Department of Health. Now, that's been changed; he's no longer there. We now have Mr. Robson in who is executive director of Winnipeg region only for both Health and Community Services. That seems to be the only change.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in addition to that, since we're not eliminating staff, but rather we're increasing staff by two in regional services, presumably those will be the two new regional directors for Winnipeg. — (Interjection) — No. Then basically what we're ending up with is an executive director of Winnipeg Operations with three regional directors below them for the soon to be established regions in Winnipeg. Then all the existing staff, which are delivering Department of Health programming in the City of Winnipeg, will be providing equal provision of service if you will to all three regions in Winnipeg. Allocation of resource will be equally divided between all three regions of Winnipeg or as need may be.

But, Mr. Chairman, it still doesn't explain, or it doesn't give justification that I can see, to establishment of the three regions in Winnipeg. It operated under one region before with a structure of regional directors. What is the expected benefit of dividing Winnipeg into three regions under three regional directors under an executive director for Winnipeg? I just don't see the advantage to making this reorganization.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My honourable friend forgets that there are approximately 600,000 people in the City

of Winnipeg, where there are six or seven regions outside of Winnipeg, and don't forget that there were also six different area directors. Now there will be three regional directors and they will be working, as I say, trying to unite. That was one of the problems, was trying to coordinate the staff of both departments. That has been a real problem and that is why the study was made. That's why the changes were made. Things were very bad and the morale was very bad also.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, possibly the Minister was even the Minister of Health back in those days, but back in the early Seventies Winnipeg was, as I understand it, three regions at that time. In the early Seventies, and that wasn't during the Lyon administration, that was during the Schreyer administration. Those three regions were amalgamated into one region in Winnipeg because at the time there were problems with duplication of services; fragmentation of management control; there were different service standards between the regions; staffing costs were considered to be excessive; there was the lack of coordination that the Minister is referring to as being a problem under the system that it changed to.

Now, Mr. Chairman, those changes were made in the early Seventies and Mr. Werbeniuk was brought in and he headed up the Winnipeg region as director of Winnipeg region and then, I suppose two or three years ago, was given the overall responsibility of all regions in Manitoba.

But basically, Mr. Chairman, what appears troubling to me, or out of phase to me, is that we seem to be going back now to a three-region system in Winnipeg which we were at in the early Seventies and was changed to one region because of the kinds of problems that the Minister is hoping to resolve today. It seems like we've got history revisited in that we're going back to three regions when that didn't prove to be an efficient method of delivery in the early Seventies; we're going back to it today.

That is why I posed the questions to the Minister of what it is that he expects to be able to demonstrate at the end of next year or within a year and a half after this reorganization has settled in and staff is accustomed to their role, etc., etc.

I want to know if the Minister is anticipating that they will be able to deliver the same services in Health and Community Services with fewer people because of this reorganization in the three regions. Is there going to be dollar savings in terms of administrative costs? What's going to be the net result of this return to the structure in Winnipeg of the early Seventies?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My honourable friend is talking about the structure in the early Seventies. You should remember then that there was one department; there weren't two departments. It was Health and Social Development. A lot of the problems were created after that when the departments were divided.

At one time during the stay of my honourable friend in government - that is when Mr. Werbeniuk was made the executive director of Winnipeg for those departments - that didn't work as far as the Community Services were concerned and they decided to have their own. We've tried to have that in reporting to both,

there was some difficulty, and that is why we're doing this change. It can't be worse than it was.

We also have quite a population and it was too big for one region only and we are having three regions in Winnipeg but we're getting rid of the six areas. I should remind my honourable friend that the changes were made in Winnipeg at that time. That was before many of the programs that we have now were involved in that. I think mental retardation wasn't part of that at the time, home care wasn't part of that, it was independent, and there were other areas.

Things are not identical as they were then. News spilled out what we're trying to do that it is smaller, it was too big for one region; and, secondly, in an effort to get all the groups working together, in fact, to do some of the things that we felt should be done to improve the morale of the staff.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I accept what the Minister's goals are in terms of this redistribution into three regions. It seems to me, from the Minister's last answer, that there were problems with that in the early Seventies in having three regions in Winnipeg and that was attempted to be resolved by making it into one region.

