

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 12 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture and Heritage Resources.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a Ministerial Statement.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today, on Manitoba's birthday, and note the presence of young adults and children in the gallery and throughout this building.

The significance of an Open House at the Legislature for youth today is quite obvious, Madam Speaker. Today, we celebrate, as a province, our heritage and our future. This celebration is rooted in a proud and rich tradition of history and hope.

Manitobans come from a hundred different nations, a hundred different histories. Each of our forefathers and foremothers selected a special part of Manitoba and put down roots. Each of us select today a part of Manitoba and put down roots. Each of us select today a particular part of our heritage that we highlight as being integral to the cultural identity of our province. Out of this diversity, Manitoba has grown, changed and flourished.

It is no coincidence that Manitoba Day falls in "Multicultural Week," given the special roots of all the citizens of this province and the ethnic diversity that truly is Manitoba.

And, out of this diversity, Madam Speaker, will come our future - a future that will be framed by what we do now, and a future that will be orchestrated by the young people here today.

A number of events have been planned today to celebrate our past, present and future and to justly recognize Manitoba's birthday.

Earlier this month, Madam Speaker, my colleague, the Honourable Jerry Storie, Minister of Education, and I, sent Manitoba Day kits to all schools, public libraries, recreation centres and regional offices. These kits included activities for youth and activities for communities to celebrate Manitoba's history and heritage. They included lists of Manitoba books, Manitoba films, a heritage quiz, a calendar of heritage events for the month of May, and a fact sheet on Manitoba 100 years ago.

Today, Madam Speaker, is Manitoba's 117th birthday. We have opened the doors of the Legislature to youth, and I was pleased to welcome earlier this hour some 1,500 youth who have joined us this afternoon.

We have planned a full program for our visitors today, Madam Speaker. We have already delighted in some of the performers - Chuck McCandless, Kate Ferris, Tawny Ross and the group "K.A.T.S." (Kids Advancing Toward Stardom), as well as the Kelvin High School Choir.

Our guests have been greeted by Manitoba youth dressed in heritage costumes and can now look forward to a performance by students of Actors' Showcase of "Dr. Barnardo's Pioneers" (A play by the Manitoba Theatre Centre Director, Rick McNair); Brian Richardson telling Manitoban stories in the Legislative Library; a showing of Manitoban films; a media workshop put on by Information Services; displays in the Pool of the Black Star on Manitoba's heritage and multiculturalism; and visits to MLA's offices.

And in conjunction with Manitoba Day celebrations, I am also pleased to note that tonight the Manitoba Government and the National Film Board of Canada will be co-hosting the world premiere of "Ikwe" - the first part of the four-part drama, "Daughters of the Country" produced by Norma Bailey and filmed entirely in Manitoba. This series tells the story of the Metis people of Western Canada through the stories of four Metis women, and was made possible, in part, by the MGEA through the Manitoba Jobs Fund which contributed \$500,000 toward its production.

As well, Madam Speaker, throughout the month of May, I am pleased to announce an exhibition of the recently acquired Jackson Beardy Print Collection. Cultural Resources purchased the prints from the estate of the artist, and we have just recently had them conserved and they make a handsome addition to the collection of Jackson Beardy's art that we already possess. These recent additions, some 20 prints, will be on display in the foyer of the Provincial Archives building at 200 Vaughan Street for the entire month.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that tomorrow evening, the Premier and I will be hosting a Citizenship Court here in the Legislative Building where we will be welcoming 40 new Canadians as citizens of Canada.

Manitoba Day, Madam Speaker, is a time to celebrate our distinctive cultural heritage, and I am proud to acknowledge the visitors in our gallery today.

The youth here today are the future leaders and constituents of this great province. In opening our doors to you, we are welcoming you to the future and acknowledging your contributions to the present fibre of our communities.

We are committed to sharing with you our heritage, our culture and our diversities. Together we will make a great province where our roots and our hopes interweave in the richness of our land.

I would ask all members, Madam Speaker, of the Legislature to join with me in welcoming our guests to this House.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased, on behalf of all my colleagues, to join with the Minister in welcoming all of our visitors here to the Legislature on Manitoba Day. Birthdays are always a very happy occasion and this is a happy event, celebrating the 117th Anniversary of Manitoba's entry into Confederation.

It's a day for people of all ages and all conditions in Manitoba to commemorate, and to commemorate the memory of that happy event in which we entered Confederation; from the seniors who built this great province of ours, who contributed of their time and energy and talent to pioneer the growth and development of our province, to the youth, many of whom are with us here today to mark the occasion, because they not only will inherit that which has been built and left for them as a legacy by our forebearers, but they'll also provide the energy and the enthusiasm to ensure that our province continues to grow and develop for the future, the bright future that all of us want to have in this Manitoba of ours.

And I wish for them many challenges and many opportunities to contribute, each in his and her own way, to the better quality of life that all of us want in Manitoba's future - a better quality of personal life, a better quality of economic life.

I'm also pleased, as well, Madam Speaker, to be able to welcome some special people, those disabled persons who are with us for the first time, joining in in this celebration and this opportunity to view the Legislature in action, who are here in our translation booth today and, hopefully, will have an opportunity for full participation in future, as every one of our members of society is able to come and view the proceedings of the Legislature.

We are pleased that they are here to celebrate Manitoba Day because we know that they deserve equality of opportunity, and we look forward to an equal partnership with them in the future growth and development of our province.

So I welcome all of our visitors, on behalf of my colleagues in the Opposition Caucus of the Legislature. I look forward to enjoying with them the celebrations that have been planned, the entertainment that will prevail today in the Legislature and, particularly, in celebrating in many different ways, our happy Manitoba birthday.

So I join with all in saying Happy Birthday, Manitoba - 117 years young, and many more good years to go and many more things to look forward to in our province.

Thank you very much.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. G. DOER: Yes, Madam Speaker. I'd like to table the Annual Report, 1985-86, of the Department of Crown Investments.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, Madam Speaker.

I would beg leave to table the Annual Report of the Public Trustee for the year 1985-86.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

Labour legislation - review of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, yesterday in question period the Premier indicated that he was concerned about a \$3.2 million lawsuit that has been lodged against an 18-year-old woman, Jennifer Campbell, who had dared to ask fellow workers some questions about the position of the union and the role of the company in a labour dispute at SuperValu. The First Minister said he would investigate this matter because he was concerned about this happening under Manitoba's labour laws.

I wonder if the Premier has had time to look into it and can report to us.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I've had some further advice which has just come in and I want to peruse that.

Budget - increased taxation

MR. G. FILMON: A further question for the First Minister.

We learned today that a local advertising agency is closing its business because of what they have termed to be "the harsh business climate," which has been created by this NDP Government.

Will the First Minister now admit that his devastating budget, with the obscene increases in taxation that it has imposed upon all Manitobans, is now driving business out of Manitoba and destroying our opportunity to attract investment here?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is referring to a newspaper report and a letter circulated by a firm called Stringham and Grant Tandy, and I gather their major reason for removal from the province is that there was a change of government federally. They lost what has been traditionally a Liberal field of business from the former Liberal Government; apparently are not receiving contracts from the present Federal Government, therefore, their accounts have dried up, which I think is a good indication to any private entrepreneur, don't depend solely or exclusively or, in the main, upon government business because governments do change from time to time.

New policies to attract investment

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, it would have been better if the Premier had called the agency and demonstrated a real concern about the reasons why they are leaving. Because, if he had done so, as I did - (Interjection) -

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. G. FILMON: . . . he would have found out, in fact, Madam Speaker, that it was because many of them lost most of their private sector clients who were being removed from this province.

Madam Speaker, my question for the Premier is: In view of the fact that this particular agency has said, and I quote, "that the province's payroll tax and its high rate of personal and corporate income tax is the reason for the flight of capital, and the reason for the business failures in this province and the closing of businesses," will he now bring in new policies that will endeavour to attract investment instead of destroying investment in jobs for our province's future?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I'm surprised that the Leader of the Opposition would endorse those kinds of comments about loss of investment when there have been, in fact, 7,000 more full-time jobs, April this year as opposed to April last year; that our investment growth projections by not just Department of Industry, Trade and Technology, but by banks and by other major calculating, forecasting institutions indicate that there'll be far larger investment growth, economic growth, job creation growth in the Province of Manitoba than, by average, across Canada.

So I would suggest the Leader of the Opposition probably should research his comments and statistics a little bit more closely before he depends upon the word of a firm that has apparently depended largely on liberal largesse in the past.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, last week the Investment Dealers Association said that it was our business climate, and particularly that budget, that devastating budget that his government brought in that was the problem.

Businesses intimidated by government staff

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

Is it the policy of her government to have staff threaten and intimidate any businesses who try to tell the truth and try and advise people of the adverse policies of this government being the reason for their business closure? I quote, Madam Speaker, the words of one bureaucrat, who I understand was from her department, who said to this particular agency: "My Minister will have to come down hard on you if this is brought up in the Legislature," the bureaucrat told Stringham, the president of the agency.

Is that the practice of this government to have bureaucrats threaten and intimidate businesses who try and tell the truth as to why they're leaving this province?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition was allowed to commence by way of preamble which responded to my earlier question I would like to deal with that preamble, because the Leader of the Opposition very astutely avoided quoting from the Investors Dealers Association the opening remarks in the report which reads: "Economic growth in Manitoba has outpaced the national average in each

of the past three years, and the trend will continue in 1987, and will exceed the national average by a wide margin."

MR. G. FILMON: Given that that document says that it's because of public investment and that private investment is drying up, will the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation now answer my question?

MR. H. ENNS: He answered the preamble, now get to the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture and Heritage Resources.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, that question really doesn't deserve an answer.

Let me do as the Premier has done and reject entirely the assumptions underlying the questions of the Leader of the Opposition. They are just not reflective of the situation and not taking into account the situation with respect to companies, such as, the one that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. He should get the facts and he should know them.

He should ascertain how many contracts, in fact, that particular company submitted a project for; he should understand the situation facing that company when it lost a major client in the change of government in the last election; and he should know, Madam Speaker, that this government has a policy of fair and equitable treatment for all advertisers and all companies in this field, and has followed a tender process and a proposal process that is fair and is equitable.

Madam Speaker, I think it should be noted that advertising closures have been noted elsewhere, and are attributable to a change in the whole question of how much advertising companies are doing, and how much advertising governments are doing, and it should be noted that this government, consistent with what members opposite have called for, have tried to streamline our advertising procedures and to, in fact, become very efficient and cost effective in that area.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, is the Minister denying that a senior bureaucrat in her department, a particular Assistant Deputy Minister, threatened and intimidated this company because they told the truth in a letter and said, and in fact, . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . and in fact this bureaucrat said . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

May I remind the honourable member that it is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House and then to ask Ministers either to confirm or deny them.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I have spoken with the firm involved and I am asking the Minister whether she is denying the fact that one of her senior bureaucrats phoned the principal of the firm and, in fact, threatened and intimidated them about the

information they put in the letter, saying: "My Minister will have to come down hard on you if this is brought up in the Legislature."

MADAM SPEAKER: May I continue with the particular Citation of Beauschene 362, which says: "It is the member's duty to ascertain the truth of any statement before he brings it to the attention of Parliament."

MR. G. FILMON: Will this Minister have the courage to tell us whether or not her senior bureaucrat threatened this firm?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, I am certainly prepared to look into the exact exchange of discussion that went on between a member of my staff and a member of this particular company.

However, if a member of my staff has only done what has been said here today, which is to refute any statement that the closing of this company is the result of an unfavourable business climate, and to clearly state that that is just not true and, in fact, rubbish, then I don't have any problems with the actions on the part of my staff.

Forest fire situation - investigation of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources.

The forest fire situation is extremely critical today, as it has been in the last week, and the Wallace Lake fire and the Woodridge fire created millions of dollars of personal damage, as well, to the people of Manitoba in terms of the fire.

Can the Minister indicate whether his people have investigated the cause of the fire and can report what the cause of the fire was, of these two fires?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, the two fires in question are under investigation. The Woodridge fire is suspected to have been caused by an arsonist and it is being investigated by the department and by the RCMP.

In the case of the Wallace Lake fire all indications are at this time that the fire was caused by lightning starting in an area that was logged over in the previous year. There was some logging activity in the area some miles away from the site. We had a response crew in within 15 minutes, followed up by a water bomber within 50 minutes, and in fact joined subsequently by the equipment and men from Abitibi-Price who were at a logging site some miles away from the point at which the fire originated. But we, at this point, feel that it was caused by lightning, but the staff is in the field, as well, investigating possibilities of other sources of origin.

Fire towers - unmanned during fire situation

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, to the same Minister.

Can the Minister indicate how many fire towers have not been manned during the past weeks, during the critical time of the fire situation because of financial constraints?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: It's interesting to see the Member for Emerson following today the trail blazed yesterday by the Member for Lakeside suggesting that in some way it is the matter of allocation of financial resources which is at the root of this issue.

Clearly, Madam Speaker, the use of towers for observation is but one component of fire detection. The members opposite should be well aware that there is electronic surveillance for fires; there is aerial surveillance for that matter, and there is indeed staffing of personnel in towers.

I want to indicate, Madam Speaker, for the members opposite that under normal conditions, the crews, the fire ranger crews, the helitac crews, the firetac crews, are not normally in place until the end of May or the beginning of June. Budgets are struck on that basis, but clearly when conditions were changed, we have the Alert Response System, wherein the activity of the department gears up to the conditions in the field, and that clearly was what was happening in this case, and I reject categorically any kind of a notion that there was not an adequate system of surveillance or, indeed, a response to the fire.

Firetac team reduction

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, to the same Minister.

Can the Minister indicate how many firetac teams have been reduced in his department in the last few years due to financial constraints?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, there has been a reduction in the current year of the numbers in the crews. The firetac crews have been reduced from five to four; the same is true with the helitac crews. But it's important to note, Madam Speaker, that in fact these normally, as I said earlier, would not be in position until the beginning of June. These were in position; they responded to the fire within 15 minutes of it being detected.

Let me point out further, Madam Speaker, if the members opposite want to look at the question of allocation of resources, the last year that the members opposite formed government, when the Member for Lakeside was the Minister of Natural Resources, the allocation for fire suppression was \$1.5 million which is approximately 20 percent of that allocated this year.

Wallace Lake cottage owners - availability of alternate lake

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, a final supplementary to the same Minister.

Will the Minister consider making an alternate lake, like Lake Caribou, available to the people who lost their cottages at Wallace Lake, or how is he planning to deal with these people who have lost their cottages and in

many cases their life savings when the fire swept through there?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, clearly, there is a loss to the individuals that is regrettable. There is a loss to the people of Manitoba in terms of the forest resources, the habitat, that is regrettable. So all Manitobans share in the loss from these fires, but specifically, there is the loss of those who had cottages on site at Wallace Lake. As I flew over the area yesterday, I had the opportunity to see the charred ruins. There are some, I believe, 13 cottages that were spared. There is no indication of the extent to which there is damage for those.

I want to point out for all members, indeed, that there are cottage lots available elsewhere in the province. We do have locations in which lots can be obtained by draw; we have other locations that I am prepared to table, indeed, I think were tabled during the course of my Estimates, where there has not been sufficient response on the basis of a draw, and they can be awarded on a first come, first served basis. So clearly there are cottaging opportunities available, Madam Speaker, at alternate locations.

What we want to do, Madam Speaker, at this point, though we appreciate the loss incurred, is we yet have to deal with the matter of the fire. So let us all dedicate our efforts and our time, as the people in the field, the fire fighters in the field, the pilots, the people on the shovels, the people on the fire equipment, the skidders, let us all dedicate our effort and time now to putting out the fire. Those other matters I think can be dealt with in due course.

Seven Regions Health Centre - investigation re improprieties

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and it concerns the Seven Regions Health Centre and the long-standing controversy between members of that hospital board and the community of Gladstone.

Since the agreement for conciliation, which was reached with the Minister and myself and that board when we met in March, has not been met and things have come to light which make that controversy even more serious, in that there are allegations concerning the deaths of people at the Third Crossing Manor, could the Minister assure the House and the people of that hospital region that he will investigate the matter to be sure that there were no improprieties at that centre?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I've already checked into this. As my honourable friend knows, we've offered assistance to the groups; they've refused it. According to the act, legally I cannot interfere as Minister of Health if there's not financial difficulties or if the standards aren't lowered or unless they resign. Now, as far as the point that was made, the accusation

that was made, I'm told that there is nothing to it at all, the medical examiner made a study at the time and there was nothing unusual that came out of it.

MRS. C. OLESON: Madam Speaker, to the same Minister.

Matters, the way they are now standing, that board finds it very difficult to operate and I'm wondering if the Minister would assure us that he will take some steps; or what steps will he take to assure us that the health care of the people that are under the care of those facilities, which are under the auspices of that board; will he make sure that everything is being done properly there?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Madam Speaker, this would give us the opportunity to take over for the time being, anyway, until everything is straightened out, if that was done. If the standards are lowered for any reason at all, then we can act so we are monitoring it very closely.

Unfavourable business climate

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance.

Peter Stringham, the president of Stringham and Grant Tandy did indeed send a letter to his clients, including the government, I might add, indicating that his business was closing because of the unfavourable business climate. But nowhere in the letter was there any indication, or direct criticism, of indeed the government for its taxation program, that data came about later. But, for some reason, this evoked an outraged comment from a member of the Civil Service which said: "It is not an unfavourable business climate, there are just a lot of corporations moving out."

Would the Minister please explain to the House how you can have a favourable business climate when, according to staff of the government, there are a lot of corporations moving out?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's regrettable that particular company has chosen to not continue to do business in the Province of Manitoba, but it has been something that's been well-known in the advertising field for the last while that that company was in difficulty as a result of losing a lot of Federal Government contracts that moved to another agency in the City of Winnipeg.

I would just suggest to the member that she look beyond that one particular article, or that one particular issue, to get an answer to her question in terms of the investment climate in this province and the activities of business. There are a number of businesses that have expanded, have decided to locate in the Province of Manitoba and, at the same time, there are some, like this particular example, this Liberal ad agency that has decided not to continue business.

If she would look, also in today's paper, she would know of the announcement of a company that's decided to locate and to start its activities in the Province of Manitoba. R-Plus Insulated Glass, it's opened a \$1.1 million plant in Manitoba because of the favourable business climate in our province, creating some 20 jobs in Manitoba.

Loss to business community when large firms move out of province

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A supplementary question to the Minister of Finance.

Has the Department of Finance undertaken a study to evaluate the kinds of loss to the small business community, such as, advertising agencies, which we seem to have lost four or five; law firms and accounting firms when large firms like Richardson Greenshields, ICG, Versatile, Canadian Indemnity move out of the province?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Madam Speaker, I don't know where the member gets her information. I am not aware that Versatile has decided to leave the province. The contrary is true, that Versatile is in the process of increasing its activities and increasing its jobs in the Province of Manitoba. She must be getting her information from the federal member of Parliament for Fort Garry who has indicated he was wrong with respect to Versatile and its activities.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. C. BAKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I . . .

Advertising industry dependent on government in Manitoba

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights had a further supplementary?

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A final supplementary, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Can the Finance Minister inform the House if there is, indeed, any longer a viable advertising industry, not dependent upon government work, at either level, present in Manitoba?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Multi-year budget - interest costs

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the provincial debt, in five short years of NDP Government, per capital debt, has increased from \$4,000 to over \$9,000 per capita. Madam Speaker, by the time many of the blessed youth in attendance here today, and those not in attendance,

reach their employment years, their share of the provincial debt will be approaching \$20,000 per person.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance: Will the Minister of Finance today lay before this House, all Manitobans, including the youth of this province, will he lay before us a multi-year budget so as to disclose how it is all of us, including the young people of this province, will be able to meet the interest costs associated with those debts in the space of seven years?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I just wonder what would happen if this government had followed the path of Conservative-minded governments in this country that reduced expenditures in areas like health, education and job creation. What would that do for the opportunities for youth to get an education in our province at the present time if we would have followed that advice? What would have happened if we would have followed the advice that Conservatives have suggested in terms of job creation and not put the kind of efforts into job creation to the point that Manitoba has the largest job creation record, the best job creation record, in Canada, other than the central provinces? I wonder what that would do for the future of our children in the province, Madam Speaker.

Youth employment

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister.

What assurance can he give the youth of this province, those present and those not present, who, in due course, will want to contribute, so eagerly contribute, to the economic and social well-being of this province, that they will be able to enjoy the fruits of their own labours without having to contend with the captive massive debt that has been put on their shoulders by this government; what assurance can you give to the youth in the gallery that they will be able to enjoy the fruits of their own labours?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I can assure the youth of this province that this government will continue to work on behalf of youth, will continue to take the policies that economic and social development go hand in hand. We'll continue the policies that have shown that this province is a leader in terms of employment growth for young people in this country. We'll not follow the kind of policies that have been adopted in other provinces which have not only increased unemployment, but have decreased expenditures in the areas like health, education, universities and, at the same time, in those Conservative provinces, Madam Speaker, you've seen the deficit increase in provinces like Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. All of them who have followed those policies at the same time have seen increases in their deficits and their debt, Madam Speaker.

Manitoba Crop Insurance - reseeding privilege deadlines

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. C. BAKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

This morning on the way into the city, Madam Speaker, I literally saw some of my neighbours farms go by. If this wind keeps prevailing there are going to be some crops that are going to be blown out of the ground.

Would the Minister of Agriculture make sure that his department, the Department of Crop Insurance will make sure that the farmers are all aware of their reseeding privileges and the deadlines that go with it?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for raising that question. The matter of soil degradation and soil erosion is of great concern to I'm sure all Manitobans and all Canadians. Indeed, we certainly will be alerting our crop insurance corporation to make their information available to farmers. But, as well, Madam Speaker, we will be continuing our efforts in the area of soil conservation, cooperation with farmers in tree planting and trying to lessen the kind of soil erosion by concrete examples of good conservation measures across this province.

Legislative Building - check for PCB contamination

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for Government Services.

Madam Speaker, was this Legislative Building checked this morning for PCB contamination? Why was it done? What was the result of the test and was anyone's health put at danger in this building?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any PCB tests being conducted in the Legislative Building this morning.

Careerstart - rejection of Antler River Recreation District

MR. J. DOWNEY: Madam Speaker, I have a new question to the Minister responsible for Careerstart.

Madam Speaker, I've just received a notification that the Antler River Recreation District have been rejected on their application for student employment, for the young people of this province, for very meaningful work for the summer. A program, Madam Speaker, that received support last year under Careerstart.

Could the Minister of Employment Services tell this Legislature and the young people of this province why

he's rejected job opportunities for people in the southwest under this government?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security.

HON. L. EVANS: Madam Speaker, I reject totally the honourable member's assertion that somehow or other this government has not being concerned with jobs for young people in our province. Madam Speaker, we are blessed in this province with a very fine group of young people. I might add, Madam Speaker, that thousands of young people in this province have been given jobs this summer because of our Careerstart '87 Program, thousands and thousands of young people have been given jobs.

All they have to do is to go around this good province of ours, from east to west, north to south and they'll find their friends, indeed members of their family will have jobs thanks to Careerstart. The fact is, Madam Speaker, that we try to accommodate as many people as we can, not everybody can be accommodated. We can't give every organization that applies a total amount of money that they might like, but we do our very best to distribute it widely and fairly so that we can employ as many people on interesting career pattern jobs that the young people of our province want.

I'll say this, Madam Speaker, in conclusion, you can compare what goes on in Manitoba, in terms of jobs for our young people, with any other province in this country, and you'll find that we're . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Madam Speaker, to the Minister responsible for Employment Services.

In view of the fact that I have a letter here telling us that these people have been rejected on job employment opportunities, will the Minister live up to the word that he's just given everyone, and see that there are jobs provided in the recreational district to which I've referred?

HON. L. EVANS: Madam Speaker, if the member would take the time to examine what's going on in his own constituency, and many of the towns in his riding in Southwestern Manitoba, he'll find that there are hundreds of jobs in his own area, in my area of Southwestern Manitoba, thanks to this program.

As I said, Madam Speaker, we take a back seat to nobody in this country of ours. We not only have Careerstart, Madam Speaker, but we have Student Temporary Employment Program in government. We have job programs for their northern youth people and, indeed, we have a special component under Training for Tomorrow - a multimillion dollar program for the young people of this province.

So, Madam Speaker, as I said, although we can't say yes, to everybody, I'm satisfied that we have indeed, created thousands of jobs this summer for our young people.

Child Abuse - instances of re-abuse

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Community Services and the Premier both refused to look into a situation in which infant children had been returned to high-risk situations in two instances and, in both instances, killed. Today we learned that abuse cases are up 30 percent over last year, that there were six deaths last year, and that the number of reabused cases have risen to 41 from 18.

Would the Minister look into these cases, as she did not in the previous instance last week, investigate them and determine the reasons why these cases of re-abuse have increased so substantially over last year?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, I'm happy to comment about the child abuse situation because it has been this government that's taken on the issue of child abuse and is building a multi-disciplinary system that's able to deal with it.

With regard to the individual worker in an agency, this government, my department, has an ongoing process of reviewing with the agencies their policies and procedures, and I have instructed my staff to not leave any stone unturned with regard to a particular individual.

With regard to the overall question of increase of child abuse. It's true, common right across the country, indeed the continent, the detection of child abuse cases is steadily going up and we attribute that to the very aggressive stance we've been taking to getting child abuse cases reported.

But, Madam Speaker, the figure that is being referred to is a gross misunderstanding of what the meaning of the term "other" in the statistical listing means. In fact, "other" refers to the status of the child at the end of the year, and it includes a great number of dispositions of children. Children who are still under apprehension at the end of the year, or who are permanent wards in care, or who turn 18 prior to year end; it does not refer to reabuse.

I will, later in the Estimates this afternoon, be tabling the report on last year's child abuse statistics and will be prepared to go into great detail at that time.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, the Minister has built a system in which we've just received an external review report which recommends a massive overhaul of the system which she built. Madam Speaker, these statistics obviously come from the department's annual report for last year. Would she table the full annual report, at least a photocopy of same, because it must have been prepared by now in order for these statistics to be available? Would she table that during the Estimates of her department today?

Community Services Annual Report - tabling of

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, the annual report for the department is on a fiscal year, '85-86, and ours was in fact tabled last year, comparable to the same time period that the other departmental reports are

tabled this year. We would, in the normal course of events, table these statistics in the next year's Session. However, because of the importance of this issue and because of the high concern about it, we are prepared to make available those statistics now and to go through them and give a full interpretation.

Madam Speaker, when the people who did the report on child abuse were asked about the system, they identified the fact that this is a problem clear across the country, and that in most respects Manitoba is well ahead of other provinces in their building of an appropriate response and treatment system. I think it's that context that we should look at the child abuse program.

Judges' pay and benefits - investigation of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. J. WALDING: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Treasury Bench.

In the past, investigations into the pay and benefits of members of the Legislature have been carried out by members of the judiciary.

My question is: Has consideration been given by the government to appointing an MLA to look into the pay and benefits of Judges?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Not that I'm aware of, Madam Speaker.

The Manitoba Agriculture Producers Organization Funding Act - introduction of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

For more than a year the Minister has been requested to introduce legislation that will allow a voluntary checkoff for general farm organization in the Province of Manitoba. And, given that KAP, less than a week ago, presented him with a draft bill, I would like to ask the Minister if he's prepared to introduce this draft bill, The Manitoba Agriculture Producers Organization Funding Act; is he prepared to introduce that bill in this Session of the Legislature, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, my honourable friend has been given a copy of that legislation. That legislation is currently under review by my department. When a decision by government is made as to whether or not this legislation is appropriate, from a governmental point of view, we will be making our views public.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: I wish to seek leave of the House to be able to present the Report of the Committee of Supply.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave to revert to Presenting Reports by Standing Committees? (Agreed)

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Inkster, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Elmwood, that the composition of the Standing Committee on Economic Development be amended as follows: The Hon. H. Harapiak for the Hon. J. Cowan; the Hon. M. Hemphill for the Hon. E. Kostyra; the Hon. J. Storie for the Hon. A. Mackling.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HOUSE BUSINESS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, on a matter of House Business. I believe there's an inclination on the part of all members to dispense with Private Members' Hour today, by leave, and continue on with the consideration of Estimates during the hour from five to six o'clock.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

Is it the will of the House to dispense with Private Members' Hour? (Agreed)

HON. J. COWAN: As well, Madam Speaker, May 18 being a holiday, the House will not be sitting and there has been an arrangement agreed to that on May 19, the Tuesday, we would sit, utilizing the normal Monday hours on that Tuesday; in other words, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., or thereafter, by leave.

MADAM SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed)

HON. J. COWAN: I move, Madam Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Health, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of Education.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: Will the committee please come to order?

We were on Financial Support for Schools. Is it the wish of the committee to remain on there, or do you want to move ahead?

Mr. Minister.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the members had asked for a whole series of information. The first issue was on the special levy mill rates.

I have provided the members with the mill rates over the past five years. I've also provided them with a sheet, which looks at not only the special levy mill rate, but the ESL as well as the total expenditures in education, breaks it down and says here's how much is being spent based on property, netted after the rebates; which shows, I think interestingly enough, that since 1980, when 52 percent of the costs directed towards education came from property, to the current situation where 41.6 percent comes from property; so there has, in fact, been a significant decrease in overall burden paid through the property tax regime.

Of course there is a concern that we're still too heavily reliant on property tax, and that is something we hope to be able to address over the coming years; but I'll pass that copy on to the Member for Roblin-Russell and also a copy for the Member for Fort Garry.

The Member for Fort Garry raised the question about some detail in the Teachers' Retirement Allowance Fund, and the explanation - I'll give the member a copy here - but basically it confirms, I believe, what the member suggested may have been the rationale for the formation of the subsidiary.

A member raised a question about the reduction of a clinician position in child care and development and I believe I'd answered that before, I forgot. In fact, the position that is being eliminated is not a clinician's position, it is in that area; but because of the increased capacity of our computer services, actually a word processor or a person working on the word processing equipment has been eliminated and it was not a clinician's position. I believe that question was raised by the Member for St. Vital.

There were a series of questions related to sub-appropriation 3.(c), and I guess the first issue that needs

to be clarified is Transportation, which was identified as \$13,800.00. Pardon me, it's identified as Grant Transfer Payment. Actually that was an error, and in fact that figure has subsequently been rolled into the Supply and Services figure. It was actually supplies, heating oil, that kind of thing; so that was an error from last year.

The members also raised a series of questions about Other Expenditures and questions were asked about where the students came from. At present, the amount identified in the Supplementary Estimates includes Falcon Beach School; and transportation for 10 students from Westview, on the west shore of Lake Manitoba, to Turtle River School; and up to 10 students from Otter Falls, on the Winnipeg River system, to Agassiz School; so that accounts for some of the funding in that area.

Finally, the fact of the matter is that of the reduction that you see in total expenditures from \$242,000 to \$167,000, \$50,000 of those dollars were actually provided in (XVI) 3.(a) because discussions have been going on and are going on with the school community about the possibility of transferring jurisdiction from the Department of Education to, for example, Agassiz School Division, so that was anticipated.

Those negotiations are going on right now. If that transfer doesn't occur, then the funds, the \$50,000, would be encumbered from 3.(a) and returned. But it is hoped that an agreement will be concluded in the next short while to have the school run by a school division rather than by the Department of Education. So that really accounts for the significant difference between the two figures. When we were talking yesterday, we had assumed that - actually we were describing that would account for only about \$25,000 of that difference.

I think those were the only questions that I had taken as notice. If there are any other questions out there, I'd be more than happy to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

If I might, Mr. Minister, go back to 3.(c) and just confirm the \$50,000 figure in 3.(c). What you're saying is you've reduced the total figure by \$50,000 because of the school being transferred back to the school division?

HON. J. STORIE: That would be provided by grant to the school division, out of (XVI) 3.(a).

MR. L. DERKACH: Which school division is that?

HON. J. STORIE: It would probably be Agassiz, but it also could be Steinbach or Hanover or Frontier. There's quite a possibility, I guess, of Frontier being involved. In fact, I think discussions have been held with Frontier in the past over that possibility.

MR. L. DERKACH: And if the transfer doesn't go through then?

HON. J. STORIE: If the transfer doesn't go through, then those amount of funds would be encumbered and

used in the normal way through the department operating the school.

MR. L. DERKACH: So if the transfer doesn't go through, then we can expect this figure not to be \$167,000, but a few thousand over that?

HON. J. STORIE: It would be adjusted. It would be shown as adjusted, I believe, next year by the \$50,000 or some portion of that.

MR. L. DERKACH: Also, in the Grant Transfer Payment, it was indicated that this was an error and should have been included in the Supplies and Services. Now, my question is: If that figure of \$13,800 is supposed to be included in the Supplies and Services, that boosts that figure up higher, what is the reduction then due to from \$199,000 presently plus the \$13,000 down to \$103,000.00?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm told, Mr. Chairperson, the bottom line doesn't change. I could give the member a new sheet which will show the new totals, and the explanatory notes are there as well.

MR. L. DERKACH: Oh, I see. So the transportation figure is \$13,200.00?

HON. J. STORIE: Although in '87-88, you will see that they are all rolled in, that there is no such grant, that it shouldn't have been there in 1986-87.

MR. L. DERKACH: It shouldn't have been there?

HON. J. STORIE: That's my understanding, yes.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Chairman, so should that figure have been then added to the 199,000.00?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe that's the case, yes.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Minister, can you tell me what the reduction then is? What is it composed of?

HON. J. STORIE: It's composed of the \$50,000 that we talked about, plus approximately \$25,000 based on the other items that I have already described, reductions in different areas and reduction in the number of students who are being transferred from unorganized territories. I believe it's some 20 students or something.

MR. L. DERKACH: So the \$50,000 figure would be included in that Supplies and Services area?

HON. J. STORIE: And in the teacher's salary.

MR. L. DERKACH: Can I ask a question? Okay. The teacher's salary would also be included in that.

The professional fees, can I have an explanation of that figure, what that accounts for?

HON. J. STORIE: Those would be teachers' salaries and I guess any additional aides that were hired and I guess the half-time kindergarten teacher.

MR. L. DERKACH: What number of staff?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe it was 2.5.

MR. L. DERKACH: Two-and-a-half plus . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Two-and-a-half staff.

MR. L. DERKACH: Two-and-a-half staff in total?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. L. DERKACH: Can I ask the Minister to check that figure again.

HON. J. STORIE: It was 2.5 teachers, and it was actually 3.5 staff. There was a half-time secretary/teacher aide. I think, if you look at 100, it would be all principals then.

MR. L. DERKACH: Okay, I think that fairly well explains that area. I'd like to thank the Minister for the information which he has given us today. You know, it doesn't give us much opportunity to review it right now and pose any questions, but I would ask permission from the Chair, even if we passed this section, if we should have some questions on it at another day when we've had some time to peruse it, if he would allow those questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have no difficulty with that if it's the committee's will? No objections? Okay.

Did you say you'd like to pass Financial Support to Schools?

MR. L. DERKACH: Not yet, no, Mr. Chairman, I have some more questions on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, proceed.
The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. L. DERKACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to ask the Minister some questions on the minor capital area for school divisions, and minor capital in school divisions is used for repair work and, you know, things of a minor nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now on 5.(a)(1).

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, just for the information of the member, the individual who - which one is it - 8.(b)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(b) or 8.(a).

MR. L. DERKACH: We're talking about minor capital, Mr. Chairman. We're not talking about major capital.

HON. J. STORIE: It falls under that section, nonetheless.

MR. L. DERKACH: Is minor capital then included in the Financial Support or is it included in the major capital? It can't be included in the capital?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm not sure whether we're talking about, for example, minor capital - there's four different areas of capital. One of them includes roof replacements and those kinds of things; is that what we're talking about?

MR. L. DERKACH: I'm talking about the block of money that's allocated to school divisions for the purposes of repair . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Buses, vocational equipment, those kind of things too?

MR. L. DERKACH: No, repair of school facilities. There's a block of money allocated to school divisions. Now, I guess my question should be - what appropriation is that particular . . .

HON. J. STORIE: It's (XV1) 8.(b)(2) is the area that it's in.

MR. L. DERKACH: The 8.(b) then.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. L. DERKACH: So we can deal with that another time.

HON. J. STORIE: That would probably be easiest, when Mr. Frechette is here I think.

MR. L. DERKACH: No problem; I have no problem with that, we can deal with that later.

Okay, if we deal with that later, then I'd like to go to the small schools grants that are given out to school divisions. If I might, Mr. Chairman, first of all, I'd like to ask the Minister what type of formula is used for arriving at the funding? I noticed in the Annual Report that it says elementary schools are eligible for \$4,000 plus \$25 for every pupil in excess of 25 pupils; and secondary schools are \$8,000 plus \$25 for every pupil in excess of 25 pupils. But all small secondary schools are defined as schools that have Grade 9 and over, but where the enrolment is less than 200. In the rural areas, Mr. Chairman, some of our high schools may, in fact, just be around that 200. I think there are several high schools across the province that are just in the 200 or 205 pupil range.

HON. J. STORIE: Do you have one in your area?

MR. L. DERKACH: I'm not sure, I really am not. This is not a question based on my specific school division, but it's a concern that has come up through the associations about the fact that there is that cutoff at 200 students.

I'm wondering whether the Small Schools Grant Program has been reviewed to see whether, in fact, there should be an expansion to those schools who may have just over 200 students; because we're finding now that those are the schools that are falling into that deprived category, where the small schools are becoming the very wealthy little schools - none of the schools are very wealthy - but by comparison.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the guidelines, I guess, are reviewed virtually on an annual basis as we

go through the different kinds of support programs that are offered, this being one of the categorical supports. I guess the difficulty is that - and I will acknowledge that the 200 level is somewhat arbitrary. The fact is that wherever you draw that line, there are going to be individual schools who are just above, just below, that fluctuate depending on the enrolment from year to year in terms of their eligibility. I don't think you can get around that. I'm not sure that there was a consensus about how to deal with that problem. I guess, unless you're prepared to say, well, anybody who's interested can apply and get funding, there have to be some guidelines and it's going to mean that some people are in and some people are out.

MR. L. DERKACH: Has the Minister or his department given any consideration to using a sliding scale for schools that have perhaps in the neighbourhood of 225 students may not in fact qualify for as much of a grant as schools that have 100 students?

HON. J. STORIE: I can't honestly say that's been considered. You know, it has some merit as an approach. Perhaps there are other approaches that could be used as well in terms of assessing the dollars spent per pupil in the first instance as a means of helping us to determine criteria.

MR. L. DERKACH: How has the figure changed since 1985? Since he says that there was a review of the guidelines on a yearly basis, can he give me an indication of how much money was spent in '86 as compared to 1985?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the amount of money spent has been relatively constant over the years. The total number of small schools as defined by the criteria has remained constant as well. There were 258 in 1982; there are 275 in 1987. That's actually down 7 from 1986 when there were 282 small schools. The total amount of support has gone from \$1.67 million in 1982 to \$1.71 million in 1987. Again, it's fluctuated year over year marginally.

MR. L. DERKACH: Because some schools are experiencing some difficulty in being able to compete I guess with the small schools, those schools who are just in that 200 range that I spoke about, I'm wondering if the Minister would undertake to not only review the guidelines - well, perhaps to review the guidelines - and also to review the figure that has remained constant for some five years now.

HON. J. STORIE: I guess if we reviewed the guideline and there was some decision to increase the amount of support, either in straight dollars or by relaxing the criteria, you would certainly have an increase in the amount of support. It is a categorical grant and reflects the criteria, so if you change the criteria, you're going to get some change in the bottom line.

I guess it's a question of whether you want to spend more money on this kind of - although it's a categorical grant, it's not directed to any specific activity. It's simply a recognition of the limitations that you have in a small school.

The question is if you're going to spend more money - the member was also asking yesterday for an increase in the special needs area - if the member were to have the responsibility, would he say this is more important, the special needs; or is spending money on the gifted more important?

So although I certainly support small schools, this isn't the only support, as the member knows, that small schools get. I'm not prepared to say, at this point, that, yeah, this is a priority and this is where the money's going to be spent, if there in fact is additional money to be spent in support of education in rural Manitoba or in support of education generally.

MR. L. DERKACH: Has the policy of giving small schools extra money caused any difficulty in closing down schools that are very small, inefficient and also defective in terms of the programs that they're offering, especially in the high school area?

I know we hear from time to time of schools that are operating with less than 50 students in the high school and trying to offer programs in the various areas. Many of them, I think, are staying open because of the fact that they do get a Small Schools Grant and simply, because of the principle of the Small Schools Grant, there seems to be a will by the government to keep small schools open. And I'm not arguing that small schools should be closed, but I think there's a point at which time they become inefficient and ineffective and one has to face the eventual end of those schools.

HON. J. STORIE: I guess we could have a good debate on whether in fact they ever become ineffective. I think the question of cost per pupil is obviously a major concern and I'm not aware of any situation in which the Small Schools Support Program has prevented schools from being closed. We're generally talking about relatively small amounts of money overall, and I would assume that school divisions, when they look at the costs of operating a small school, take it into account, but I'm not sure I can say that it's been a deciding factor in any specific case.

I'm not aware of it. I can only indicate on top of that, that it has not been raised as an issue with me by school boards. They have not come and said you're making life more difficult for us by establishing programs and grants such as these because it keeps us from making those tough decisions. I think the member's aware that there are schools closing across Manitoba. Every year school divisions are facing those decisions, including this year.

MR. L. DERKACH: I won't stay on this topic any longer. I think I've got the information I need, except to say that I think the Small Schools Program that was initiated by the government is a good one, and certainly has helped many schools survive, I guess, and helped school divisions to maintain small schools. All I would do is to encourage the Minister to take a look at those schools that are just at that 200-student range and if a formula can be devised whereby perhaps they can get a sliding scale of the support that is given to small schools. It seems that there is a need for looking at that option.

I'd like to ask one or two questions on the Early Identification Support Program, and the question I have

there is how much money has been allocated to that specific area for the year and where can it be found? I don't have the figure in front of me.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I believe that the figure is \$250,000.00.

MR. L. DERKACH: I found it here.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the figure still is \$250,000.00.

MR. L. DERKACH: In the Public Schools Finance Board Annual Report, that figure is shown as \$250,000 for 1985; \$88,000 for 1986; and there's a note to the financial statement indicating a change in accounting policy.

I have a little difficulty understanding that and I'm wondering whether the Minister could explain that.

HON. J. STORIE: The member was referring to the Public Schools Finance?

MR. L. DERKACH: Yes.

HON. J. STORIE: What page is that on?

MR. L. DERKACH: It's Schedule 1.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the member may want to turn to page 2 of the Notes to Financial Statements.

MR. L. DERKACH: That's what I was referring to. I wanted an explanation of that, because I don't . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Yes. The '88 really, the amount is actually \$250,000.00. What you are seeing there is a change in the school year, so that is all that showed up for that particular period.

MR. L. DERKACH: Okay. What period is that for, then?