The Minister is indicating that things have changed from the early Seventies to now and that's correct. There are more programs that we are delivering, which seems to me to indicate that if there were problems back in the early Seventies with the three regions in Winnipeg under Health and Community Services as it was at the time, one department, because that is exactly what we're getting into now, because even though the program costs aren't paid for by Health, this person in Winnipeg and the three regional directors are going to be delivering both Health and Community Services programs. There will be a central coordination of it identical to what we had back in the early Seventies when Health and Community Services were one department and when the three regions were amalgamated into a single region.

Now, with more responsibilities today in Continuing Care, in Mental Retardation, Welcome Home, and a number of other programs, we now are going back to the three regions that didn't appear to work in the early Seventies. I suppose that only time will tell as to whether this new reorganization and the breakup of the Winnipeg region into three new regions is going to be successful and deliver the kind of coordination between the two departments that the Minister envisions.

I guess on this side of the House we may be a little bit skeptical when Ministers stand up and say that, and say it in all good faith, because the Minister obviously believes it's the way it will end up or else he wouldn't be proposing it and accepting the departmental recommendation.

But there's a Minister sitting two chairs down from him that, when the Children's Aid Society was broken up into six regions in Winnipeg, told us that everything would work swimmingly. In the ensuing period of time, we've got some 40-plus more staff than we had under the one region and we've had a number of problems come out of that decentralization and breakup of the one regional concept for Children's Aid Society in Winnipeg.

I'm particularly skeptical. I'm from Missouri, I have to be shown. When in the early Seventies, under the same government, the Minister was even part of it. Were you the Minister when it was amalgamated from three into one?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay, I didn't think you were — (interjection) — yes, I know, but this is the reorganization from three regions into one was done prior to you being Minister of Health in the Schreyer Government.

But now we're going exactly the opposite direction with more programs. That's the point I make, and I trust the Minister has good advice that this is going to work more efficiently and that the people will be better served.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I told my honourable friend that there would be some changes. Things were not doing well; we needed changes. I don't think it could be any worse than it was. It might be that I'll fall flat on my face, and I'll accept the responsibility.

But let me tell you that at the time - and I wasn't the last Minister of Health in the Schreyer Government - things were going quite well. We didn't have all the departments then. Then my honourable friend must remember that we were just initiating this program. It hadn't been for many years.

The big trouble at the time, the problems that we had, was to try to have a single unit delivered. There were so many people resisting that. It was all right for somebody else but not their particular profession. They all wanted their own. Some managed to stay out. I would have preferred a total amalgamation. Some of them were not done like that.

But I want to say this. The same problem that we are identifying now, the study that we've made to improve the morale, to get the people working closer together, to get more cooperation between the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community Services, the same problems were identified by the Spivak Commission in your days. If you look that up, you'll see that nothing was done at the time; so that is another added directive or advice that we had from the Spivak Commission suggesting that it was too big for Winnipeg, it wasn't working well, and they should divide that.

I'll go a little further. I don't know if there will be any changes at all, but the Minister of Community Services and myself propose to get together fairly soon to see if there should be some changes in the department. I know that the previous government did the best they could and it's working well in many instances.

Talking about changing, how many times did Manitoba go to one combined department of Health and Social Development and then go back to two and come back to one and go back to two? That has happened many times. This happened back and forth under the same government of Duff Roblin with George Johnson, who's with us now, as a Minister of Health at that time. That is something that has to be looked at. It could be we have a concern, and the biggest concern is exactly in this area. I know that my honourable friend is talking about the morale; that's

where it is. We've got to meet this problem head on, and it was bad. It was a bad situation, they were not working as a group, and there are still some people in that area that are continuing to do that. We'll have to work with them and, if they can't work with us, we'll have to find other ways to work with them. We're going to try to make this work.

Now the situation, as I said, the discussion between the two different departments, we'll be looking at the region to see if it's advisable to have them work together, to bring them back under one department, and also areas - I'm sure the Minister will have other ideas also - the idea of the area of mental health and mental retardation.

Anyway, there's a lot of things brewing in the department and you haven't got all the results now. Some of the things, we'll probably make mistakes. I hope we don't and I hope they're very few, but I mean if we're going to change, and we're not afraid of change, if we have to make changes because they have to be made and certain things will be adjusted, that's why we are going to take our time, get these people and do this in a gradual way and try to improve the cooperation between the departments, the cooperation between the staff working as one, and also the morale of the people working in the region because it is a very important responsibility.