HON. J. STORIE: An expense in the year ended December 31, 1985. It would be 40 percent. It would be the fall term only.

MR. L. DERKACH: The \$88,000 is for the fall term?

HON. J. STORIE: For 1986. That's right.

MR. L. DERKACH: Can I ask, Mr. Minister, why the change and how that is going to affect the figures for next year now?

HON. J. STORIE: It has not affected in any substantive way the amount of money that was in the program or that was distributed to school divisions. It is simply an accounting change. You could very legitimately ask me why they do these things and I have no idea.

MR. L. DERKACH: Does anyone?

HON. J. STORIE: Are there any accountants in the room? Mr. Chairperson, the explanation is that it was

being paid on a calendar year basis and it has been moved to be paid on a school year basis, which is something I think the school divisions have been asking for and something that probably makes a lot of sense in all of our funding to school divisions.

MR. L. DERKACH: It was paid on a school-year basis before, and now it's paid on . . .

HON. J. STORIE: No, it was paid on a calendar year.

MR. L. DERKACH: It was paid on a calendar-year basis; now it's paid on a school-year basis. All right, because I see there are several of those that fall into that category. But the funding for any one of those now, because it's difficult to compare - for example, if we go to the compensatory program, we find that in 1985, it was 2.8 and, in 1986, it's 1.2. Has the figure there changed at all? Has there been an increase, a decrease or anything in that?

HON. J. STORIE: In compensatory? No, the amount is \$3.3 million. It stayed the same.

MR. L. DERKACH: No, it's \$2.8 million.

HON. J. STORIE: Okay, there was \$3.3 million made available - it wasn't all used - and there is \$3.3 million available this year.

MR. L. DERKACH: This is what was used then. Have there been any changes in the other area in the small schools?

HON. J. STORIE: No, there have been no changes.

MR. L. DERKACH: No changes to any of them.

HON. J. STORIE: Basically, when you're going down that line, Mr. Chairperson, most of those are - well the majority of them, the only one there would be a change was in transportation, and that's because of the increase in the transportation grant, the categorical grant for this year. But other than that, there would only be increases. I don't believe there are any decreases in terms of departmental programs.

MR. L. DERKACH: Just one question on school divisions and opted-out Indian bands - notes indicate that school divisions may receive revenue from opted-out Indian bands. Are there areas in the province where there are agreements between Indian bands and school divisions where school divisions may be offering some services to Indian bands? Is that where the money comes from, other revenue?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there are situations where that's happening. You get Kelsey School Division in The Pas. Frontier School Division has a number of reciprocal relationships actually where the school is band-controlled and Frontier students attend, and vice versa where it's Frontier school and band students attend. So we have revenue from the Federal Government and they have revenue from us.

MR. L. DERKACH: But that's specifically from Indian bands?

HON. J. STORIE: Or Indian Affairs schools. There are some band-controlled schools, some controlled by the Department of Indian Affairs.

MR. L. DERKACH: Mr. Chairman, I know of one Indian band that opted out a few years ago, and now are starting to utilize the school facilities again. The students are coming back. I'm wondering, are we seeing a reversal of the opting out of Indian bands, or is this just a temporary arrangement or does the Minister know what's happening in this particular area. We just went through a fairly massive move of Indian students from school divisions, and now we're seeing a few of them coming back.

HON. J. STORIE: There are a lot of different factors that go into those kinds of transitions. I think, for many bands, there have been successful transfers from Indian Affairs to band-controlled schools through Indian education authorities and so forth.

The operation of a school is a difficult, complex thing and takes some years of experience, I think, for most bands to feel comfortable with the new mechanism. We have seen some experiences across Manitoba where the band has assumed control of a school and, for whatever reason, not all the residents of that band decided that the band-controlled school is where they want to send their children, and they've sent their children to Frontier School.

The opposite is true as well, where Frontier students have been attending band-controlled schools and then, for whatever reason, opted to withdraw their students and attend a Frontier School or have their students attend other school divisions. I expect that we will see that kind of phenomenon declining as the bands develop their own expertise at operating the schools.

MR. L. DERKACH: In those cases where Indian students are coming back, is the province still pursuing a tripartite agreement between the Indian band, the school and the Department of Education for those students who come back?

HON. J. STORIE: It would depend on whether there was going to be a long-term relationship. Where Frontier School Division, for example, has decided that there was a need for a school to serve jointly the band and the community, then there is a tripartite agreement. If it's individual students or groups of students coming back, unless there was some long-term possibility for those students remaining at the school, we wouldn't enter a tripartite. What would happen is that the full costs, including residual costs, would be paid by either Indian Affairs or the band to the school division.

MR. L. DERKACH: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I believe that Manitoba Education has provided a special incentive grant to R.B. Russell Vocational School.

Where would that appear in the list of grants that you provided to us?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I suppose there are any number of categories where that support could be provided. It may be through a compensatory grant. I'm not sure exactly of the project or program that the member is referring to, but it could be through an inner-city program or compensatory grant.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I've just had confirmation that the pilot that is going on at R.B. Russell does, in fact, come through the Compensatory Grant Program.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm advised it's to develop a school-based planning model for the organizational structure and operation of the school. The Minister indicated that it was a pilot project.

What is it that it's intended to do? What's the essence of the program?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the program really is building on the kinds of strengths, I think, that CEDA has been working on in several other schools. Basically, it's an intent to draw the community into setting goals for the school, saying what do we expect of R.B. Russell, trying to treat it as a community school. There is another school that has a similar kind of project under way.

The purpose is simply to help the community develop a sense that the school is there for them so they can help, with the school staff, the principal, develop objectives. So basically, that's what it's for.

MR. C. BIRT: What is the other school?

HON. J. STORIE: The other school is Isaac Newton.

MR. C. BIRT: What is the cost of these two programs?

HON. J. STORIE: It's actually a two-year project, and the cost is \$100,000, about 60-40 - 60 for R.B. Russell and 40, roughly, for Isaac Newton.

MR. C. BIRT: R.B. Russell is a technical school. Is it the intention to change the thrust of the type of programs that are being serviced? It's one thing to say that it's nice to get the community involved, but I mean its initial mandate was to try and provide some technical training to those who live in that particular community. That may be an oversimplification, but is it now the intention then to shift direction and get away from that type of school?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think there always has been the perception - and maybe that's one of the reasons why this kind of project is deemed to be worthwhile - that R.B. Russell is only a technical school. It has a regular stream, an academic stream.

I think what we are finding as well, and this is perhaps digressing a bit, but the fact is that the intensely vocational programs simply don't seem to be fitting the bill anymore. There is a recognition that, while

vocational experience and training is necessary, there is also a need to make sure that students develop in other ways and somewhat academic ways.

I think maybe this project will help change the image of R.B. Russell, generally, in the community and for the students who attend R.B. Russell.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is it merely one of - the Minister used the word "image" - is it one of substance, or is it just a P.R. exercise with the community, because that's an awful lot of money? You know, what is the focus of the \$100,000 being spent in two schools?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, recognizing that this wasn't something that was department-initiated necessarily, that the school division saw this as something they wanted to do as well, is it P.R.? I would say that there is an element to that, but it is also strengthening, I guess, the ties between the community and the school, trying to develop a sense amongst the community and the student population of a direction for R.B. Russell. Community planning is self-explanatory, I guess, to the extent that it means involving the community and setting the goals, setting the direction, tracking the progress of a school. I suppose it involves, as well, better linkages between community groups and school and work and school, all of those things.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, it may have been an idea from Winnipeg No. 1 but the funding is coming from the Government of Manitoba, and everything that the Minister is talking about says that we are spending \$100,000 of scarce resource dollars on community relations in the broadest sense. As well meaning as it may be, are we going to have any different programs in place? Are we going to be putting any different teachers in place? Are we changing the direction of the school? I mean, if we're not spending money in that particular area, I am afraid I've got some real questions about community relations just for an exercise of identifying the school in the community.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I guess it's somewhat premature for me to say, yes, we're changing the direction of the school. I would expect that is quite likely to happen but, until you've gone through the planning process, until you've identified some new direction that students, staff, the community want you to take, the community is going to be left with the impression that it's the same old school and the same old things happening.

I wouldn't disagree with the member for a moment that change is probably overdue and necessary. In fact, there is a new principal, for the past year-and-a-half, in R.B. Russell. So I think it's safe to say that there has been a change already. Hopefully, this will facilitate that process and make it more likely that the whole thing succeeds for the betterment of the students in general.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister said it was a pilot and there were two of them at least being looked at in two schools. Is it the idea that this will be an ongoing funding commitment, or is this a one-time thing for the Winnipeg School Division to evaluate and see whether or not

they want to make administrative changes or structural changes to their program?

HON. J. STORIE: No, it certainly is not intended that this would be an ongoing program. I think the community-based planning models have been used in all kinds of other venues, including the development of regional development initiatives and so forth. I think it's an opportunity to see if the involvement of the broader community in setting education goals has some long-term effect on student achievement and lowering the drop-out rate and all of those other things that go along with manning a school with a reputation, I guess, such as R.B. Russell has.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, on a different topic now, I have received copies of correspondence and the Minister has received letters on them. I have received copies of his correspondence in reply, basically dealing with this whole issue of Workplace Safety and Health, which seems to a sore point between teachers and trustees.

I can appreciate the legislation is not within the jurisdiction of the Minister, but one is constantly being bombarded with letters and calls as to either the trustees aren't living up to the spirit of the legislation or we had to fight to get people to go to a meeting. Teachers are looking at it from one perspective, teachers and support staff. Trustees see it as a rather large expense, perhaps of little value in return. Again, I touch on the point that it's not within the Minister's jurisdiction but it does, in the sense that the monies are being funded through the department and indirectly affecting how these people carry on their day-to-day lives.

I'm wondering, is the Minister taking any position or is he getting involved in this discussion because it seems to revolve around, should schools be treated separately, differently. Do you follow the letter of the law? I know submissions have been made to the Minister responsible for the legislation, and both sides seem to be going nowhere fast except an awful lot of heat is being escalated over this particular issue. I'm wondering, what is the Minister or the department doing about it.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the department has been involved in discussions with Workplace Safety and Health on a number of occasions. I think the disagreements and the contentious issues have been raised in relatively few divisions. I think, to be fair to teachers and to trustees, they do evolve around some questions about the applicability in its entirety of the legislation to the school setting. I think the Teachers' Society and MAST have made recommendations to the Minister with respect to possible changes that would accommodate, I guess, the interests of teachers in protecting the workplace, as well as streamlining them and making the regulations, in particular, more workable in the school setting.

I think there is an accommodation coming. I don't know whether that in fact will require changes to the legislation or whether it can be done by regulation. I think some of the difficulty has arisen because - and I give the Department of Workplace Safety and Health some credit for this because they have been somewhat

flexible and have tried to modify, if not in word, the intent of the legislation to suit the school situation. But it has created more difficulty because, if you apply the strict terms of the legislation, neither side really seems to be complying at some point. There is an accommodation coming, I think.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I take it from the Minister's comment then, it's something that hopefully will be worked out between the trustees and MTS and Workplace Safety and Health, and this department is just sort of keeping a hands-off, waiting to see what may develop, or are you involved in the negotiations or the accommodation accord that may evolve?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I have not been involved in any formal discussions between the Department of Workplace Safety and Health and either the teachers or the trustees.

I have met with the Minister and reviewed my perceptions of the problem, and we have discussed, I guess, the possibility of some kind of accommodation, and that's why I'm hopeful that that will happen.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, last year, when we were discussing the Estimates, the Minister made reference to an ad hoc committee of civil servants dealing with school funding. I believe the Minister has made now a public statement that there is a committee of Cabinet dealing with this whole question of public funding of education, a 90 percent goal.

Is there such a vehicle and, if so, who sits on it?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe it has been made public on a number of occasions. I believe when the Minister of Finance, the First Minister and myself met with a group of trustees and teachers and municipal officials that we made it very clear that in fact since December, I believe, of last year, of 1986, there had been a committee of Urban Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Department of Finance, and Education meeting to look at ways of moving towards the goal of 90 percent funding, looking at the implications of assessment reform, the cost, generally, of education, all of those issues in a package which we hope to be able to put together to set out a timetable, if you will, for moving towards meeting that commitment.

MR. C. BIRT: Who was doing the primary work for it? Because it wouldn't be the Ministers themselves. Is it the Minister of Finance that's still on this committee? Who are the committee members and who is doing the primary work on it, what department?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the departments that I just mentioned, the representative Ministers sit on the committee that's looking into the question, and departmental staff do, I guess their own share. I believe that the Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Education, Mr. Sale, is the coordinator.

MR. C. BIRT: When will this committee be reporting to Cabinet?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I suppose I could plead the Fifth or Cabinet secrecy, but I believe that the working

group has been asked to report in the near future on an interim basis, understanding that there is going to be a great deal of work required if we are to coordinate all of those pieces and make them coherent and . . .

I've always wondered, is there such a word as "implementable"? -(Interjection)- There is now.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, on a different topic again, the Minister had produced this particular document called "The Appropriate Education Student Placement and Parent Involvement." The document makes reference to the fact that they hope to have submissions in by the 30th of this year for implementation in the fall of this year. Now that may be a hope that may not be realized wholly. In fact, how is the progress coming on this particular document in respect to responses from the public?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I have had several letters in return in reply to my letter, which included the discussion paper. It has been very positive. There is a committee structure which we'll be discussing, I guess, the paper itself.

I don't know whether the goal of having something ready is possible by September or not, but I think that there is probably going to be sufficient agreement on the principles that we will be able to establish some broad goals, guidelines, for school divisions by that time frame.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, to a degree, it may be what flows from the paper, policy or regulation, but it may have some financial implications. Are there monies set aside for this or is it perceived that there will be no financial implication and we're merely talking about, perhaps, operational procedures here?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, in the main, I think we're talking about operational procedures.

The interesting thing about this whole area, and I'm sure the member in his role as Opposition critic has had representation to him about the need for legislation, regulation, dealing with parental involvement, my experience has been, and I say this not only as someone coming from a school system but also having toured and talked to special educators, superintendents, trustees, teachers in virtually every part of the province that in the main there are very few problems. In the main there are very few problems in terms of placement. There is a recognition on the part of superintendents and principals and teachers that parents want to be involved, particularly when they have students with special needs. And most times those are accommodated.

So I don't think one wants to create a sledgehammer when all one needs is a kind word and a gentle prod and an overall setting, an overall sense of direction, and I think that's what we intend to do. At this point I don't see us requiring, or school divisions requiring significant resources to make this a workable process.

So there have been no funds set aside. I suppose that if we get into the discussions and it becomes apparent that this isn't working or that it isn't workable or that people won't cooperate, then we would have to perhaps consider alternatives that may be more expensive. But as a first step, I don't think it's necessary.

MR. C. BIRT: I think it's a worthwhile attempt to take that first step to see if you can work it through, perhaps, cooperation and procedures rather than, as the Minister said, use a sledgehammer to perhaps solve a small problem.

People who talk to me and members of my caucus on this point to both Saskatchewan and Ontario having brought in either revised or new education acts that sort of entrench these principles in the statutes themselves. Did the Minister look at doing that here, or why did they reject that proposal to go this particular route?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I am certainly, particularly when it comes to issues such as access to information, I have been in virtually - well, not quite - three-quarters of the school divisions in the province, I would say. I have met many, if not all, of the superintendents at one time or another and they, to a person, tell me that getting information, there is no secret of keeping a file. That when clinicians see children, parents are informed. In fact, their permission is sought and that they get copies of the clinicians' reports and all of those things. Access to individual student records, to my knowledge, is a normal operating procedure for schools.

If that wasn't the case or if it requires regulation to make that the case, then I'm prepared to do that. My experience is, and with very few exceptions, I have not heard a contrary opinion expressed about the practices being followed in our schools. I guess if the procedures are already being followed without the requirement, I think that's good educational practice and I don't see the need for legislation on that particular aspect of it.

Some of the other provisions that are included in legislation, or have been suggested, are much more costly in their implications, and one would want to go very carefully, I think, about that. We could get into a situation where we have legislation passed, as has been done in the past, which is not proclaimed because of the implications of people not having thought them through carefully.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I think on this issue - and I can appreciate some of these problems may be more local or personal rather than province-wide - to my way of thinking, if I was a teacher or principal, I think I would want to invite you in if I was going to be making decisions affecting your child, rather than having you outside. It makes good common sense just in an ordinary way of solving your problem, never mind from a professional point of view.

I believe the Manitoba Teachers' Society has given a very large paper in this whole area of rights and what should be included in a revised sort of rights' issue. It touches on this particular area and I believe they have submitted it to the Minister. They have certainly given me a copy; I just can't find it at the moment. It covers a wide variety of areas and it may have some financial implications.

I know they deal with the issue of special needs, and you know that's from both ends of the spectrum; but I guess the question that they're dealing with, and I know some of the parents that have approached me, not so much access to the files, but it's being involved in the decision-making process.

Now you can go too far. Do they come into the classroom and do they have the right to decide what textbooks you are going to give or how you're solving a problem, or whatever? I don't go that far. I mean the professional is there to do his or her job. That's where they take over.

But I am trying to get a handle on the size of the problem if it goes beyond just the sharing of information. It's the involving, the consulting, the request, perhaps, to do another assessment or evaluation of the child, and you get the argument, well, it was done in kindergarten, you don't need to do it now, or it's Grade 3 and maybe there is a learning disability. The teachers seem to be pushing for something more substantive, and again they make reference to the other two acts.

If the government can't see its way clear to go as far to guarantee special ed, and fund that, it's this other area, I guess, of the involvement in the process which seems to me the biggest bugbear both from a professional point of view and the parent point of view.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the short answer is that I think good educational practice would dictate that you do those kinds of things in terms of the involvement. I think that our experience, generally, in working with school divisions and administrations, has been quite positive. I use as an example the school closure guidelines.

In Manitoba, there were no guidelines and the process was very much ad hoc, school division by school division. When the province issued guidelines, which really were voluntary guidelines, because they made sense, they are being used throughout the province. I am not aware of any situation where they are not being used. I think the same would probably hold true for the issuance of policy guidelines for dealing with student placement, involvement of parents.

What I suggested to MAST and the teachers is that I think one of the roles of the Department of Education is to establish direction and say, "This makes good sense; let's try and do this." If it comes down to it where we have to do that by legislation, then we do that, but I think the first step is to say, "This makes good sense."

I believe that there is very little opposition to the issue of involvement of parents, and that if you establish reasonable guidelines and processes in the event that the process breaks down, there will be few problems.

MR. C. BIRT: Going to a different topic, page 48 of the Annual Report, it deals with Government Support and I am just wondering if this figure is correct. It says, "Through the GSE and Variable Block Programs and other support the Provincial Government supported over 53 percent of education costs in Manitoba in 1985."

Given the information we've been trading in the last little while, where does that figure come from?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the explanation is that 53 percent is the portion that comes directly from the Department of Education. There is twelve million from now the Department of Agriculture, plus other reimbursements through the Department of Finance.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, something about Continuing Education, which I believe is sort of the

training or courses that are offered in the evening to the public, does the Provincial Government provide funding for these programs?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairperson, I'm . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Something called Continuing Education - it may not be the exact word - but as I understand, Continuing Education is sort of programs that are offered to the public at nighttime in the schools. Are we providing provincial funding for it, and if so, how much?

HON. J. STORIE: We actually provide funding for what the member has defined as Continuing Education through many different sources, including through community colleges, I guess through grants to universities in the universities north kind of thing, grants to school divisions, grants to a whole series of non-profit groups who provide literacy training. I am not sure if that would all fall under the rubric of Continuing Education, but I'm inclined to think so.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, M. Dolin: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Does the Minister have an amount on it? The language-type courses, it would seem to me, would not fall under this Continuing Education. I am thinking more of the stuff that's just offered in the evenings, whether it be pottery making or that sort of non-academic orientated-type programming.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that would fall under the Adult Continuing Education Branch. There are a series of grants that are provided to school divisions to support evening courses, non-academic courses. That would be in (XVI) (5) . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Okay, we'll get to it then.

HON. J. STORIE: . . . in Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education?

MR. C. BIRT: Okay, we'll get into it later.

Mr. Chairman, generally speaking, people leave high school at 18 or 19, but I know there seems to be a trend starting, especially housewives, of going back to school and taking either basic courses or typing courses, that sort of thing.

Do we fund for those people who are going back to the high school system?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, school divisions currently get the same per capita, per student financing from the province regardless of whether the student is an adult or a minor.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is there a growing number of - let's call them adults - going back to - I take it it would be in a high school type setting - to take courses, and are they accredited-orientated courses they are taking, or is it just they're going back for one or two courses and then leaving? If so, are you prorating the grants or are they getting the full student grant?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it is prorated if the student is there longer than 20 - if they're over age 21. It's prorated if they're over age 21, depending on the time spent. There are surprisingly a great number of students, a growing number of students going back. They run the gamut. There are people going back to get their Grade 12 or finish high school; there are also adult students going back to take data processing and individual courses as well.

I have raised the possibility previously of encouraging that by eliminating all of the potential fees because I think it's a good idea to make schools available to the public. I think it also has some advantages in terms of the learning environment of the school. Classes with adults in them take on a different aura quite noticeably. I think that's a general experience that teachers have found.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister made reference that they're prorated. If they're taking a full-time instruction, then they would get the full grant, or if they're only getting one course, then they would get one-fifth or whatever it is.

The other question would be numbers. Is it something that's growing and do we see it developing into something so that you'd have to develop a policy, or does it have policy implications for the schools?

HON. J. STORIE: I don't think . . . it may have policy implications if it becomes a more entrenched practice. Currently, I think school divisions allow adults to attend classes based on their class size. Generally, if the class is of a reasonable size, there is no problem.

What would happen in the event that the class was large and the school division should decide that they can't handle it, I think then it would create a problem. To date, it hasn't been a problem. I would hazard to guess that there are probably not more than a couple hundred adults going back to school right now - I mean adults attending high school - but that is a significant increase, obviously, over what it was a few years ago.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister relates that there are people going back to school to pick up courses, and certainly there are a lot of adult people going back to Tech Voc, etc., to pick up courses that they find they need after they've been in the work force because they left school too soon.

What is being done or what program is being initiated to convince young people that they should probably stay in school so that they would have the education required to carry on with the vocation they want maybe later on in life?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, apart, I guess, from the normal community school activities, the establishment of parent councils, it's the work of individual teachers and counsellors. I think it's significant that there are probably more counsellors in our schools today than there ever have been before.

There are a series of, I guess innovative projects - we were discussing one such project earlier - that

attempt to help the school deal with local circumstances, including the drop-out rate, by getting the community involved, by getting students and teachers involved. There are projects that are supported through compensatory grant programs which involve peer counselling.

So there is probably a fairly wide range of initiatives out there - some initiated by individual counsellors or teachers, some by parent council groups, some by schools, and some through the auspices of programs offered by the department such as the Small Schools Program and the Compensatory Grant Program.

The other area, despite the fact that we have too high a drop-out rate, the drop-out rate today is substantially less than it was 10 years ago. That's due, in large measure, to the fact that we offer a much broader range of courses for students. I think we are succeeding in keeping the attention and the interest of students in motivating them to continue on through high school. That doesn't mean that there aren't still too many drop-outs. As the members knows, in some parts of the province, in some areas that's a much more serious problem than others.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: What is the drop-out rate?

HON. J. STORIE: I believe there are still approximately 35 percent of students who do not complete high school.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Well, 35 percent, although it may be lower than it was, is still a very high figure, as the Minister recognizes. The students find themselves in a position of wanting to take on a vocation after they've been in the work force for a while; but it doesn't relate to extra courses in the schools - it relates to the basic education that they left behind that is required. It's not the extra courses; it's the basic education that they've left behind.

Other than counselling - if we're still at 35 percent - is there something other than counselling that can be done to have the schools become more interesting to the young people so that they will stay in it?

I ask this question because I speak from experience. I have a son who ran for the school board and is a trustee because he's interested in basically that, because he felt he had wasted five years of his life to get to where he wants to be today because he dropped out of school.

Now that's fine, but there's a lot of people that are leaving school and finding out that they need the basics once they get into the work force looking for a vocation.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I guess there are a number of things that are happening that, hopefully, will alleviate some of those problems. I think the member is aware of the fact that, in Manitoba, students can attend universities, for example, as mature students. There are no barriers - or fewer barriers than in lots of other jurisdictions.

In addition, over the past few years, we, as a province, have certainly encouraged and tried to increase the number of adult basic education courses that are offered. There are opportunities to upgrade skills through equivalency testing, and the general educational development tests.

All of those things, I think, work to the advantage of young people who have, for whatever reason, dropped out of school and see themselves needing to get back into post-secondary institutions or other training opportunities. Each one of those: adult basic education, the upgrading courses, the GED tests; all, I think, provide avenues for young people to do that.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: That's all I have.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to - unless there's other questions - I say we pass section.

HON. J. STORIE: Is this Section 3.(a) we're passing?

MR. C. BIRT: All of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Section 3.(a), 3.(b), 3.(c), 3.(d)—pass.

Resolution No. 49: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$436,526,000 for Education, Financial Support - Schools, for the fiscal year ended the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, before we get started on No. 5, I just wondered if we might have a five-minute break.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A five-minute break? How about until four o'clock? (Agreed)

HON. J. STORIE: That'll be six, but what the heck.

(RECESS)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee, come to order.
The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, looking at page 51 in the Annual Report, there's a reference there of international programs being operated, I guess it's through Red River Community College. It's a \$5 million, five-year technical assistance program to the Kenya Institutes of Technology Project. There's reference throughout the report of a number of other areas that were involved.

Whose responsibility is it to look after the foreign component of technical training overseas?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there is an individual at Red River Community College who is, pardon me - I'm sorry, not Red River - in PACE who is responsible for that task and has been for three years.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise just what the financial arrangements are? Who is funding it; how do we get paid; are we making money; are we supposed to make money; things like that?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. The funding actually comes from CIDA - I gather that's the Canadian International Development Agency - and the Association of Community Colleges. They look after the administrative costs. As well, there is a capital purchase

or an acquisitions policy which also includes a Buy Manitoba component.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, from the CIDA aspect and the Association of Canadian Colleges, is Manitoba putting any money up, or is it costing us money, or are we making money on this particular program?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, there is no profit to be made. It is basically a cost-recoverable activity for the province. The benefit, I guess, obviously, besides the economic benefit and the fact that it's all revenue being generated by the province, is the experience and the opportunity to share and develop.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, do we send personnel over to these various countries? In this particular instance, it says Kenya, but I note there are a number of other countries involved.

HON. J. STORIE: It works both ways; in fact, there are students that come here, depending on the specific agreement. There are students that might come to Assiniboine or Red River Community College, as well as, from time to time, we send staff or individuals over to provide training overseas, and the staff can be actually selected, chosen from Canada as a whole as well. It's not just staff at Red River Community College. That's when . . .

MR. C. BIRT: These students that come here, do we pick up their entrance fees or are they covered by CIDA as well?

HON. J. STORIE: Their fees are paid.

MR. C. BIRT: By who?

HON. J. STORIE: By the agency that sponsors them, which may be CIDA, or it may be some other, the World Bank. So students are sponsored by different agencies.

MR. C. BIRT: How many students would we have over here, from other countries, taking training under those types of agreements?

HON. J. STORIE: There may be as many as 50 or 60 in total at the colleges.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference to a capital purchase program that's geared to Buy Manitoba. Where does that money come from relating to this capital purchase program? Is it out of our budget or, again, is it coming from the sponsored countries or agency?

HON. J. STORIE: It comes from the agencies as well.

MR. C. BIRT: So then, I take it, we provide personnel that we get cost recovery for, or we provide teaching facilities and positions for students from overseas; again the cost is pretty well paid for by those people who come in.

HON. J. STORIE: Really, it's very much like contract training for Manitoba Rolling Mills or any other agency.

We simply provide the training component, and our costs, including administrative costs, are recovered.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to get into an area - I can appreciate some of these areas are specific, like Student Aid and that, but I'd like to deal with, in general, the whole technical training area. If it's Manpower training it falls within the technical schools but they will bear the brunt of it. So it may mean moving around a bit, and I hope the Minister will bear with me because I don't know specifically where to ask these questions, but does the Department of Education negotiate with the Federal Government for any specific job training or re-employment contracts? And if so, what particular contracts are they, or agreements are they?

HON. J. STORIE: I guess the prime example is the National Training Agreement which is negotiated actually by Employment Services but we sit on the negotiating team and provide input from the department, and from that, the Federal Government chooses spaces at our community colleges and some other institutions, based on the list of courses that we are offering, so the agreement is for a total number of dollars. The individual seat selections, if you will, are done more or less in conjunction with the community colleges and their list of programming.

That is one area of concern, I guess, because of the reductions that have taken place in terms of the total funding for the National Training Agreement.

MR. C. BIRT: Is that the only agreement that the Department of Education is involved in, or are there others?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, practically every community college is involved in training agreements with individual companies, with non-profit agencies. I believe the Assiniboine Community College is involved in a training program, a cooperative education program - I don't have the title for it but it is a program that is supported through the Canadian Jobs Strategy.

There are, as well, individual contracts with individual companies. We have another agreement with the Federal Government and the City of Winnipeg, the Core Area Training and Employment Agency. There is also an agreement with the Vocational Rehab Program. There is also post-secondary training that would come under this branch through Northern Development Agreement. So there are many. The Inter-Provincial Training Agreements, as well, are a little different than these but . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I've had our staff pull together a fairly extensive list of training agreements. Some of them are federal and some of them are provincial, but it would appear that all of them touch on the community college system in one way, shape or form. I can go through them and it's - I guess what I am trying to find out is there seems to be a plethora of actors and money floating around in the job training and they all touch onto the community college system, either whether they are the local community centre or they're into the specific college themselves. Is there a

policy, is there a coordinating group that knows exactly what the players are and what the objectives are? It just - quite frankly, the amount and the variety of programs are staggering.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, although there are several actors, there is a coordinated effort and I guess the best example is the renegotiated National Training Agreement, in which one department took the lead and there is involvement from other departments and the same is true when there are negotiations going on in terms of activities which affect the college.

The college also has a role to play in outlining its capabilities and its preparedness in providing training. I should indicate there are other institutions beside the community colleges which also form a part of the training plan, the Manitoba Technical Training Centre which is assigned a direct purchase basis from CEIC, as well as some on-going contracts with business. The South Winnipeg Technical Centre also has some training responsibility.

I am not going to put the sole blame - the fact is that the province has been working in the last couple of years to coordinate its education and training activities. The fact is that the Federal Government, I think, probably is in need of doing much the same thing because they provide funding for training through the Secretary of State, through Immigration and Employment, through DRIE, through who knows, a whole range of programs as well.

I think the provincial response is sometimes simply to go out and get those things and I suppose there have been other complicating factors such as the recent decision to stop direct purchase of places in our community colleges or reduce the level of direct purchase spaces, which means that now community colleges have, in effect, had to develop new strategies to try and attract federal training dollars.

Hopefully, we have been successful. It has meant, really, refocusing a lot of energy at the community colleges, however.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I take it the principal federal piece of legislation that funds a fair amount of money that comes into the province is the National Agreement or Training Act. Why is it not into the Department of Education? I mean, why isn't it your responsibility? Why is it over in Income Security and whatever the name of that department is. You alluded to it earlier that you were on the team but it's really not your team.

It seems to make more sense within a - while we're into post-secondary education, to do an employment training type situation.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I guess there is, in fact, more than one department involved. The National Training Agreement also covers programs like New Careers, which is operated out of Employment Services. There are substantial dollars invested in that kind of program. The Limestone Training and Employment Agency is sponsored, and there's some \$10 million or \$12 million of funds going to that particular venture.

I would hazard to guess that, overall, our share may not be the majority - significant, it is. I guess part of

it is tradition, that the training agreement normally has been negotiated between Employment Services and CEIC. We have, in fact, had discussions about our relationship, particularly in terms of negotiations, because it does cause us some concern. But I think that the coordination and the cooperation has been better in the last couple of years, or the last five years, than previously. Part of that is spurred by the fact that we simply have to be more careful and a little more directive in terms of spending.

MR. C. BIRT: Maybe recently the Economic Securities industry may have been looking after the negotiations on this but, quite frankly, the Department of Ed. has been around for a long time and post-secondary education has really evolved through the Department of Education. The building of all the community colleges, most of the institutional end of things have flowed through the Department of Education.

The Limestone Agreement for training, which I believe is more like \$18 million - some of it, I think, goes to Keewatin, some down into Red River Community College. You've got your National Training Agreement; you've got a whole variety of other smaller agreements. The Minister touched on some of them; the list I've got has a few more of them.

HON. J. STORIE: There's quite a few more.

MR. C. BIRT: I guess the concern one has, and I have, is that there would appear to be at least three, maybe four departments involved in the delivery of dollars, or retraining dollars within the province. We're dealing with large sums of money; I mean, to say maybe \$100 million is probably not an exaggeration; it may even be much higher.

We've got four horsemen going in four different directions. At least that would be the appearance. Now there may be some inter-cooperation between departments but, you know, I don't get a sense that we're getting excellent value for our money in the sense that it's being targeted, we're not duplicating, we're not tripping over one another. How do we know we're not misdirecting something like this?

I can appreciate you've got historical empires here that may cause some of the problems, and I don't mean that in any wrong sense. It's just that when you've got at least four departments involved, I worry that we're not getting a coordinated attack. Are we overbuilding spots, for example? Are we getting the right people into the right institutions? Are we wasting money that we all know is scarce? People would argue that they're not wasting money, but are we really getting value for our money? A whole series of questions, because you're spread over such a large map on the provincial scene.

HON. J. STORIE: I think that maybe the important point to note here is that what happens when you're negotiating a federal-provincial agreement, really is a global allocation of funds; in fact, the money that is allocated through the National Training Agreement to the department is really a global allocation. The department really administers the funds. That's true whether we're talking about the Northern Development Agreement, or the Core Area Agreement.

The core area may be a good example where there is \$12 million which is set aside for Community Education. It's not a question of a whole bunch of departments necessarily, anyway, involved in the delivery. It's simply a question of who does the negotiating.

The member makes a legitimate point. I think every Minister feels quite strongly about his or her department's involvement in those negotiations. I think we have been relatively satisfied that the agreements we have come up with have served the interests of Manitoba. It's not only the opinion of the department, the individual department. We're sometimes accused of empire building. The fact is that Treasury Board is involved, as are representatives from federal-provincial relations. So there is some coordination when we're talking about large federal-provincial agreements, in any event. There is some coordinating effort from outside the individual departments as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, that's on the global concern and I guess it's the internal, or the parochial or provincial scene; for example, I believe the funding came from the Canadian Jobs Strategy Fund for the employment of single parents and those who had been on welfare, through Mr. Evans' department. It roughly was \$6 million, I think, from two groupings. It meant special training projects.

The point that I'm making here is did they spend this money to create their own facilities or did they go into, say, a school division or a regional technical school, or the local community college, whatever it is? I guess you can create a lot of teachers and buy a lot of space and a lot of typewriters, when you could be saving a lot of money by using and utilizing resources. That's really where I want to make sure that we're getting good value for our dollar. There's a lot of money and a lot of people doing a lot of projects in the province.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think first of all that the money for the program referenced by the member, I think originally came out of funds allocated to the Canada Assistance Program. Really, it's money designated for social assistance. The fact is that we - the colleges will likely be delivering some of the training. The training that Employment Services is involved in, to a large extent is non-institutional, New Careers kind of programming, the Wage Subsidy Training Program, those kinds of things. There are fairly distinct responsibilities along, I guess, training lines, institutional versus non-institutional.

I can accept the member's point. There is always room for improvement in that area. Whether in fact carving out additional responsibilities from other departments, to be assumed by the Department of Education, whether that's the most efficient way, I guess is something we'll have to review.

I guess the main departments are Community Services, Employment Services, and Labour, which has some involvement in the apprenticeship programs.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I guess it's the non-institutional stuff that, really is the big area. You may be taking a program, taking three or five weeks, or three months to give someone some training. I guess

it's where is it being done? We've got lots of empty schools around, or empty facilities around. We've got colleges that may have spaces. What I'm trying to say is rather than going out and leasing some space or creating, are we in fact - we've got a pretty good inventory of where we're at and some of it's underutilized because either we don't have the student population, or for a variety of reasons.

Are we making sure that we're getting proper use of the expensive resources we've got in place? That's really one of the areas of concern that I have.

HON. J. STORIE: I think we're doing a better job. I won't sit here and say in every case we've identified where another department, Employment Services or some other department, has gone out and said we're going to provide this particular training component for these job re-entry applicants, or whatever. I think, in the main, either the colleges have done that or there has been some coordination of the training, job-experience portions of the program.

Like I said, there's pretty clear differentiation of his responsibility and that's come over time.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the last word that I had was that a new National Training Agreement had been reached with the Federal Government. Is that correct; and, if so, what are the terms and how long is it for?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the new National Training Agreement has been signed and it's for three years, continuing until March 31, 1989. I guess the highlights, or the low lights, are reductions in direct training purchases of 10 percent in '86-87, 15 percent in '87-88.- (Interjection)-

MR. C. BIRT: The Chair is waiting for the children to sit down.

HON. J. STORIE: If the Member for "Giggle" is finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm having my recreation period here.

HON. J. STORIE: Okay, all stand up and stretch now. We seem to be a little giddy.

In 1988-89, a 20 percent reduction. In addition to that, there has been an agreement that some of the funds that are not going to be part of the direct purchase will form a pool of funds, from which institutions and others can receive indirect funding.

The total dollars for direct funding then would be as follows: \$22.3 million in 1986-87, dropping to \$18.9 million in 1987-88; and \$15.1 million in 1988-89, which is a substantial reduction which is going to directly affect the community colleges.

To the extent that we're able, we are gearing up now, and the community colleges, I think, have been quite successful in developing strategies to access this kind of money and other money, training money available from private sector sources and other sources.

It's not a pretty picture, but I think it reflects the best effort to get an agreement that we could live with. It's not dissimilar to agreements that have been signed in other provinces with more or less reluctance. I think the case has been made to the Federal Government

in opposition to this particular move away from direct purchase with very little success and now we have to live with that decision, I guess.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, these were reductions and it's 10 percent less for 1986-87, which comes to \$22 million. Does that mean it was roughly, then, in 1985-86 about \$25 million? Is that the base line that you are operating from?

HON. J. STORIE: About 24 - 24 plus.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister made reference to a pooling of funds to sort of offset this loss in direct purchase; how much? Is it again on an annual basis or is it a lump sum for the three years?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, it will be \$5.8 million as a pool this year and that will increase next year to approximately \$9 million. I think the important point to note there is that obviously the colleges or any of the other institutions can only access that money if, in fact, they can come up with proposals or get proposals, have agreements with other sources.

One of the problems that we have had as a province, in dealing with the rationale used to reduce spaces, is that there may be other opportunities, there may be large industries, there may be individual companies, who would want to introduce training programs for which this fund would be useful, or in which cases that fund would be useful. It's not so certain that that will happen in any major way in Manitoba.

So we are adapting and we know there are going to be opportunities out there for attracting some of that indirect funding to the colleges. There is no doubt that some of it, or there is certainly a possibility that some of it - hopefully not much - will actually lapse and it will simply be training opportunities lost.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is it \$5.8 million fund for 1987-88, and then \$9 million approximately for '87-88? Is that approximately how it works? Could the Minister advise what the criteria is. He said he hoped to work with either other people or other institutions in trying to get access to this money. Do we have what the parameters are of who can access it or how you can access it?

HON. J. STORIE: Out of the \$5.8 million, the colleges have, I guess, already sat down and discussed with the CEIC or whomever, the possibility of some additional \$3.6 million out of the \$5.8 million; the \$3.6 million out of the \$5.8 million has nominally been targeted to the community colleges because of training that they're prepared to undertake. That means about \$2.2 million is up for grabs and that may include applications for training funds from the private sector, other groups. In addition, I'm not sure of the breakdown for subsequent years, or if that's been decided, but that's how it breaks down for this year.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, so of the \$3.6 million, the reason that the colleges feel certain they can access it is because they have the certain facilities. So they're the only one in town, really, to be able to offer that

program or they think that they can entice people to take them on that basis, but surely then, it must relate to some other employment opportunity. I mean, how is it accessing . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. I guess the best explanation that staff advised, that part of it is for the disenfranchised. That means spaces that had been purchased, the training was going to go on and by simply pulling back the direct purchases, somebody lost in that exercise to some training that's planned on a regular basis.

In addition to that, the rest of it is market driven. There is an expectation that X amount of training for industrial mechanics, those kind of things, can go on. I guess at this point you would have to say that it's - is it firm or somewhat speculative?

Basically, the community colleges have people who are now marketing their training, and I guess past experience tells and existing contacts say this kind of training is going to be needed over the next year; we believe we can deliver it. That's where the 3.6 comes in. That is the total that we might access through the fund.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm not quite sure that I understand it, so let me ask you a series of questions and, hopefully, I'll be able to understand it a little better.

A National Training Agreement where this funding flows is for what? What is the \$22 million purchasing in this particular year? Who is using it and what's it buying?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think I explained earlier that really what we do is sit down and we say here's the training programs we can offer and the federal government says we're going to buy 15 spaces in industrial welding, 20 spaces in data processing, and 50 spaces in business administration, whatever they choose. I'm not sure if they'd choose those, business administration, but that's the idea. They go through the list. That amounts to so many dollars worth of training. What's happened is that they have pulled back their direct purchase, so instead of 50 in business administration, they're saying we're going only to put in 20.

So that means that there are really 30 spaces that have been lost for which we believe there is a market. So what we are trying to do now is make sure we can go out and round up sufficient people, companies, whatever, that are interested in taking that training to access the indirect funds, which they have promised not to take away for this year.

We are in there competing with private vocational schools, individual companies who have training plans, so basically that's how it works.

MR. C. BIRT: That's the \$3.6 million, the 2.2 . . .

HON. J. STORIE: That's for the whole amount. I'm not sure I caught the member's question. I just wanted to add some words for clarification. In managing this additional fund, this indirect pool, there is going to be put in place by the Federal Government an advisory committee - by the Provincial Government - of business

representatives, community college representatives, departmental representatives, to I guess direct this fund one way or another.

MR. C. BIRT: There is some \$5.8 million that is not going to direct purchase of positions in the college system this year. Using the Minister's example of 50 business administration positions for this year, now say 30 are freed up, as I understand it, the Provincial Government is going to be putting together an advisory body made up of industry and others to advise on what applications are I guess okay to access this \$5.8 million. Is that it or is it a federal body advising? Who's setting up the body to spend the \$5.8 million or whatever it is?