It will be more so if we go in that direction of trying to get away from just institutional health care and go to community health care. That'll be very, very important, that will be the heart of our department, and that is the first thing that we've got to straighten out.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister provide to us this evening, or the next time we meet to discuss the Estimates, the terms of reference of the new regional directors that have been bulletined and panelled for Winnipeg.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there's a couple of other areas I want to touch on briefly and they're ones which, in my understanding, and I hope I use the terminology correctly in terms of how the department works in providing services to the citizens of Winnipeg, you've got basically an intake coordinator, or intake coordination is done by a team approach, as I understand it, where if a person calls up Regional Services or a part of Regional Services and says that they need assistance through home care or they're coming out of the hospital and they need temporary home care, or whatever the service may be that's offered through the Regional Services, now an intake coordination team basically decides the needs and directs the individual, the client, directs appropriate staff to service the need of that particular client in Winnipeg.

Now the same question applies: Will the one intake team that's presently structured be now operating for all of the three regions once they're established?

The second area that I want to get into - well, maybe I'll let the Minister answer that question and then I'll get into the second area.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is no plan at this time to change any teams at all, and we've left as much as

possible to be discussed with the regional directors themselves in the final application of that final reorganization. That will be discussed with the people that after all will have the responsibility. I guess that at a certain point it could vary somewhat in different regions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is the core area envisioned to be a region or will it all be included in one region of Winnipeg?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I stated that that boundary wasn't finalized, as my honourable friend knows. Some of the service in the core area is provided by the City of Winnipeg. That'll be taken into consideration. The intent now, and that could change, would be that it would be Winnipeg East, Winnipeg West and North Central, and the core area would be in North Central.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Winnipeg . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: East, West and North Central.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Presumably east of the river?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, well, the final lines are not drawn yet.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's neither here nor there. When they're drawn up, the Minister will provide us with a chart.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Right.

MR. D. ORCHARD: But does the Minister envision a problem, for instance, within the core area? That's where roughly 90 percent of your group homes are.

Now, when you split Winnipeg up into three regions with all the group homes concentrated in one region, and your staff assigned, presumably, to the various regions, and undertaking their duties within the three regions, does the Minister not envision that you're going to end up with a tremendous flow of support personnel through the group homes as they follow, for instance, from the east region, the appropriate support staff, in following one of their clients to a group home where the person may be there temporarily for a couple or three weeks time, does the Minister not envision some difficulties in terms of having an incredible number of staff from the new three regions ending up flowing through the group homes because they're not concentrated and distributed evenly throughout the City of Winnipeg; they're concentrated mainly in the core area?

Is the Minister at all concerned about any confusion in terms of provision of service through the group homes? I'm basically asking him: Is he satisfied that that won't cause problems in terms of delivery of the group home service to the client?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It would if the number of staff would be the same in all regions, but there's no necessity of having the same number of staff. The responsibility such as the group homes pretty well in one area will have to be taken into consideration

because there's the supervision and placement and all that, that is the responsibility of the regional directors.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I want to get into another area in terms of the assessment done by regional staff in terms of determining the needs of individuals who are involved with Welcome Home.

There are regional staff in here that are dealing with mental health are . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's Community Services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Right, I realize Welcome Home is a Community Services program, but I believe that staff in Regional Services in Winnipeg provide support to the people that are coming out.

The past practice has been that those staff have done the assessment basically of the patient or the client - let's call them the client - needs in the community, and has been doing the assessment in the past to identify what sort of community resource backing the individual coming out of, for instance, MDC in Portage and finding a group home or other home in Winnipeg.

Now it's my understanding that that assessment job has been farmed out to the Association for Community Living for assessment of those individuals on a charge-back basis and the Department of Health staff no longer have responsibility for that. It is now being done by the ACL on an agreement, not with this Minister's department but with the Department of Community Services, for some \$40,000.00.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This could be also discussed in the Estimates of my honourable friend, the Minister of Community Services. That is not farmed out solely to the association like that. It is done in cooperation between mostly the staff of Community Services and the association. They've both been working together.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, then I've got another line of questioning.

We had this discussion earlier on in the Estimates, and it's my understanding that the Minister indicated that Mr. Robson had come in to basically take a look at the Winnipeg regional operations and to provide some recommendations to the Minister as to how - well, it was then Mr. Maskiw's operation, I guess, basically to overview and to provide recommendations as to his management style, and to suggest methods by which the Winnipeg Region could be more suitably administered.