HON. J. STORIE: Originally, Mr. Chairperson, the Federal Government said we're going to set it up. I think our argument was that these were really funds that were designated for the Province of Manitoba and the province would set up the advisory committee. The purposes for the committee are the same in any case. Really, they are there to I guess promote use of the fund, additional training opportunities, and I guess to facilitate the matching of training opportunities, preparedness of the community college to offer specific training with individual companies and other groups who are interested in pursuing training.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that they thought they could access about 3.6 if they could sell the ideas or get the people to come in and take the programs. Has there been a decision that they are going to get a certain portion to grandfather those positions they've taken away and the other \$2.2 million or whatever it is are purely for non-college positions? How do we get the 3.6 out of the 5.8?

HON. J. STORIE: I think the 3.6 was simply an acknowledgement that the province was in fact losing by this change, and they said, fine, okay, yes, you're going to be losing 5.5. We were making the case that this was in some cases training we were certain we could deliver, and we simply said can we have some of this, and they've identified 3.6 that will be training delivered through the colleges, I guess. The other 2.2, it's a scramble. The colleges have access to it, but there is no certainty that they will get access to those dollars.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm beginning to understand but I'm trying to figure out how an individual would end up either in the \$22 million category or the \$5 million category of which he may fall into the \$3.6 million or the 2.2. From the department's point of view, you hope to get X amount of dollars because obviously you have got staff and plant in place.

But are we talking about a Grade 12 student who wants to go into the school, or are we talking about people who are on unemployment insurance and whose ticket has run out? What are we talking about here, what type of student, first of all?

HON. J. STORIE: Let's deal under the National Training Act. Let's not get under the \$5 million funded. Mr.

Chairperson, I think, first of all, I can't answer very specifically on the criteria because the Federal Government sets the criteria for access to money that they've allocated through the direct purchase.

In the National Training Agreement in terms of the \$18 million, all of that would be CEIC placement. Okay? The remaining amount of money, of the 3.6 of the remaining amount, they would be, in the main, supported through Canadian Jobs Strategy or some other program. The criteria, of course, would be established by the Federal Government. It is possible that 3.6 would be individuals who are also working at a company and either they would have a subsidy or they wouldn't. The company would be providing the training.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, this, let's call it \$5 million fund, is that Canadian Jobs Strategy monies or is that something different again? Because I want to ask questions about it as it relates to the delivery of service here in the province, you know, at least as consumers from the Department of Ed.

Is that Canadian Jobs Strategy now, or are we talking a different pool of money now?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, everything is Canadian Jobs Strategy. The Federal Government has rolled all of those programs; CEIC direct purchases, the community futures where there's a training component, all of that is rolled into the seven programs under Canadian Jobs Strategy. The \$5.8 million is part of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, but it's the direct purchase part of it - indirect purchase, I mean. The \$18 million is also part of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, but it's the direct purchase part of it.

There is, in addition to that, Canadian Jobs Strategy money in other programs, which has a training component.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, if I'm a Grade 12 student and I want to go to one of the colleges outside of a loan system, getting a loan through the department, which is probably federal money, I couldn't access any federal funds, is that it? I would have to then go to the college and pay for the program myself, is that what happens?

HON. J. STORIE: Generally, yes. The main requirement for the direct purchase is out of school for a year or independent or things like that.

MR. C. BIRT: So the Grade 12 student going to the college goes on his own, at his own expense, short of any loan arrangements that he may . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Obviously there is Student Aid. The alternative is to be with an employer who sees training as an essential part of . . .

MR. C. BIRT: I'm talking about the student going from Grade 12. If he goes on his own hook, he finances it his own way . . . arrangements. So then, under this direct purchase agreement, they have to meet certain criteria laid down by the Federal Government, which is to be out of work or to have been out of school for a year seeking a job. Is that what we're talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay. What is the percentage of high school students going strictly on their own volition to the colleges, and let's talk on a full-time basis, not part-time, we'll get into the apprenticeship stuff later. What percentage go by way of this direct purchase through the Unemployment Insurance route?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm told that about 30 percent are sponsored. About 70 percent are fee tuition payers, come on their own hook, so to speak, 30/70.

MR. C. BIRT: So the \$22 million are, I guess we're into the '87-88, the \$18 million only relates to that 30 percent component, is that correct? Okay, and because there are facilities available with this extra fund that's been created from a direct purchase to an indirect purchase, I guess it is, the college feels that it can attract at least \$3.6 million dollars worth of business, is that right? Now, is the money, this would be a person who has been out for a year or more and is not necessarily going through the unemployment roll. It would be money spent for others, people who have never gone to UIC or are at work and want to get extra training. I'm just trying to figure out, where is the other group coming from that this \$5 million dollar pool is going to pick up?

HON. J. STORIE: There are a list of programs in the Canadian Jobs Strategy which provide for training opportunities and I'm only familiar with one in any detail and that is the Community Futures Program which gives money to community groups who are responsible for economic planning in the area, and there is money allocated for training. So, the community group says well we need to train, we're in Sherridon, we've got a possibility of having seven skidder operators or heavy-duty mechanics - they can offer those opportunities to those students.

So the people who would be taking training through the indirect now would be those students who, (a) perhaps couldn't get in under the direct purchase program because there's limited space, - it's purchased every year. So they would either be employed somewhere else or part of some other program.

The Access For Single Parents or, you know, I can't remember the list of programs which target specific groups for training and retraining opportunities. So they would be eligible and probably supported under this aspect of the program.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the funds that a student pays, now let's use Business Administration just for the sake of discussion. The student coming from Grade 12 pays X amount. The person coming through a direct purchase pays X amount. Are they both identical costs, or is more money being paid by the direct purchase thing from the Federal Government?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, in terms of the provincial, I guess, operating the college the direct purchase of spaces means that the total cost of delivering the training, including instructor costs,

administrative, overhead, all of those costs are assumed by CEIC.

For the student walking in off the street out of Grade 12, he pays, \$45 a month, \$450 tuition, something like that. So, the Federal Government, through its direct purchase has picked up a much greater percentage of the cost.

MR. C. BIRT: So the 30 percent that is . . . direct purchase, even if it's the Canadian Jobs Strategy extra pool accounts, it produces more than 30 percent of the revenue in this particular area. What does it break out, roughly? You know, if it's 30 percent does it produce 50 percent of the revenue for the cost of operation? What are the numbers approximately?

HON. J. STORIE: Approximately 41 percent or 42 percent.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the students that come on the direct purchase, do they pay any fees themselves or is it all taken care of through some credit system between the two governments?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, the ones that are sponsored by the CEIC pay no tuition fee. That's all looked after by CEIC.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the fees that are paid by a student that comes from high school or the person who goes direct without any federal funding, how much does his fees contribute to the overall percentage of operation? Is it 10 percent, 20 percent?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the percentage of total costs covered by tuitions at our community colleges probably is closer to 7 percent.

MR. C. BIRT: So, 70 percent of the students, Mr. Chairman, who are paying, who are going there on their own, direct, contribute only about 6 percent or 7 percent of the operating budget, is that correct?

HON. J. STORIE: That's correct. We have probably the lowest tuition fees in Canada.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Labour, through its apprenticeship program can also buy spaces in some allocation. First of all, do they buy spaces or at least reserve some space?

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

The apprenticeship places actually form part of the direct purchase. That was another, I guess, contentious issue in the National Training Agreement that was being negotiated. The Federal Government had indicated a desire, perhaps, to withdraw from the Apprenticeship Training Program. They have made a commitment, at least for the next three years, to continue to purchase apprenticeship spaces direct.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, before we get into the '86 through to '89, the three-year thing, before any reductions took place; assuming the 30-percent formula still applied to direct purchase, what percentage of that

would have been apprenticeship-type training and what would have been other?

HON. J. STORIE: It would be about probably 12 percent, 12 to 15 percent.

MR. C. BIRT: Of that 30?

HON. J. STORIE: Of that, yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the funds that go for the direct purchase on apprenticeship training, are they the same as the Unemployment Insurance-type direct purchase? Is there any distinction in categories or do they both pay the same when they do a direct purchase?

HON. J. STORIE: I have a little difficulty explaining what the Federal Government does in terms of the allowances. As you know, the Apprenticeship Program is operated on a different basis than the direct purchase for two years for a diploma in agriculture, or whatever it is. They are there for six weeks, but I believe the allowances are similar.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, when this National Training Agreement expires, then the apprenticeship component, too, will expire? Is that what the Minister was saying?

HON. J. STORIE: The whole thing will be up for renegotiation at the end of 1989.

MR. C. BIRT: But it's a question of the funding of the Apprenticeship Program; is it terminating in two years?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I can't speculate too much on what might happen in 1989. I think the Federal Government gave an indication of their dissatisfaction, for whatever reasons, with the Apprenticeship Program. They have agreed to leave it in as part of the current agreement. Whether, in fact, they'll be prepared at the end of that agreement to leave it in or expand it or will, once again, be talking about eliminating it, is open to speculation.

I believe, Mr. Chairperson, that we have an undertaking with the Federal Government to study the Apprenticeship Program over the next couple of years. I assume that evaluation will be a determining factor in whether in fact there is continuing direct purchase of apprenticeship spaces or not.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, what's the study that the Minister is referring to on the Apprenticeship Program? What is it, to see whether or not it's still viable; it should be changed; a different method of delivering; what type of training should be considered? What are we looking at here?

HON. J. STORIE: I would say all of the above. All of the things the member mentioned, I think, are probably legitimate questions.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, one of the areas I want to ask questions on is the concept of apprenticeship training and whether or not it is serving a useful role in today's world or whether or not the type of training

individuals should be getting should be coming up through the system. In other words, has the Apprenticeship Program run its course and it's time to look at something different? Is that what they're looking at? It's a perception that I have.

HON. J. STORIE: I think the member raises a good question; it's one that I've raised. My own feeling is that the Apprenticeship Program has not outlived its usefulness. I think that there may be some need to restructure the program and the nature of the trades, for which apprenticeship programs are offered, are pretty instructive in terms of the era from which they came. I think we are in an era where the industrial side of our economy is of probably lessening importance.

Certainly if you look at Northern Manitoba and looked at the mining industry, the number of apprenticeship students are significantly fewer than they were 10 or 15 years ago. I think the nature of industry has changed substantially, where the length of apprenticeship program probably needs to be reviewed, because the nature of the job changes much more dramatically in a very short period of time, that we might want to look at shorter apprenticeship programs, and continuing.

That's why I think it would probably be useful to have a look at it. It's not that the idea of apprenticeship, on-the-job training, mentoring isn't a good idea in terms of training. It's simply the way it's structured and the kinds of jobs for which apprenticeship programs exist.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the apprenticeship question has two aspects. One is the funding of it; who is going to? Is it going to be a federal responsibility, a provincial responsibility, or some hybrid of that? Then the second is, should it continue on the way it has been, within the control of the Department of Labour?

The study that the Minister related to, is it for all of Canada, as to just the funding aspect, or is looking at the whole area of delivering of training dollars for post-secondary education?

HON. J. STORIE: I think the study is for the Apprenticeship Program across Canada. It's the idea of the Apprenticeship Program and its function. Obviously, part of that will be the question of funding.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the major thrust is it's a major review of whether or not that type of training to get a profession should be continued, or should it be altered in some way. A subsidiary aspect of it will be funding and whether or not the Federal Government will still play a role in it.

Is this something that all of the provinces are being involved in, as well as the Federal Government?

HON. J. STORIE: Although there is, I guess, a local group that is reviewing the experience in Manitoba of the Apprenticeship Program, there is a national group as well, and we have involvement in that through the Department of Labour.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the local group, who was doing it and what's the composition?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the group that is studying this has not been formed as of yet. The

intention is to do that. Part of the new agreement was to do that evaluation. The lead will be taken by the Apprenticeship Branch in the Department of Labour.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, will the department, PACE, have a role in that study, because you're part of the primary delivery of the system?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, we will.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, using the numbers the Minister gave, roughly 7 percent of the costs came from student fees at the colleges; roughly 42 percent came from the Federal Government on the direct purchase plan; the other 50 percent, is it solely funded by the Provincial Government, or are there any other outside sources?

HON. J. STORIE: The vast majority is provincial support.

MR. C. BIRT: I guess the problem one has with PACE, in looking at it, it's a multi-headed animal and, when you look at the finances, one has a difficult time trying to get a real handle on it. I know I talked to you before in trying to get some breakdown of facts and figures. The Financial Administrative Act supplement has been a bit of a help, but . . .

HON. J. STORIE: I don't know what kind of a breakdown the member would like.

MR. C. BIRT: Well, if you get the annual report of the University of Manitoba, for example, they'll give you several fees, student incomes, outflow, inflow, that sort of thing. There is just limited information at the back of the annual report. It's almost as if the colleges should do an annual report much like the universities do and the university grants - I've forgotten which one, I guess it's the university report. I know you want to keep everything secret.

HON. J. STORIE: No, that's right. We're trying to do that.

If the member could just give me some indication of what kind of information, perhaps I can interpret his question. He would like to know a breakdown of the revenue for the colleges. How much comes from direct purchase? How much comes from indirect? How much comes from fees? How much comes from other revenue, from other sources, and what's the provincial share?

I will undertake to get that information and we will provide it in some form. I don't know whether we can pull all that together in the next few minutes, but we'll try.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, when we were discussing some of these issues last year, there was a concern that some of the funds were being taken out of the college system and sort of being left to the private sector. The private colleges and the Minister introduced an act or expanded, I think it's called The Technical Trades Act, or something, to try and sort of pick up a new group that were forming or may form to handle the delivery of sort of specialized short-term jobs. I

think over the past year we've seen one or two examples of, sort of horror stories, as it relates to it. What has been the experience of the province in this area, the number that had been created, because I believe they had to register and offer a program and it was approved by the department. We had a certain number of private trade schools, I believe 53 or 47, something like this last year. How many more have there been?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, there are two additional schools registered in 1987 I guess thus far. So the terms of the act are being complied with. I understand that we expect that over the next little while, perhaps continuing for the next couple of years, because of CJS in particular, we're going to see a number of additional schools.

And the horror stories, I think the act, as the member has indicated, will prevent some of the problems that have been experienced in Manitoba but I think in other jurisdictions more generally. I should say that the act and its provisions have been fairly well received by existing operators, that they were given opportunity to comment on the act and the regulations all the way through. I hope they're common sense and that's the way they've been received. So hopefully we'll be able to keep tabs on fly-by-night operations of which there are few in Manitoba at this point.

MR. C. BIRT: Part of the process was, I believe, some of the funding through the Canadian Jobs Strategy was that the Provincial Government, through the Community College, would create a screening mechanism to sort of vet or review and then pass its comments on, I believe, to the Federal Government. The Federal Government made its decision no matter what was said provincially. The annual report here makes reference to, I believe, 360 being reviewed for the year ending March 31, 1986. Have there been a similar number more or less in this last fiscal year?

HON. J. STORIE: There have been more.

MR. C. BIRT: How many?

HON. J. STORIE: Substantially. Mr. Chairperson, I understand in Red River's case that the numbers have actually increased from perhaps 200 or 300 to 800 and one of the issues that we're getting into right now with the Federal Government on this whole approach, and not that we're reluctant to do the pedagogical review, I think that's within our purview and we should be doing it, we have jurisdiction over education. It's the question of payment for what this service really provides, which is guaranteeing some quality. So it's an important issue. We, I guess, initially, didn't anticipate that kind of volume. It's now becoming quite time-consuming and at the same time important. So we're going to be billing the Federal Government.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I would agree firstly that you should be billing for the time spent, but more importantly, what sort of dollar value were we talking about? I can appreciate the Federal Government makes the final decision on it; but, when you're assessing these, what are we talking about in total dollar commitments?

Are there private dollars as well as public dollars involved? I mean, what sort of handle of money are we talking about? Even some approximations would be helpful.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, we don't keep the numbers on those. Obviously the Federal Government spends money, we don't always have a running tab on the amount of money that could be involved for each program we approve, because we don't know if it's approved finally. So, you know, we don't know whether in fact those are actually approved, or that there is modification. So we can't really comment on the dollars.

I think the fact of the matter is that with all of the changes that have been introduced with CJS, that the total number of training dollars spent in Manitoba are probably 50 percent of what they were X number of years ago. Because of the confusion, because of the reliance on other groups coming and asking for training, the money that was previously spent on training, much of it in a cost-shared way with the province, has simply disappeared and the allocations that the Federal Government made to Manitoba for training are underspent significantly and have been for the last few years.

But the Minister of Employment and Services would be able to give you all of those gory details.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister is saying that there are committed funds there but they just haven't all been used, is that what you're saying?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, that's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: That's a different story.

HON. J. STORIE: I don't know how much of those funds are actually committed. There's a dollar figure there.

MR. C. BIRT: Each province is given an allocation, whether it meets the Minister's criteria in his earlier comments are not subject to seeing the final figures; the money allocated and money used are two different things.

HON. J. STORIE: That's right.

Mr. Chairperson, just for the record, the Red River Community College estimates that its reviews, its attestation, as it calls it, to the pedagogical correctness or whatever of material, they estimate that it costs them about \$175,000, which is significant.

MR. C. BIRT: The programs in the last fiscal year, I believe that they're short term primarily, CJS programs that are being reviewed by the colleges there were of a short-term nature. Have any of them been purchased or delivered by the community colleges? I mean, they bettered them? Did the moneys ultimately flow into the community colleges for training?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I understand that at this point about \$1 million has been spent through the community colleges over the last couple of years, I guess - last year. And again, some of that

has been initiated, in part, by personnel at community colleges, too. They have done their homework and said, hey, look, here's an opportunity.

I think we are being encouraged to do that as well. That's part of the market-driven approach. Have we got a deal for you.

MR. C. BIRT: So of the \$1 million, how many students does that translate into, roughly?

HON. J. STORIE: I was just going to add that one of the examples has been run at the Assiniboine Community College, in which staff really initiated it and it's worth approximately \$200,000.00. Off the top of the head figure for the number of students that it involves, but the estimate is around 300 students.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, so I take it then that the colleges or staff initiated projects. They were vetted and approved, the money flowed then through the colleges for these various positions of training. Now did they pay the ordinary student rate or would they be paying the cost of the direct purchased one, the Federal Government direct purchase?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, generally, although you know there may be exceptions, the money that comes back to the college indirectly is substantially less than what we would get through direct purchase. The way it operates is that the money doesn't come directly to the college, it's actually a third party. It may be a co-op, a non-profit group, a private company that says come to the college or the college goes to it, or helps to get it formed. It applies for the money; the money comes to the third party. The third party pays the college for the training plus pays the allowance to the students. It's a very simple concept.

MR. C. BIRT: I think I understand where the Minister's coming from, why he's upset, that positions are still being used. He's just getting less income for them.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, less income, more work.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, we talked about earlier, the funds, some \$5 million that's owed as a result of the new National Training Agreement that he made reference to. It would have an advisory body as well. Is it supposed to be approved by the same sort of vetting agency in the community colleges or is that something different again?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the community colleges would do the individual program reviews, but what the council would do or the advisory group would do would be prioritize within that and saying, okay, here are 12 programs that are acceptable and the college is prepared to offer training, and these are the eight that we think should go forward - or five.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister has made reference throughout his remarks that there has been school solicitation for recruits to the school. What sort of a program is that? I mean how is it going to work?

HON. J. STORIE: What that means essentially is that we're not creating the demand in the college. What

we're saying is going out and keeping in touch with the community business in terms of what they see their training needs as being. So the example would be a robotics course, that there's a company that is introducing robotics into the workplace that says we want to do our training. We said, fine, we can do that basically, perhaps using CJS money, in other words, saying that controlling the company, they can apply for this money, we'll provide the training. They just funnel it through to the community colleges, or having the company on its own hook, saying this is important.

What the colleges are now trying to do is break down individual courses into modules, so we may offer training not for the full year anymore but for six weeks or six months, or try to be flexible to meet the needs. By market driven, all I meant was that we are not simply establishing in some ivory tower courses that we want to offer, but saying, what are people prepared to pay for, either on their own hook or through CJS and that sort of mode. It's simply a necessary response to the fact that money has been pooled in a different way and we have to respond to it or simply stand by and say we can't react.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, it sounds like a good idea. It's nice to see teachers moving in a direction outside of their own institutions, if for nothing else just to keep them in touch. But I don't mean that in any derogatory sense.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, you do.

MR. C. BIRT: The funding aspect of it, when you go out and try to find people who are interested in using this facility for training, you're almost talking of . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Retraining.

MR. C. BIRT: Retraining. There are many apprenticeship-type programs and, if you can use federal dollars to get them to take the course, again are you getting high value for your money, like a direct purchase under the thing or again is it a reduced thing?

HON. J. STORIE: Well value comes in, I guess, two packages. Whether you get dollar value and whether you get really long-term training, you're really meeting some future need.

Part of the problem with market driven of course is that Company X needs 12 salespeople trained or any kind of thing. I mean, we've seen examples of CJS funds being spent on relatively low-level training. There's no strategy to develop skills in a specific area, perhaps skills that we're going to need a year from now or 18 months from now or three years from now. It takes time to develop those skills, electronics technicians and those kind of things, all of the technology courses.

So the whole approach that the Federal Government has taken in terms of training, CEIC, even in the past limited their support to a year, is very short term. The quality issue or the issue of quality and appropriateness, I think, has to be addressed as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I note in the supplement, page 70, there's reference to Manitobans living in rural

and remote areas increase their enrolment in off-campus and distant education centres. Now, the off-campus situation, I believe the colleges are doing a number or have done a number of these off-campus centres. Could the Minister tell me how many? Are they planning more? Give me a little bit of information on this off-campus concept please.

HON. J. STORIE: The off-campus centres really revolve around two ideas. One is a regional centre directly related to the community colleges. Assiniboine Community College has a campus of the Parklands. There are possibilities of one in Swan River. The community college at The Pas, Keewatin Community College, has regional centres at Norway House and Flin Flon. Red River Community College has regional centres at Portage and Winkler and Selkirk. On top of that, individual courses are offered in many communities. Red River Community College does that; Assiniboine Community College does that; and so does KCC. So they take individual courses and offer them in the community.

When I was going through my notes, I ran across one that was extremely interesting. I think it was a course on agricultural equipment mechanics being offered to women in all kinds of centres across Manitoba. So those are the kinds of off-campus activities that are taking place. I think the aim - for example, Red River is talking about reaching between 1,000 and 2,000 this year in each centre in off-campus activities. So we're talking about 4,000 or 5,000 students having access to some training, upgrading, informational part of community college activity.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the community or off-campus concept, it seemed to me expensive. Is this part of the market driven, you're taking some of the training facilities to where the businesses are or the manpower is or the pool of potential employment is? Are you trying to really sort of get more clients for the school system?

HON. J. STORIE: It's certainly part of, I guess, the market-driven approach. Surprisingly enough, it isn't expensive. It's relatively inexpensive. If you think not only in terms of the training cost, much of this training is non-capital-intensive, it doesn't require heavy machinery. It's child care, business administration, it's computer awareness. It doesn't require the heavy equipment that might be out at Red River Community College manufacturing centre here or at their mechanic shops.

In addition, the potential exists, I guess, for use of existing shops at our high schools, that there are facilities out there now we're just getting into using. The facilities already exist out there for the delivery of higher-cost types of training. The fact is that we're tapping into a part-time market, a despair market, in other words, people in rural communities who are saying, I'm going to get some other training. Things are tough on the farm.

We're also, because of the lack of services in rural Manitoba in the past, receiving good cooperation in terms of rent for facilities and spaces and cooperation with businesses. So it's been a good experience all

around. We're using all kind of community centres and church basements and spare classrooms and schools and things like that.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I believe the one in Portage is in a shopping mall or a commercial district anyway. The Minister touched on the fact that they're using all types of community assets. Why aren't most of these in public buildings, schools. I know there are lots in Portage la Prairie.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I expect that, over the next little while, you will see an increasing involvement of community colleges in schools, partly because of declining enrolment - in some areas, we have space - partly because of a better relationship, I guess, between the high school schools and school divisions and community colleges; a recognition that training and education are no longer purviews of the very young or the unemployed. Part-time training, adults going back to high school, there's going to be a greater interaction. So I think schools are going to be used.

That's certainly a direction that I've sent, a signal that I've sent to school divisions and to the community colleges that those facilities are paid for by the public. They should be used to the fullest extent from seven in the morning until midnight. It's happening slowly.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference to several centres being created, and some 6,000 or 7,000 hopefully would be going through them. Is this the limit or is it intending to get more into, let's call it, the high school model? Then you're only limited by perhaps the geographic location or the numbers in the school because, if you're talking 6,000 or 7,000 adults, 21 and over, going through these for either one course or a full-term course or something, you're talking a significant student population moving back into the school system.

So is it the intent to really sort of, you know, one per school district, or is this sort of the optimal figure?

HON. J. STORIE: No, I certainly don't think we have reached an optimal level yet. The fact is that obviously we're not going out there and offering training that isn't wanted; that's the key. It's something that many people, or enough people in a given area want to take on that it makes it worthwhile doing it. I think the use of the school will be predicated on two principles: No. 1, that there would be room; and No. 2, that the schools can be used for more than 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's certainly possible that you can extend that period of time and perhaps have other classroom space from part of the day and then use the school when they're down.

The other point that I wanted to make in talking about cost training, the alternative to doing that is to take someone from Winkler and say, fine, we're offering training at Red River; come in for a business administration course or marketing course, or whatever you want, and uproot the family, have them borrow money from Student Aid and receive a Manitoba Government bursary. There's a double cost to having people move out of their community. If you can find the numbers to warrant the activity, it makes a lot of sense to do it locally.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, in those centres, Portage, for example, where there may be facilities available and you can go into the public system; is it the intention to either rent or pay the school division? Is it just minimal leasing, and you put your own community college personnel in, or are we talking about contracting? What are we talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, basically, we have to deal with each school division somewhat separately. They have responsibility for administering their own areas. My hope would be that we're not taking from Peter to pay Paul. The facilities are 100 percent our responsibility, the construction is 100 percent responsibility of the province. That's why I think the previous Minister and I, and probably other Ministers, have said, those schools are community property. They are managed by the school divisions but we expect them to be open for extra-curricular activities and for community use; and if the community use includes training, then that should be part of it.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'm assuming there's availability of some space and staff in the centres. You're not going to go to a high school or junior high if there's no facilities available; you may want to add on or something, but assuming in those areas where you can move into the school plan, will you be using staff from the school? Because a teacher is a teacher and those who are teaching in the community colleges have certain professional standards; those in the schools have some and there probably isn't too much difference, except one is, perhaps, dealing with a trade; it seems to me you could draw from the same area and would you then be using the local teachers?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the member makes a good point; in fact there are arrangements now, where high schools are actually doing training. Automotive repair - is it in Morris? - there is an agreement that is really a direct purchase space in a high school.

Again, the use of those teachers would be dependent upon agreements worked out between the colleges and the divisions. In other words, if a person was going to offer his talents for an adult course or an extra school course on automotive mechanics or industrial welding or whatever, there would have to be some remuneration and that could be worked out.

But the same people, you're right, the skills are out there. The interesting thing was, one of the first things I did when I was appointed Minister was have a review of the vocational industrial arts area in terms of facilities. We have 500 training facilities in the province - crazy for a province this size. The irony is that it's probably going to work out to our advantage, because now we're going to be able to use them to the fullest extent over the next few years, I can see doing it.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, will it be possible to get an old credited course or diploma or graduate status from these off-campus centres, or is it just there in the initial stages; and if you want to get your final you have to go into, say Red River, or something like this?

HON. J. STORIE: No.

MR. C. BIRT: It will be a full diploma or career grant, assuming space and everything else is available.

HON. J. STORIE: Obviously, Mr. Chairperson, they're not going to offer the full range of programs but the centre in Thompson, for example, has just graduated its integrated business skills. I think it's a Red River course, nursing program, full accreditation; and really again it's market driven. It's up there, that's the need and certainly one that we've heard from the Norman Regional Development Corporation and the Bands, and so forth, the business skills course I'm referring to.

Just as an example, the Dauphin centre, the regional centre there has graduated 100 students already. I have an example of the kind of arrangements that can be made between the schools and community colleges and it mentions Swan River and the background is that really what we're talking about sharing, I guess, is that Assiniboine Community College would be using underutilized areas in the secondary school there, the regional school and it would be supported in cooperation with the CEIC Centre and would work with the high school staff, to make sure that we weren't duplicating programs they were offering as part of their vocational education program.

I know that there's work going on currently to attempt to have courses that are offered through the vocational education stream; automotive mechanics, industrial welding, to be accredited in the same way that other courses are. I'm informed that the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive School, its welding program is probably as good as is offered in the province. Why would we put students through three separate years of industrial welding, or three separate courses and then send them to community college?

We've done those kinds of things in cosmetology, for example, where they do the program and then they write for their licence directly out of school; and I'm told that 50 percent or better receive their licence directly from high school. We're doing the same thing with the child care certificate in high schools. I see the potential for doing that increasing our market, but it's kind of crazy.

At one time we thought we could take every individual high school student and turn them out with a skill, and yet, we never really prepared high schools to do that. We gave the responsibility to someone else to provide the certificates and the diplomas and so forth. I think it was a duplication that's unnecessary. If we have a student in high school who has identified a career path, then we should find a way to make that happen without running them through several groups.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, roughly 20 or 30 percent of the student population goes onto sort of a university-type oriented program. The bulk of the student population is sort of geared for community college or some other type of technical-type training. It just seems to me that if we're moving back into the schools, then it probably means a much stronger cooperation between program development and college training because really two things, as I see it, are going to happen.

One is the big colleges are going to become empty, if you start going back to your community school

system; but, No. 2, if they're going to be working side by side or in cooperation, especially if you're sharing teachers, equipment, that sort of thing, it's going to be driven from the top down that really what they should be putting into place is perhaps the basic blocks or generic type of training at the high school instead of specialized things. And then, for your 19th and 20th birthday, you'll still stick around and get finished in whatever particular program that you happen to be involved in.

Is there then the thrust to bring about the change, I guess, in the high school and junior high is probably where it would be coming, for program change and integration so that the two of these will in fact fit, and you're not causing some pick-ups in the student plan of getting his particular trade or training - and we're not talking here just mechanics. We're talking potentially 60 percent or 70 percent of the student population.

HON. J. STORIE: I guess there is no such thing as a new idea. In fact, there is a committee. That committee's been established to make sure that there is that kind of - what do they call it? - articulation, that kind of articulation. In other words, we're not duplicating what each other's trying to do. So that is happening.

I don't think I share the fear that somehow the community colleges are going to empty. First of all, I mean our waiting lists are as many as 500 students for one program. We have thousands and thousands on waiting lists. Secondly, the community colleges, Brandon, certainly Red River serve substantial populations on their own, people who this is their community. Thirdly, the opportunity for articulation and doing some things in the high school that are currently being done at the community colleges, I think, will simply allow the community colleges to expand their offerings and to specialize a little more, and perhaps be that prepping, really the fine-tuning of the skills or whatever.

So I don't think that we need to be concerned or the colleges need to be concerned about their future because of those activities. I think probably they will in fact feed into the colleges. It will simply mean that there will be different levels of programming, including at the high school level and then going on to college. Six-month certificates may be offered in schools more often.

MR. C. BIRT: The word "articulation" I find confusing here. I know what it normally means, but how do you articulate a coordination of two programs, two concepts?

HON. J. STORIE: I never understood that, Mr. Chairperson. I don't know what an articulated bus is, but they have them.

MR. C. BIRT: Could you speak to the bureaucrats and tell me why they're calling them that. It's a coordinated effort, as I understand it.

HON. J. STORIE: That's right. It's so the pieces fit together.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, we may have been speaking in the realm of what might be or is emerging.

What sort of time frame are we talking about, because I know these campuses are in place, not necessarily all within the school system. The Minister has made some reference to examples of them, but I take it they're more the exception than the norm at the moment. Also with the coordination of the two training programs, the high school program marrying into the technical program, what sort of deadline are we looking at? In 1990, are we going to have this up and running, or is this going to take us a decade to bring about and maybe miss some opportunities?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I thought I'd made it clear that it is already happening.

MR. C. BIRT: But on a limited basis.

HON. J. STORIE: It is on a limited basis really. We have got our feet wet, I guess, two years ago, and the experiment was a success and the patient lived. I expect that it will be repeated now. The opportunity to expand that is going to be, I think, fed by just school divisions talking to other school divisions as well. I think we can be a bit more directive in terms of asking for, seeking that kind of cooperation. I don't think there's any doubt that it's going to take a number of years before all of the opportunities that are out there could be explored, taken advantage of, so it's going to be five years before we see it.

I think I hinted somewhat earlier at a distance education initiative, and I think the community colleges and some of the work that has already preceded this initiative is going to fit right in and make it even more possible, more likely that a whole range of courses can be offered out there in the community.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the tying in of the two courses, the technical school into the high school, makes a lot of sense in the community, local community setting, but it would seem to me to make a lot of sense too in the overall scheme of things, that the schools - I think some of them have gotten a little too far. For example, I know that in the Winnipeg South regional technical thing, they're into something called robotics. The question in my mind is: Should that type of an institution be teaching that, or should it be left for the preserve of a community college? In other words, it becomes a finishing school.

In other words, the technical training - that's probably too narrow a thing. A lot of the courses in the high school should be of a generic nature with the college doing the finishing however, whether it comes back to your school or you go off to the big college itself.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think - and I can't speak to the original vision that created the South Winnipeg Technical Centre, but . . .

MR. C. BIRT: It has a role. I just use that as an example.

HON. J. STORIE: No, I was just going to explain that there are adults there, obviously.

MR. C. BIRT: Yes, I realize that.

HON. J. STORIE: So the question of creating yet another facility for the highly capital-intensive training

is a legitimate question, and that's why I said I'm not sure of the vision that was there. I guess it was a unique experiment in the sense that it requires the cooperation of three school divisions and involves both continuing high school training and adult training.

To the extent that it exists and it was supported in large measure, through federal initiative, all we do is make sure that it's used. The Robotics area I think is one that's been quite successful in terms of attracting interest from particularly the private sector.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I was using that as an example in trying to find the principle of the whole system of public school education that isn't geared to sort of university entrance, to make sure that it fits closely with generic - I use the name generic only because I've heard that used in the sense that you're not getting too pigeonholed in the high school system where you're apt to come out and you may want to choose something else and you've got to go back through the system and get some extra training.

So your building blocks in the high school leave enough flexibility so that, when you go to your college-type training, whether you're still in the school or at the big centre itself, they really fit very nicely together. There isn't the, well, you become a clerk but you know how to carve soap and make nice beautiful sculptures, but it doesn't really make you a hook.

That's what I'm trying to get at. We're just not talking the smaller community centres where we get cooperation. We're talking the broad range, so that those coming ready for technical training are in fact being finished by the college system. They're not having to go through a retraining program to get on speed as to get whatever particular trade or certificate they want.

HON. J. STORIE: I think the member's right, and what I would like to see - and this is without wanting to presume what the High School Review might come up with. I would expect that one of their recommendations is going to be along the lines the member suggests.

What I see is that there are all kinds of courses that are offered for very short-term training, and it may be that the building block, the generic blocks that you're talking about, could be developed for schools so that a level would be achieved at high school and another level yet again at one year of community college, and another level yet at two. So that kind of a system would be put in place. The student would nonetheless leave with job-entry level skills.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, one slightly different area but it ties into this whole picture. I believe that adults of 21 and over coming to the technical schools, some of them are getting upgrading skills, literacy, the basic rudiments that they should have picked up when they were in school but, for whatever reason, didn't. If that's the case, I mean, is that the case? How much time is being used to train these people in these various skills in relation to their total program? If you're coming in to be a mechanic or, I don't know, a hairdresser, that you need some of these basic skills and you've got to be upgraded, are we spending a large part of our time and energies in that area?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, it's a little difficult to answer because, of course, it depends on the skill deficiencies. If you bring someone in that needs as a prerequisite Math 300 and they happen to be functioning at a Grade 4 level or 5 level, you know, we might take four or five months. The experience in most of the ACCESS programs, which focus on disadvantaged candidates, has been probably an extra year of training in a three- or four-year program. It just gives them an opportunity to develop those skills.

The community colleges have now individualized their upgrading, Adult Basic Education courses, so that it really depends on the capability of the student, the motivation of the student. They may come in and actually only take from a few weeks to several months to upgrade their skills sufficiently.

MR. C. BIRT: That's what it's called then, the Adult Basic Education courses? When I look at a list and it's called the Adult Basic Education courses, is this the area that we've just been referring to?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, there's a separate component that part of it's done, the community colleges do their own. There is another one.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm looking at the Manitoba College students' enrolment lists, and there's a category called Adult Basic Education courses . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's the one.

MR. C. BIRT: Out of 31,000, 32,000 people, it shows roughly 2,500 enrolled in all of them. I'm wondering, as you talk about the movement into the community centres, the high schools, the regional things, why wouldn't this type of training be put back into those community centres or high schools. In other words, the college becomes just a pure deliverer of the building-block program and these skills, where they should have picked them up and didn't, the teachers are there, the facilities are there - now granted you wouldn't put a 30-year old in with Grade 4's, but I'm talking about using existing facilities. Because you're moving back into the community, why wouldn't you put these services back in there as well?

HON. J. STORIE: I think that the regional centres do offer those kinds of upgrading courses. I know that Flin Flon has offered an Adult Basic Education course. I'm told that they all do. The fact is, and hopefully we're going to work ourselves out of this problem. I guess educators have been trying to do that for years.

The fact that we are graduating more students, the fact that candidates for Adult Basic Ed generally tended to come from the North, rural, remote, isolated spots, and tend to be Native students - the Frontier School Division, for example, is doing a much better job and, hopefully, five years from now or ten years from now, we will be in a position where we won't require nearly as many Adult Basic Ed upgrading courses.

MR. C. BIRT: I can appreciate that the Minister is going for the perfect wish list and education never stops, for whatever reason.

You know, you're looking at about 8 percent of the student population requiring these extra skills which means resources, teachers, money, all of that sort of thing, and it's there in the schools already. I'm just wondering, as you're going back into a sort of a community-college type of approach, why wouldn't you be transferring that responsibility there? It becomes really a . . . - (Interjection)- Yes, you have to but, if you want to take auto mechanics, then you have to understand basic mathematics or something. It's just down the hall and you will take it at six o'clock tonight, you know, for the next few weeks.

HON. J. STORIE: I think that it's safe to say that one of the, I guess, issues that's going to be raised in the High School Review is the question of delivering those core basics.

MR. C. BIRT: Or redelivering it, because you're talking about adults going back.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, or redelivering it, that's right. I think we've talked about adults coming back into the system. To date, they haven't come back into the system to take the upgrading. I guess they have used the General Educational Development tests or equivalency testing, and the opportunity for upgrading. Whether in fact we will be able to convince school divisions and make those programs available in schools is something worth exploring.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, it's four minutes to six. I think we could call it six o'clock for the day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

The hour now being six o'clock, committee rise.

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott: The committee will come to order, please.

TABLING OF REPORT

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, I believe you have some information from preceding Sessions that you would like to table for the members of the committee.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to table - although I appreciate it's a bit out of order and ask for the approval of the Opposition - but because of the strong interest in the area, we think it's wise that we do table the Report on Physically and Sexually Abused Children in Manitoba for 1986.

I think it would probably be appropriate to delay any discussion in detail on those stats until we get to the Child and Family Services.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, shall we proceed in Item 3? I believe it's the understanding, because of the illness of the critic, that we will put off 3.(a) and 3.(b) for this afternoon and go directly to 3.(c). Is that agreed? (Agreed)

Very well, proceed. Madam Minister, do you have any introductory remarks?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair, I would just like to comment on a couple of the highlights. Again, I'm trying to sort out what is appropriate for the entire division and what is relevant to Item (c).

With regard to the Manitoba Developmental Centre, I'd just like to comment a little on the Northgrove closure. The main objective of our Welcome Home Program was to close the Northgrove facility. It was a barrack-like residential facility, perhaps the most barrack-like of the facilities at MDC. It failed to meet residential standards.

(Mr. Chairman, C. Santos, in the Chair.)

It was ordered closed in a Fire Commissioner's Report in early 1984. We did secure a delay on the closure order from the Fire Commissioner on condition that we would, in an orderly fashion, downsize the resident population and achieve a closure. We did in fact arrive at a downsizing and close Northgrove for residential purposes in February of this year. We will continue to use some of the day program space until June, when the new activity building is opened.

That leads me to the second item, the construction of a new activity centre at MDC. Throughout Welcome Home, the department has been committed, not only to improving services in the community and to at-risk people in the community, but also to upgrading the physical facilities at MDC. In June 1986, construction began on a new activity centre, a \$2.5 million facility. It will replace outdated vocational training facilities that were previously located in the Northgrove building. Three new sheltered workshops will improve day programming for the residents.

In addition to modern training facilities, there will be a gymnasium and three multipurpose rooms for recreational and social activities for residents. The centre will also contain office facilities for recreation and vocational training staff as well as the cafeteria, and to be a much more welcoming place for family members to come to visit residents. As I said before, the new activity centre should be completed in June, 1987; actually, it seems to be running even a bit ahead of schedule.

We have never had a full set of standards or a human resource plan at the centre and, in our desire to build that type of a plan, we did look across the country to see if there were other standards or plans in place that would guide our work and found very little. Therefore, we set to work, within our own facility, to develop such a plan.

There were several components that had been referred to earlier on in the Welcome Home Program with regard to enhancement of conditions at the centre. Again, I wish to emphasize that what we're trying to do is take a facility that is, for the most part, fairly old and whose programming has been only developing rather gradually. The naming of a developmental centre certainly espouses our goals for residents there, but the actuality throughout most of its past is that it has basically been a custodial residence.

However, in line with our desire to build in developmental programs, we worked first at the staff-

resident ratio. That ratio has been improving throughout the Welcome Home process and has moved, again down in absolute numbers, from March 1983 to March 1987, from 744 to 643, but the resident numbers have gone down more rapidly, from 823 to 622, with a net improvement in the staff-resident ratio, which we feel is a vital measure of the quality of care that we're able to give, from .90 staff to one resident in 1983 to our current level of 1.04 staff to one resident.

We have now a comprehensive plan for human resource development and we have set ourselves an optimum staffing level for each program. It will take us until around 1990 to achieve the improvement. One method we will be using, we'll be holding current staffing levels constant until the population reaches 542. At that point, we will have a staff-resident ratio of 1.18 staff to each resident. Again, that improvement will be taking place during this year and the year to follow.

With regard to the crowding issue, again I repeat, that the MDC, at its peak, had 1,100 residents. When we started Welcome Home, we were just under 800 and we are now down near 600 and hope to be under that by July.

We've completed renovations to the Southgrove residence in January of this year. There was a temporary accommodation of 37 residents from Northgrove accommodated in Southgrove. These people were awaiting placement in the community and, by July of this year, that placement will be completed. The renovated space can then be used to eliminate present crowded conditions in the remainder of the Southgrove residence.

We are looking at a way of building in more program capacity at MDC by placing some staff with the Regional Implementation Committees who will work with the MDC until the centre is further downsized, and that's going to be an important way of enriching the service at the centre.