As a result of that, I presume - and the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong - that it's as a result of that overview by Mr. Robson that we ended up now contemplating and in the process of making three regions in Winnipeg?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As I stated earlier, there were problems, and we requested, asked Mr. Robson if he could take that responsibility. He did, and there is no doubt that much of the advice has been accepted by the department and myself.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, following that, the position - correct me if I'm wrong - of Regional Director

was filled in an acting capacity by Mr. Robson and then filled without bulletining and without competition at a later date.

Mr. Chairman, can I also have the Minister indicate whether one of the recommendations made by Mr. Robson in his study of the operations of Winnipeg Region was to basically have the assessment on the clients in the Welcome Home, which was being done by the Mental Retardation staff within the Department of Health, Winnipeg Region, to have that farmed out to the Association for Community Living? Was that one of the recommendations that Mr. Robson had made as part of his package of recommendations to the Minister after his overview of Mr. Maskiw's operation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, that wasn't a recommendation on that by Mr. Robson. That was a standing policy before that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate when that standing policy was implemented, then?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The Minister of Community Services always works with the partnership of the staff in these associations. I can understand why my honourable friend is trying to bring this into our department, but it is mostly Community Services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I suppose we'll have to pose these questions, although Community Services Estimates are over. But basically now, the regional staff in the Department of Health no longer have any responsibility for any of the assessment done on Welcome Home clients coming to Winnipeg. They don't do any assessment any more. That is done primarily, as I understand it, by ACL and that is a recent development.

Now the Minister says it was always done that way. I suppose, we'll have to pose the question to the Minister of Community Services as to when that change was made, because it's my understanding that is a recent development with the Association for Community Living, that they are now doing the assessment of the Welcome Home clients. That assessment is no longer existing with departmental staff and Regional Services, but yet they are the ones who are often delivering the service to those very same people. Yet, they have no input into the type of service that's needed, because the assessment duties have been reassigned.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I believe this time my honourable friend's information is not correct. There is no change. There's been a partnership with the Department of Community Services and the Association, and most of it, very little with the Department of Health. The same cooperation that existed now exists with the Department of Health also.

It is a program that belongs to another department, and it's done mostly by the staff. There's cooperation, as I say. We're giving the single-delivery unit, and there's some cooperation, but most of it is done by Community Services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Could the Minister indicate with whom you cooperate in the Association of Community Living to do this assessment?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: With the Community Services staff, the staff of the Association, with work projects, with community boards, with everybody that is involved whenever we're asked to cooperate.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is there not a new system called the "24-Hour Plan," which basically does the assessment? Is that not a new service, a new coordination and assessment program undertaken by the Association for Community Living?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Why don't we save time? Mrs. Robson has been working for that place for the last two years at the same salary that she has, and there isn't going to be any change at all. If you're going to throw dirt, why don't you bring it right away? Why drag it?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister must have extremely thin skin. I don't recall anybody throwing dirt. What we're trying to determine is the process under reorganization of this department. If the Minister is sensitive about his new Executive Director doing whatever with the Association of Community Living, maybe he's got some explanations he'd like to make to the House, because he seems to be awfully thin-skinned about us asking questions about his new reorganization in his Regional Services. If he's got something that needs to be scrutinized, then maybe we should do some scrutiny.

I seem to think the Minister has got a very, very thin skin on this, and I can't understand why. Mr. Chairman, you know, the Minister is very, very interesting in his thin skin tonight. I asked him point blank some days ago as to whether any positions were filled without bulletin, without panelling, and one was. It's Mr. Robson.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I gave you that information.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's right. The Minister stands behind it and he says, that's fine; that's good; that's wonderful. I don't know what he is alluding to in terms of anybody throwing dirt at the fact that his new Director of Winnipeg Region, the individual's wife happens to work at ACL under a program of "24-Hour Plan." I don't know what the Minister is thin-skinned about. He must be under some kind of stress and pressure to be so sensitive about questions that try to determine how this new reorganization is going to work.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I don't like to treat people like that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister says from his seat that he doesn't like to treat people like that. I don't know what "like that" is. If he's got some problems with the kind of questions we're asking . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Some day, I'll write you a letter.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well I hope you write the letter pretty soon. Could you do it before the end of Estimates, because it would be most interesting to have your thoughts on it?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You'll have my thoughts.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I fully expect I might, at some time, get your thoughts.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to close off with the Minister. Maybe we should be almost calling the evening over, because he's getting pretty sensitive and pretty thin-skinned tonight.