We will continue to downsize the institutional population in a gradual way. Our policy overall is to provide service to handicapped persons in the least restrictive environment possible, but we've recognized from early on that we couldn't predetermine exactly where the balance would come out between community base and institution. We certainly have advocates who would encourage us to go in both directions. We've maintained that a balance is important and, for the foreseeable future, that balance will continue to be a significant feature of the Manitoba program for the mentally handicapped.

The reason we have taken such a concerted effort to downsize institutional services has been that, without that effort, the buildup in the community of a full range of services and a continuum of services needed by individuals and their families in the community would not occur. We simply had to bend our attentions to building that continuum to ensure that community living was fully supported and not just a haphazard affair.

We've gone only as quickly as the planning and the community placements and support services were there, and we have involved many, many people in the regions and in the communities, staff, advocacy groups, parents and relatives where they wish to be involved. And we've followed a very strict policy of not moving anyone out of an institution, should their family not be supportive.

We will in this coming year be reviewing the longer-term policy with regard overall to downsizing

institutional services but, again, we do see a balance in the system as being important.

On the community side, there are quite a few developments. I don't know whether they're more appropriately highlighted now or when we get to that section. Perhaps I'll just leave them, unless just to say in general that the community service, we're really giving an enriched and fuller service in the community than had previously been given in MDC, but the service is being developed in a much more flexible and a broader way.

There's residential service, day program, vocational rehabilitation, training for residents and workshop staff. We've added some program specialists at the regional level to assist us with behaviour problems when they occur, so that we don't keep running into the revolving door and the reentry to the institution problem. I think that's enough of a general introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: I wonder if the Minister would introduce the staff who are here.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes. Again, as of yesterday, our new Deputy, Con Hnatiuk is here; Mr. Ken Gray, the Director of Administration and Finance; and Aleda Turnbull, the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of Community Social Services.

MR. E. CONNERY: I want to thank the Minister for the accommodation that she gave us this afternoon with the critic being ill, but I can guarantee the Minister that it won't soften my approach to what I think is a terrible situation at the MDC and what I consider to be deplorable action on the part of the Minister and the staff in the way they are handling the MDC.

I think maybe, Mr. Chairman, it might be appropriate to initially go through the Ombudsman's Report. I think he highlighted a lot of the most serious shortfalls at the MDC, and then we can maybe fill in what we don't get coming out from the report of the Ombudsman and the Minister's response to the Ombudsman's Report.

Before we go into it, I've read the Minister's reply to the Ombudsman. Mr. Chairman, it's exactly what the Minister has been saying all the way through. It's just a continuation of the alibis and pie in the sky and fantasyland that we have seen. We don't see the sitting down and admitting or recognizing that, yes, we do have some problems there and we're prepared to do something about it. It's just been another alibi.

Really, what the Ombudsman has said in his report, outside of the drugs - we never brought that issue up of overdrugging. The Ombudsman's Report has just said exactly what we have said for the whole last year. The reply that the Minister has given is the same reply that she gave to us all last year, that she really is not sitting down and prepared to address the problems at the MDC. There's always something that is happening, something is going great, but this Minister is a stranger to the truth, because what she tells us and the facts rarely appear on the same piece of paper.

So I think we have to go back to the Ombudsman's Report and start from there, review what he has said

and review what the Minister is preparing to do about the Ombudsman and his suggestions.

First of all, the Ombudsman's conclusions and recommendations is a review of the statistics compiled by the Developmental Centre between 1984 and 1986, that even with decreasing resident population, there is a yearly increase in the number of reported incidents and injuries to residents. I think, from what we gather from staff and from the Ombudsman's Report, it's understaffing, overcrowding.

The Minister, in her report, really hasn't said that she's going to do an awful lot about this. I would like the Minister to elaborate on the injuries and what we can do about it. I think it's a very serious situation.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think the member opposite really hasn't heard what I've been saying, because I think I've been trying to put the MDC and the service given there into historical context, now dealing with the reality of where the services have been, what the lacks were, whether in the institution or the community, and then blueprinting the plan we have for improvement. If that isn't acknowledging that everything isn't hunky-dory and not in need of improvement, I don't think we speak the same language.

I have not only acknowledged that the history of care of the retarded in the community of Manitoba has been limited and shallow in the sense that it's either left families on their own to manage in the community, or required any initiative to be taken by voluntary groups who may or may not achieve public funding and, in the institutions, has relied very heavily on custodial care.

I have also paid tribute to the people working in the institutional setting who in many ways have, through their work with the mentally handicapped, discovered many new, more effective ways of working with handicapped people. Many, many more have acquired basic hygiene management, personal hygiene-management skills, where years ago people used to think this was impossible for certain degrees of handicap.

Many people have started to acquire the rudiments of communication skills with and without language. People have started to acquire some minimal vocational skills and social skills, and a lot of the groundwork for that development occurred in institutions. But as that was happening, there was also an upgrowth in the community of advocacy groups who, some through sheer grit and determination and imagination and commitment, were demonstrating that disabled people could live in the community. Some groups were able to realize that only the unusual family could cope completely on their own, and they started to provide some kind of support and some innovative programming, so the families would get some support. But there was no acceptance by any government of whatever stripe in the past of developing a full comprehensive program for the mentally retarded.

Now we've taken on that task, but we're very mindful of building both on the achievements and developments of those who've gone before, both in institutions and in the community, but having to start with where the system is at and gradually to bring it to a better stage. Now if that is no admission of problems or being a

stranger to the truth, I just quite simply fail to comprehend.

I think it may be my tone of voice that I do have hope and some vision of a better way of living for the disabled people. I don't see only one option. I don't see everything in terms of, well, it's not the best today so it must be horrible and nothing's been done. Quite frankly, I don't think that kind of attitude helps either the people working in the institutions or the residents there, or the families and the mentally handicapped in the community. I think it's only by looking at the current funding and programs and trying to map a course and gradually build those programs that we're going to get the kind of change and better share, better quality of life for mentally handicapped Manitobans.

Again, I think the Ombudsman's Report identified many issues, and we took each one that they identified or commented on very much to heart. In some cases, we had other information. We had some historical perspective. But we took each issue to heart, and it's in the Human Resource Plan, the plan for a development of programming, closer monitoring and so on, that we dealt with those problems. If we talk about not enough staff or not enough specialized staff or even more reporting of incidents, if it's bad now, it was much worse before, because there have been verifiable improvements and those improvements will continue.

With regard to reporting, it's because we introduced a rigorous system of reporting that we're starting to get more reporting. It's a bit like the abuse. We all acknowledge in the community that sexual and physical abuse of children and others has gone on. What we have also to acknowledge is that, once we start to acknowledge that it's not acceptable and once we start to provide the mechanisms for reporting and careful review, we are going to get an increase. But we want that reporting. We want to deal with the reality there and it's only by building a culture where it's no longer acceptable and that any incident that should occur will get immediate reporting that we get a chance to move in and see whether preventative or supportive things can be done to minimize accident or injury. We have a committee in the MDC that is reviewing the procedures and the incident reports, to see if there's anything that can be done with staff to make it safe and encouraging for them to report.

In a sense we want them to see themselves as colleagues of all the senior staff, not as being punished for letting something happen, but as colleagues who are jointly trying to provide the best care possible. It's only by being open with one another, acknowledging when the unexplained happens or when some injury occurs, that we can zero in quickly to find the cause of it and see if something can be done.

I would be quite happy to make available, this afternoon, the composition of that committee and its terms of reference. If the member opposite would like to have that information, we'd be happy to provide it.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, we would be happy to have any information that this Minister is prepared to give us. But, Mr. Chairman, you can just exactly see if you review Hansard and you listen to the question that I asked, and then listen to the answer that the Minister gave, she hardly addressed the question but went on

and rambled around the mulberry bush. We're asking the Minister, please, let's sit down and address issues, and we'll work them out together to see what can be done. I asked her about injuries and we hardly heard injuries.

Now, unfortunately, the Ombudsman did not report the number of injuries that occurred at the MDC. Will the Minister now give us the number of injuries because they have been increasing for the last three or four years? Would she give the number of injuries that occurred at the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair, we will get that information and make it available to you later. But I repeat, the reason we are getting reports of injuries is because we are asking for reports of injuries. We're not turning a blind eye or saying, oh, well, that's inevitable, what can you expect? We're zeroing in on that problem and getting reporting and moving in quickly to look at those situations to see if something can be done.

Again, at risk of giving the member opposite too much information - he keeps saying I'm going around the mulberry bush and I'm not giving him enough information. Well, I have lots of information but it has to be said in context. Let me give one example. We're talking about staffing. Now he says understaffing, understaffing, that's dreadful. I acknowledge the staffing level is not as high as we would like it to be, but it never has been. It's been much, much worse.

In 1970, 640 staff for 1,057 population, a ratio of .60 staff per resident. We've got all the years leading right up to 1986. In 1986, we actually had more staff than they had in 1970 - 666 staff, and there's been a gradual shift over that time. It went up for a while and peaked in 1982 with 745 staff and 814 residents, with a ratio of .92. It's now at 666 staff for 664 population. Again, our numbers are down lower than that now with the ratio at 1.0. We have a plan in place to have the ratio at 1.18 by next May and at 1.04 by July of this summer. In other words, it is a lot of information I'm giving you, but I think when you allege understaffing, and I can give you evidence of the fact that their staffing ratios are improving, I don't see how you can irresponsibly say that I am not dealing with the factual information. If we're going to condemn anyone, let's condemn our total society collectively for not dealing with the mentally disabled in a better way sooner, but don't lay all this blame for collective inaction in the past when we are the very group who are building the improved programming and the improved staffing and spacing and services.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister says that you have to put your information in context, and I agree with the Minister, but she did not put the information in context. When she said there was .60 to 1 ratio back when there was somewhere around 1,100 people, the Minister knows that the severity of retardation amongst those residents, there was a tremendous number who had very minor retardation. In fact, if we want to be honest, there were people in that institution who didn't even belong there. I know of one individual who is now in the community and never should have been in the institution. But they had people who had a lot of mobility

and a lot of ability. We had residents of that building, that facility, who were able to work in the dairy barn and that's why they had the dairy there, because it was therapeutic for the people and they could work in that dairy barn, but now there isn't.

So when she says that the ratio is better, yes, the ratio is better, but the work that the individual has to perform because of the severity of the retardation of those residents is much, much more than what they had before.

So putting it into context, I believe that the staff there, now with the ratio, are probably working harder and have a much more difficult job performing their duties than when they were .60 to 1.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, thank you to the member opposite for acknowledging the ratio is improving. We, too, agree we would like to see enriched programming and increased staff. We have a plan to do just that thing, Mr. Chair. We have, over the course of the Welcome Home segment, not altered significantly the pattern at the centre. We have deliberately tried to move out all levels of disability precisely so that we wouldn't seriously distort the pattern. But I think we can agree that we're pleased that more and more of the disabled are able to function either in their own family home or in the community and that is changing the mix of people in the centres. It's also true that as medical science is keeping people alive at birth, many people who would not have survived the trauma of birth, and is also keeping people with severe disabilities alive longer, so it is true that we do have a mix of people with complex disabilities and it's precisely to deal in a focused way with those problems that we have our plan for staff and program enhancement.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Ombudsman said our review has led to believe that injuries sustained by the resident - oh, this was the other one. They're talking about the staff levelling. I don't see that this level of increased staff has any significant change from what was there before and I don't think it will be within the levels that the Ombudsman would believe are accurate or what is necessary. But, unfortunately, the Ombudsman did not tell us what levels should be, unless in the original report, which we only received a summary of. Maybe the Minister can advise us, did the Ombudsman give a ratio level of staffing to resident, did he give that in the original report?

HON. M. SMITH: To the best of my memory what they did was look at the nursing home standards as being the only comparable standards around. I repeat again that one of the things that's been difficult for us is that across the country there never have been standards appropriate to this type of institution. Now, we have looked at the nursing home standards and where we think they're appropriate we are incorporating them into our Human Resources plan.

The disabled have a variety of different needs. They are not identical to a population of mostly aging people and people often with declining health, and what we've tried to do is adapt standards and develop some so that we have a target to shoot at. But I repeat, Mr. Chair, that's never been done before in that institution.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister says the Human Resources plan - and I know that there was a Human Resources plan performed for the MDC - I'm told it was attached to the Ombudsman's report. Would the Minister table the report of the Human Resources plan?

HON. M. SMITH: We can table a summary. We don't have a full format that would be useful here. But what we will do is, because it is a planning document that we're using with the staff, we will make available the summary.

MR. E. CONNERY: Does the summary, or does the report of the Human Resources indicate that Manitoba is probably about seventh on the list as far as the people working in the mental retardation field and with the mentally handicapped, that Manitoba is about seventh of all the provinces?

HON. M. SMITH: One of the problems we've had is that there's not a lot of comparable data for across the country. We've been looking at the nursing home standards as the closest and is appropriate, except as I say in some of those areas where we're, in a sense, breaking new ground because of the types of programs we're developing.

MR. E. CONNERY: We'll move on to the report, Mr. Chairman. The Ombudsman, when doing her review, talked with, I guess his name is Brian Flatman, the person in charge - and this did not come from him, believe me, so don't implicate him in talking to me, as I haven't talked to him - that there were a lot of programs developed at the institution, but when she went down on the ward and said where are the programs, they said, well, the programs are in place but we don't have the staff to implement them, which would indicate that the residents at the MDC are not getting the proper programming, the proper exercising, whether it be a physical program, whether it be a program to help them intellectually, so obviously there is a severe lack. What is the Minister doing to allow the staff at the MDC to implement the programs that are in place? Indeed, those programs are there.

HON. M. SMITH: Well, maybe just to comment on what programs are, they don't spring full-blown into an institution and suddenly where no one was getting a program, all the residents acquire it.

Programs develop over time and it's because, as I said earlier, the institution used to function more as a custodial place and didn't set its sights as high in terms of developmental programs, that they never existed in the past.

There has been a gradual development of certain programs and our Human Resources plan is targeted to the development of those very programs. Social skills, vocational skills, recreation activities, communication skills, mobility skills, there is a whole range of things which can enable the disabled person to live a fuller and a healthier life and that's precisely what the human resource plan is addressing.

MR. E. CONNERY: There was one other concern, the adequacy of the staffing level at the MDC, and because

of the inadequate staffing levels, there were errors in prescriptions.

I do see though, by the Minister's report, that there has been one additional staff put on in the pharmacy. Is this additional staff going to be sufficient, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, to look after the pharmacy efficiently now?

HON. M. SMITH: We are monitoring it very closely. Again, the standards are non-existent for this type of institution. We've looked at the health-related institutions, but because they're often dealing with chronically or acutely-ill persons, their demand on prescriptions is somewhat higher; but it is true that the mentally disabled have a specific mix of requirements, and therefore we believe it's very important to keep this section adequately staffed. We'll be watching very closely how that area is working out.

MR. E. CONNERY: Another one of the questions that we talked to the Minister about last year was the environment in the MDC and the lack of environmental stimulation. The walls were very stark and there was very little there to stimulate the people and give them a decent living atmosphere.

Is there any plan that the Minister has at this point to improve the physical, environmental part of the MDC, where there may be some paintings in those areas - naturally where the residents are of a calibre - but the facility is very stark.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, there is an upgrading program and decorating and so on that will intensify; and, of course, the addition of the activities building will give a major boost to the range of opportunities and the variety of setting, and indeed, the pleasantness of the setting that will be available shortly.

MR. E. CONNERY: I'm not really satisfied that the Minister gave us an answer to what are they going to be doing.

We have the activities building - we'll get into it later, but what are you doing? Some of the painting apparently - well, not apparently - I've seen it is not all that up-to-date. We heard reports that the windows had not been washed for 10 years. Can the Minister agree or disagree that these things are happening? Are the windows being washed on a yearly or semi-annual basis? Is there a painting program, where every two or three years the walls are painted, because these people, with their handicaps, can sometimes be very hard on the facilities.

We know that there are some who get into little "ranga-tang" and do some damage, but at the same time, the interior needs to be maintained with some sort of stimulation for the residents.

HON. M. SMITH: There will be a washing-cleaning program. Again, I understand that the centre used to have virtually no sort of coloured furniture or curtains or pictures around, and there's been quite a development over the years; but we too would like to see a stepped-up pace of improvement.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister, much like this government, Mr. Chairman, always is alibiing that things

were always worse in the past, and sure, my father used to go to town with a sleigh in the winter and a wagon in the summer. Heavens, things were a lot worse back then or we could say, well, we're better than some other province. Well, I don't buy that. We're dealing with Manitoba issues and I think we should address the Manitoba issues as they are.

The fire safety now - has the Commissioner given MDC a green light? Are there any areas where we have some concerns that need upgrading? We know Northgrove was poor; it took a little longer than what the Minister said it would take to empty it. Are all the other facilities in place and are there any recommendations that the Fire Commissioner has that should be done that haven't been done?

HON. M. SMITH: There is a small amount of work to be done yet in the nurses' residence, but there is no undone fire safety upgrading where the residents are living.

MR. E. CONNERY: Would the Minister inform us what has to be done in the women's residence? Last year, we discussed some of the pitfalls that they didn't ring there and there were other places where people had to come from the powerhouse. Have these problems all been resolved to the Commissioner's satisfaction and what are the problems in the women's residence - or nurses - not necessarily women anymore.

HON. M. SMITH: The work being done on the nurses' residence - fire and safety upgrade will be completed this year and that will tie that area into the central alarm system.

MR. E. CONNERY: I also asked the Minister, Mr. Chairman, about people having to come from the powerhouse under emergency circumstances. Has this been corrected or is this still part of the fire safety program?

HON. M. SMITH: We'll get that specific information, but I think what we have is a series of plans - should there be an emergency - where we can build up the people available to deal with it as rapidly as possible, and again, I guess in planning of this sort, you eventually look at all the people power that you can draw on if there was an extreme emergency. But we will obtain an answer to that specific question for the next session.

MR. E. CONNERY: There's a paragraph, Mr. Chairman, in the Ombudsman's report that I would like to read into the record.

The Ombudsman says, "The individuals who live at the Manitoba Developmental Centre are a very special part of our community. They are also a particularly vulnerable group, as the majority do not have the capacity to speak out for themselves.

"Many of them are 'forgotten souls,' who either do not have family or whose families have, for their own special reasons, chosen not to maintain contact or remain involved with them. As a result, they cannot represent themselves and may not have anyone to speak out on their behalf. The Manitoba Developmental Centre becomes their home and the staff and residents their family."

Then he goes on to say, "These individuals deserve to live as comfortably as possible, to have their dignity and self-respect maintained. They deserve the right to develop as far as their capabilities allow and to be maintained at that level."

When you talk about dignity, Mr. Chairman, and I'm not going to condemn the Minister totally for this, I'll give her some suggestions and get some of her insights. When we went through the MDC, and I think Hawthorne was one of the sections that we went through, where you saw bed after bed after bed - I think there was 9 or 10 or 11 beds in one small area - with no walls to the exterior part, never mind the interior, and there are probably some reasons for it. But there was not dignity or ability for these individuals to have any privacy when they were sleeping.

Also at that time, Mr. Chairman, I measured the tile, which were one-foot tiles, and that particular facility barely made the 50 square feet, if, in fact, it did, that the fire regulations call for a dormitory of 50 square feet per resident. What plans has the Minister to give some more dignity to people, some privacy, or is this impossible under the conditions?

Now we're giving these people privacy in homes. They say they can move anybody from the MDC of any severity of handicap and they are in their own rooms and everything else. Is it not possible to have some better facilities for the people, when they go to bed at night to have some privacy?

HON. M. SMITH: We agree with the member that to have adult persons, regardless of their mental disability or their physical condition, living in big dormitory settings, it is difficult for them to have even the smallest amount of privacy, and that does impact on their quality of life and their perception of their own dignity.

The closing of Northgrove was the biggest step in eliminating that type of dorm. Hawthorne is next on the list for change, and we will do what we can, given the limitations of the structures there to provide privacy. Again, I think rather than compare what's available in the community residences with the institutions, although I think that's relevant in terms of the overall thrust, I think an even more important thrust for mentally handicapped persons is the range of support services we are trying to build in, in the community and for the family from childhood on. Because it's by raising the mentally handicapped in environments which do respect their individuality and their dignity, that we can over time make the biggest difference.

But I agree with the Ombudsman, that we should be adapting our institutions as much as possible to improve conditions. Again, I don't think it's an alibi to set change in a historical context. We all live in that kind of a real situation. Goodness only knows during budget debates, when we are talking about raising taxes so we can maintain social services, let alone expanding them, we tend to hear from the Opposition that we're adversely affecting the business climate and we're overtaxing people and that we're irresponsible.

Mr. Chair, I think this government can stand on its record and on the directions of its programs and on its solid successes. But we too, know that the rate at which we can change and improve on what has been the pattern in the past, it's a slow, steady rate of change

that we're committed to, Mr. Chair, and I think our record stands very well on those criteria.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister, when we talk about things keeps on referring to people in the community. Yes, there are people who want their children to go into the community, and I think there's a lot of people that should have been in the community, and I think they are in the community. There are still probably more that maybe are functional enough to be in the community.

But there's a lot of people who do not want their children into the community. This morning's paper, the Free Press, there was a lady writing about how happy she was that the MDC was there. She wasn't overcritical of the facility, but her concern was that were the staff being blamed for what is wrong at the MDC. Never once has our side of the House ever condemned the staff at the MDC; we praise them. The staff have been an excellent staff. Anybody that will work with the mentally retarded should have all the praise heaped upon them that you can physically do, and verbally, because they deserve it all.