Basically, Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate for the Minister some concerns. That's what government in a democracy is all about. Governments aren't elected with the omnipotent power where they just simply do anything without standing the scrutiny of the public eye. I take my responsibilities in that regard quite, quite seriously.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we've got ourselves a reorganization within Regional Services that has the potential earmarkings of costing more in terms of staffing, because we have now got an increase in the number of regions in Winnipeg. We've got a change within the last six or eight months where one individual, as Executive Director of Regional Operations, is no longer there. He was responsible, when there, for Winnipeg and the seven regions in Manitoba, in other words, for the whole province.

We now have the structure changed where we've got an Executive Director for Winnipeg region, then under him are three Regional Directors for three areas to be set up in Winnipeg, in which we are now going to return to the early Seventies system of delivery whereby the Winnipeg Executive Director and the three Regional Directors in Winnipeg are going to be responsible for delivery of programs similar to what they were in the early Seventies. That system in the early Seventies was changed presumably for the better by the Schreyer Administration into one Winnipeg region. We are now going back to three regions.

Those three regions are going to coordinate both program delivery for the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services, the same as they were in the early Seventies but with additional responsibility, such as Continuing Care, the Welcome Home Program, the 24-Hour Plan, the assessment for providing backup and community support to the various people who are coming into the community under the Welcome Home Program.

So, Mr. Chairman, I hope that in the implementation of this regionalization in Winnipeg that we don't find ourselves a year-and-a-half from now and we're dealing with Estimates, and when we're dealing with the Department of Health, that we don't find ourselves in the same sort of position that we have found ourselves in with the Department of Community Services and their regionalization of Winnipeg Children's Aid Society.

Because; you know, I think, if we were to read back in Hansard some of the answers to the questions posed to the Minister of Community Services, we would find many of the same rationale given, as the Minister is giving tonight, to justify the establishment of six regions on CAS. Since that has happened, we know that there are additional 40-plus staff that had to be hired; we know that there are problems within the system for regional delivery; and I only hope that the Minister has got No. 1, the right kind of a plan and idea here, that this new regionalization and combination of reporting for Community Services and the Department of Health will indeed be an efficient rationalization of the provision of services between those two departments. More

importantly, Mr. Chairman, I hope that it re-establishes a level of morale within the staff that will allow them to get on with the efficient and caring delivery of services.

Now, Mr. Chairman, incumbent on that, naturally, is the competence of the people who are going to be undertaking and supervising that reorganization in Winnipeg. Those responsibilities fall primarily on two people, both of them newly in position with the department, namely, the ADM and Mr. Robson, who is now the Executive Director of Regional Services. I hope that the Minister, as he has expressed full confidence in both those individuals, and has taken full responsibility for their advancement, one without competition because he had such confidence in that individual, Mr. Robson. I hope that the Minister's confidence for the sake of the people to whom the services will be delivered and, as well, for the sake of the taxpayers who foot the bill if this plan goes awry, as it has for the Minister of Community Services and the Children's Aid Society, that the Minister's confidence in these people is well justified. I hope the plan works.

But, Mr. Chairman, I only want to indicate to the Minister that the eyes of the department are watching him in terms of this reorganization and this breakup into three regions of Winnipeg. Although the Minister may a year or two from now cry if it doesn't work out, he will no doubt blame it on a number of other people who weren't good departmental staff and somehow sabotaged his plan. But that won't be an acceptable argument because maybe, Mr. Chairman, if this doesn't work, the Minister has to do some introspection and take a look at what he has approved in terms of reorganization and the people who recommended it to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready to pass this block of items?

3.(a)(1) Community Health Services (Operations) - Operations Support: Salaries—pass; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(b)(1) Regional Services: Salaries—pass; 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution 84: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to finish the resolution first.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$23,495,100 for Health, Community Health Services (Operations) for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987—pass.

Is there an inclination that committee rise?

Committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you agree to support? (Agreed)

Do I hear a motion for adjournment?

There is a motion for adjournment by the Minister of Municipal Services, seconded by the Minister of Community Services. Is that agreed? (Agreed) You have heard the motion.

This House is adjourned and stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. (Wednesday).