But this Minister keeps on telling us about the outside. My feeling is and maybe we'll discuss in a little more depth later, that this Minister has surrounded herself with a staff that have one goal in mind, is to close institutions. We have a tunnel vision, a tunnel perspective of what is the best interest of the mentally retarded. This Minister is making a decision that we will close institutions, I believe. She's denied it but she's aligned herself with staff, who I am told have the idea and the goal of closing institutions.

So when we talk about the outside, let's remember there are people on the inside, and there are people who do not want their children to go into the community. They're very happy where they are; they don't believe that they would function well in the community; they think their children would be at risk in the community, and maybe other people would be at risk because they are in the community, such as the unnecessary or tragic death of Mitch Gowler this summer.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think the problem with the member opposite is that he starts creating a rumor and then he starts believing his own rumor and he doesn't hear what I say or he hears what I say and he says, well I don't mean it.

Now, Mr. Chair, the evidence is there. The Welcome Home program has been a three-pronged-program. It has been to downsize institutions, to improve the program in the institutions and to improve the supports for people at risk of going into the institutions so that we could have a more balanced program in Manitoba.

It's also open-ended in the sense that we are not committed in the long run to going all community or all institution. We have said we will move carefully, we will learn as we go, we will not force movement out of institutions, should the family of the guardians be in opposition. We have not closed institutions cold turkey and underfunded community resources as been done in other jurisdictions. I know there are people in the community and people that we work with who may have a personal view, a personal belief that that community is an appropriate place for everyone. There

are also people who believe that institutions are better. There are people who believe that for the foreseeable future we are going to have both.

Mr. Chair, all I can do is to honestly speak out as to what the program is, what we are trying to do and I believe if there is a direction it is that the disabled people are entitled to live in the least restrictive environment consistent with their needs. That means that there's going to be a great range, a great variety of placements. I think part of the suffering of families, indeed of staff in the confusion is that the member opposite persists in misinterpreting what I am saying and what I am doing. I have always talked about building balance into the system and learning over time, moving carefully and learning over time how best we can support disabled persons and their families.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, anytime we talk about improvements at the MDC, the Minister right away speaks of the Welcome Home Program and refuses to talk about the MDC and what we should do there.

Is the Minister then categorically rejecting the objectives of the CACL that was presented to her and their task force said their attainment would not complete our vision for the year 2000, which is to close the institution but they have identified as feasible practical attainable steps towards that vision. They go on in several ways, it says that by 1987 admissions to institutions will stop and an evacuation will proceed at 10 percent a year based on 1986 populations and by 1992 it will be commonplace for individuals to have a personal support network of friends and family who will add the dimension of relationship that are essential to a life of quality in the community - in the community.

Is the Minister rejecting the aims of the ACL to close the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think I've already commented on the fact that we are working with a variety of advocacy groups, they do not all think alike. They are entitled to their view and their hope. I think that all of us at one time or another have held certain assumptions about people which we later change based on experience.

We used to think that women weren't strong enough to do a day's work, or that they had to have a bed to rest on or they couldn't get through the rigors of the day. We used to think that maybe - well, there was a stage when children were expected to work at a very tender age, then we expected them to be protected and have an education. People's views of what's possible and desirable change.

I have said from the beginning, we would work with advocacy groups, we would acknowledge that they had different points of view. We would also acknowledge that a flexible program with a variety of settings matched our view of both the individual need and the aspirations of the community.

Now if, in fact, it was possible to give supportive care to everyone close to their family and their community, I wouldn't say no to it, but I have inherited a system that's a certain shape and I am trying to deal responsibly with that system.

I have said as honestly and openly as I possibly can, I believe we have a mixed system. I believe in the past

we have developed too much on the institutional side and not enough on the community, that it's appropriate at this point in time to build the community side and to assess as we go. I think the problem over time will sort itself out, not because of what I think at this point in time or of what ACL thinks or of what people at MDC think, it will gradually sort itself out by the families who have disabled children and who, in the process of deciding how best to care for their family member, will make choices.

I think what we have done as a government, and I think it's an appropriate, responsible thing to do, is to ensure that there are real choices there for them to make, not the old pattern of sink or swim on your own and then, if it gets too difficult, well we'll put the individual into an institution and give them custodial care. There's a great deal more that's possible.

I wish we could hear a little bit more excitement from the member opposite and curiosity maybe about what they're going to be doing in that new activities building. Does he realize we're going to have three vocational training rooms where people are going to get an opportunity to do many more new things? There are going to be cafeteria rooms, social rooms, where they can mix in a more conducive environment, mix with one another, where we can hopefully attract more of the community in. Does he not see or envision the enriched quality of life that we're trying to build in to that very setting? Why would we do it if we had a secret plan to knock it all down in the year 2000?

I should remind the member, I don't know if he's gone to other provinces and seen how they've dealt with this particular problem, I know provinces where they've just, cold turkey, closed entire institutions; just overnight put people into the community, sometimes with adequate support, sometimes not.

Now I think our gradual participatory planning approach, flexible, based on the individual, the family and the community, also enriching the program at the institution, I can't think of a more responsible way to go, Mr. Chair.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister, if she would remember what I said, I said we would discuss the activities building later and I think it is a good venture. Our party endorsed it, that if we were elected in the last election, that we would continue with that project. We thought it was a very good project and a very much-needed project.

But does the Minister have a common, simple yes or no to the objectives of the ACL, that she will not be closing the institution according to the objectives of the ACL, and can I convince or say to people in all honesty and sincerity that those who have a retarded person of the age of 20-25 years old, that they will have an institution if it is the choice of the parents until that person passes away?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I can't speak for the ACL's goal. I respect their right to have that goal. I can't speak for the government for the year 2000. We're struggling to maintain and gradually build social services with the best wisdom of the day.

Now I have made the general criterion that I would use, the least restrictive environment consistent with the individual's need and we're trying a variety of ways

in the community where we are meeting the needs in new ways. Is the member opposite going to close his mind at this stage, 13 years before the year 2000 and say that institutions have to survive? If he says that, I'm beginning to think that he has more concern for the fact it's in his constituency than for the care of the individuals.

I'm interested in the care of the individuals, the involvement of them with their families and their communities and I don't think we have to decide at this point in time. I think what we have to do is make good decisions for the time frames that our decisions are appropriate for. We make money allocations each year. We make building decisions for a little longer period, but we don't have to make those big macrodecisions. I have said we need more balance and I'm convinced of that. I've said, year by year, we will assess whether we've reached the limit on the community option or whether we can still build it.

But over time, it's going to be the young families bringing up retarded children now who are going to make those choices because they, through their own experience, through the experience of what there is in the community and varying ways of them being helped, either in their own family home or in a neighbourhood home, they are going to decide whether that gives adequate protection or whether they want a large institution to continue.

It's not going to be a decision that government alone or certainly I alone am going to make. I'm going to keep in contact with those groups, with the people working with the disabled people, and we're going to keep seeing what's being done elsewhere and see what we can learn. I think that's the responsible approach to take in the year 1987.

MR. E. CONNERY: I asked the Minister for her opinion, and obviously she doesn't want to give me that because I'm afraid what her opinion might be.

She tells us that she wants to deal with all organizations and have an open mind. Well, she has a very open mind to the members of the ACL, who are a very good group. My only concern about the ACL is that they want to impose some of their thoughts on other people. I would support them in their objectives to moving their children into the community. I think it's admirable, and I'm fully supportive of that.

Mr. Chairman, another comment that the Ombudsman made was that the residents of the Manitoba Developmental Centre are entitled to a continuum of training, education, social and recreational experiences compatible with their level of ability. It says, "education." In her report, the Minister says in her reply that those under 18 or 21 are in school. Mr. Chairman, my information - and my information out of the MDC to this point has been almost impeccably accurate. I am told that there are five residents, so-called residents who could be in this program who are not in that program. Can the Minister comment?

HON. M. SMITH: We have been, in assigning people to the educational program, treating the vocational rehab programs as an equivalent. What we have asked the Department of Education is to review how we're handling the day programming and the vocational pre-

training-type programs and tell us whether they think it's an equivalent program for the individuals involved.

In addition we have, over time, been trying to not have children under 18 in that particular adult institution. So we're gradually phasing out the young people who would require education but, with regard to the people who are there, we've asked the Department of Education to advise us on equivalency and we will observe their recommendations.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister in her report, on page 6, says: "Currently, all residents under 21 years have a school or vocational training program." I had a message. Did I miss something? Did the Minister say, yes, that everybody is having a school or vocational training program, or is she saying it is in the process of being developed and will be?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I said that they are currently in one or the other. We have asked the Department of Education to comment as to whether they consider the vocational program equivalent to education, appropriate as an educational program for the individuals. You can appreciate there are many similarities to what kind of a classroom program one might develop under a developmental program under education, and what one would be doing under vocational. We have asked them to advise us on the particular pattern of programming that we're using and will listen to what their recommendations are.

MR. E. CONNERY: I would ask the Minister to do a follow-up, if she would, to verify whether in fact all of those people are in school, or if there are five people who are not. I would ask her to do that.

The Ombudsman also says, another part of his recommendation is: "Due to the limits of the available resources, the Manitoba Developmental Centre does not fulfill its stated mission to assist clients to attain the highest development level possible."

So we have to recognize that there are some real problems out there that the Minister has not fully addressed. By her report, she hasn't recognized that they are and doesn't want to. He goes on to say: "There are reasonable grounds to conclude that the centre is unable to meet its stated objectives relating to standards, physical care, training and education."

So unless the Minister has some plans, other than what is stated in her response to this, I have some concerns that there's a lot more improvement to be made. If the Minister has some other plans, I'd be glad to hear them. We think that there needs to be some significant plan. I'd like to see a written plan where the Minister has on paper an objective, a time frame, what we're going to do by such and such a date, the year, month, whatever, where we have it on paper what the objectives are, and let's see if we can attain them. If they are good objectives, the members on this side will support the Minister in improving the conditions at the MDC.

HON. M. SMITH: If the member is accusing me and government and programs of not having achieved a state of Nirvana, true. Nothing has. Every government program that we deal with, every group that we deal

with has things they want to do. They have visions of how they could make things better. Money would help. Sometimes its imagination and a lot of other factors.

But it's a fact of life, a fact of government, a fact of your life and mine that no one of us in one year or one period of time can accomplish all that we want. We have goals that we're aiming toward. We have to take the situation that we have and improve it, build on it. I don't know how I can be more explicit to the member opposite.

We've tried to establish some standards in a service area that hasn't had them across the country. It's not been an area that has accreditation systems that are universally recognized and followed. I think that's a measure of society's attitude in the past. It's certainly within my living memory that no one thought a retarded young person had any right to education, because they couldn't fit in. They couldn't meet the minimum standards that we thought were "the standard of the school." In the last 10 to 15 years, the vision of the community is changing, and it's changing to a view of saying, we should be inclusive.

Everyone should have access to basic programs and opportunities commensurate with their ability to take advantage of them. I hold that view. But I also, in trying to change a system that hasn't been dominated by that view and which is slowly changing and acquiring a new sense of purpose and vision, what we can do is build. We can table a plan of goals and so on but the member, I'm sure, realizes that, in a government, you go through every year a budgetary process, a planning, an Estimates process. This government's working very hard to try to get a 5- or 10-year perspective. But we have to deal with changing economic circumstances, changing federal funding, changing needs in our own community.

So we're not dealing with an exact process any more than when the member was operating a farm or growing potatoes, that he could deal with an exact projection of market conditions and the weather and the soil conditions and so on. Some factors, you can manage and shape; others, you have to deal with them when they change.

Now we, by our actions and by the resources we've put into this field, I think, deserve recognition for sincerity of purpose by the fact we're willing to lay out a plan and talk about our directions, talk about the types of things we feel are not yet fully developed and what we want to do. I think that's indicative of the sincerity of our commitment. But of course it's going to take time to get there. Where we could be faulted is if we were going backwards, but we're not, Mr. Chair, we're going forward.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, I don't think in the last couple of years you can say that the Manitoba Developmental Centre has been going forward. The staff morale has been just absolutely disgraceful. I read out the statistics in one question to the Minister where the absenteeism because of illness is double at the MDC versus Selkirk and Brandon, and double the national average. So you tell me why we have those sort of statistics at MDC, and it'll tell you that the morale is poor and that the employees are not happy with what's going on.

I get all kinds of people telling me, this Minister hasn't got a clue as to what she's doing. She doesn't

understand mental retardation. She doesn't understand the program. And we sit down and we discuss all kinds of issues, and these people are in the trenches. They have a pretty good idea of what is needed, but they don't have any confidence in this Minister. Why does the Minister make sure that no staff member says anything about working and living conditions at the MDC to anybody outside, a directive to the employees to say nothing about the conditions at that facility?

Also, why was the staff notified, verbally I might say, that anybody who read the Ombudsman's Report were to deny that they had even seen it? Now is this the role of a compassionate, understanding Minister who wants to do her best for the people at the MDC? Why are the staff there not allowed to speak out on some of the conditions that are going on? I'd like the Minister's opinion on that.

HON. M. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chair, if there's this great embargo on people talking and exercising their normal rights, I'd like to know where the member opposite picks up all his bits and pieces.

But again, I think what we have to acknowledge is that, where we have had a large number of people working together in an institutional setting and there is suddenly a new thrust and a broader thrust, remembering that there are people who live in communities throughout Manitoba who may have found MDC a haven for their particular family member, but they haven't exactly found it convenient to keep in touch and keep them included in their life pattern. So what we have had to do as a government is look at the overall needs of the community, and look at whether the pattern of service delivery is best for all Manitobans.

Now when that happens, it's very difficult to get any change of that order. It's hard to get people who have worked in a certain setting and had certain beliefs about the disabled. It's also true that many of them are subject to a lot of the rumour and the scare tactics that - I must lay on the record - I think the member opposite has been indulging in. It's in a sense regrettable because I think, instead of there being a constructive debate as to how best to spend public monies in terms of giving support and development programs to the mentally disabled, we have an atmosphere of unwillingness to look at the facts or the history or the realities of the situation, and that is bound to be upsetting to people.

However, given all that, it's a democratic society. We do have freedom of speech. That sort of controversy and expression of opinion is part of our way of life. Although it can be difficult, confusing and, yes, on occasion demoralizing, I wouldn't want to close down on it.

I think there are certain obligations one has in one's work. One does occasionally come across confidential material, and I think all of us undergo a certain discipline if we have access to material in the line of our work. I think any government, any organization has a right to have certain materials, certain working documents kept confidential. There is a time and a place and an appropriate spokesperson to release information, and I think that's occurred.

I understand some of the debate in the field of care delivery, because there are many schools of thought

as to what the mentally disabled are capable of. There are different approaches to how best they learn and there are many variations. You can have a theory about how a group learns and how they can best be helped but there are a great many variations with each individual. There is, as I've said, on the issue of medication, difference of opinion among the medical community.

I think what we want to encourage is a constructive debate among the different groups so that they can share information, hear what one another says and I think that's been the value, although it's been a difficult process but a valuable one, of having the participatory planning committees, the provincial committee, the regional committees, where a great deal of information and sharing of points of view has occurred, so that all these different groupings who hold different understandings and have different pieces of information can start to hear one another. And, yes, it is somewhat turbulent for a while - change often is - and opening up to difference of opinion. But if we didn't have it, we wouldn't have improvement. I think we've tried to keep it as open and constructive a process, but it would really help if the member opposite didn't insist on saying that I don't mean what I say and that he knows better what our policies are, in spite of the facts of our actual program delivery, Mr. Chair. I can respect difference of opinion, but a complete disregard for the factual information and the demonstrated change, that I really have difficulty understanding.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, you know, last year I showed the Minister - we discussed memos that appeared in my mailbox from whoever was very concerned about what was going on at the MDC. And at that point it was two things they were discussing, the overcrowding and the fire problems. We also know that Mr. Thorimbert replied that had he seen the memos he might not have gone along with the postponement of closing Northgrove. Now, if that is what the Minister thinks is confidential memos and shouldn't be out, then obviously there are people at the MDC who have more concern over the residence at the Manitoba Developmental Centre than this Minister does. Can this Minister tell me why now all of the passing of information is verbal and that there are no more interdepartmental memos at the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, you know, I really wonder just where on earth this member is getting his information.

There is a communication process that goes on in organizations, some of it's verbal, some of it's by memo. When we're developing policy or working on programs, we often get dozens of opinions. Each person, who sees a problem or a situation, will have a piece of information. It's only by carefully looking at all the bits of information and putting the people together to check out and be sure that the information or the opinion that each has stands up to being checked by what the other people bring to the issue. Now that's what we do. There are often memos that travel and people will have a piece of the information, it's our responsibility to take the different bits of information and opinion and weigh it and sort it and organize it and chart a direction.

I think on the specifics relating to fire and safety upgrading and precautions that we took great care last year to respond to each of the allegations and questions. We did double-check to ensure that we had the Fire Commissioner's approval to operate Northgrove with the additional precautions. We ran drills, we checked doors, we had a quick reporting mechanism if there was anything at fault. We put a temporary alarm system in and double-checked all the precautions so that we would maximize the safety while we were gradually emptying that building. I think I took each issue last year and gave a response, but I think what happens is there may be people who, for reasons of their own, want to share memos outside an occupational setting, but invariably they're only a piece of the picture. If the member opposite wants to jump to conclusions based on the partial information, he's entitled to do that, but I would find it much more helpful if he said I understand this concern, how do you see it, and is there a problem and what are you doing about it. That's the sort of constructive opposition, and I'm quite happy to dialogue on an ongoing basis on those kinds of issues.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, after I did my grievance, I sent a copy of it to all of the employees, or almost all of the employees, at the MDC. I did have some verbal correspondence and some letters, but this one in particular, which I have now passed on to the Minister and I hope she would peruse it. I don't know who the person is, I hope the name isn't on there. I looked to see that it wasn't and I hope it's not. I'm positive it isn't. It was just for the Minister's perusal to get a view of and I would believe by the answers that this person does work up there, a very objective analysis of my grievance and giving good comments, not all complimentary to me, that I was totally on track, but it sure brought a lot of stuff out.

Sleeping quarters, is this 50 square feet supposed to be sleeping quarters or are they sleeping in the living quarters? This person raised a lot of good questions, had a lot of good comment and I would hope that the Minister would take a look at it as being maybe representative of a lot of people at the MDC and give her some ideas that we have been trying to give to the Minister but she has refused to accept.

Mr. Chairman, the Ombudsman also says that there is not an adequate air-conditioning system at the Manitoba Developmental Centre to facilitate the comfort, health and well-being of the residents. I should also include the working conditions for the people employed to look after the residents. Now, the Minister, in her response, said it would cost \$200,000 or \$250,000 to put air-conditioning into Southgrove and that there were window units in other parts of the cottages and so forth.

Could the Minister tell me, are the window units sufficient to bring the temperature down to a proper living and working temperature; and what are her plans for air-conditioning Southgrove which is where I guess the largest problem is? - because it is a large facility, not a lot of windows where air can blow through. So two things: Will the window units that are in the cottages and other parts reduce the temperature adequately under a severe heat spell; and will she tell us if and when we're going to have air-conditioning in Southgrove?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think the priority for these old buildings that were built at a time when fire codes were much less demanding and where I don't think any public buildings had air-conditioning, it's been our determination that upgrading the fire and safety had to take first priority. There have been some modifications made in the air-conditioning, some air exchangers and we will be working with Government Services over time to make some improvements. I don't think the conversion of all the old buildings is realistic. I agree that there are certain areas where the temperature for relatively short periods of time, but that doesn't make them any less unpleasant for the people who have to stay there, where some relief can be given. In fact, there have been some minor modifications to date, but I take it as a sincere concern from the member opposite that improvement is desirable in this area.

As I say, we've completed the fire and safety upgrade. We can then turn our attention to these concerns.

MR. E. CONNERY: Could the Minister tell me, is there air-conditioning in the Administration Building?

HON. M. SMITH: No.

MR. E. CONNERY: I'm assume that means there are no window units also, if that's the answer; I would accept that there's no air-conditioning of any kind.

Could the Minister explain, in light of all of these other deficiencies within the Manitoba Developmental Centre, air-conditioning in Southgrove and the environmental part, painting and so forth, why are they putting in an elevator in the Administration Building at this time when we have other many more important aspects of the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Southgrove used to be the administrative building and an elevator was put in several years ago. It was considered essential for fire and safety to be able to evacuate the upper floors.

Currently the administration is in the nurses' residence and there's no plan to put an elevator there.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I was talking with the Minister of Government Services who verified that yes, indeed, there was an elevator going into the administration building at the MDC. Is there no communication between the departments that are involved with the care?

If they're going to spend money for an elevator, which the Minister of Government Services says they are; to me, there's other needs more important. When expenses of one type are made, is there not a communication with the Minister responsible for the care of the residents, to make sure that what they are doing is in the best interest?

HON. M. SMITH: We'll double-check that, Mr. Chair, but the knowledge I have at the moment, there's not one planned for there. But I'll double-check that and get back to you next session.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Ombudsman also says on page 8, that it appears that the human resources plan is

supported by some independent reviews which have been done with respect to the staffing needs. Are these independent reviews, have they been submitted to the Minister? And if they have been, would the Minister make them available to this committee?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, there is a fairly extensive process of information gathering to build the human resource plan. We went and visited nursing homes, got their advice on how they identified levels of need, and read the literature and tried to put together a lot of different information. So again, I think its most useful form is in the human resource plan as developed; and we've undertaken to provide a summary of that plan.

MR. E. CONNERY: There's also a report performed that studied the Welcome Home Program, which could possibly have some considerations on the MDC as to what should be done. Would the Minister acknowledge that this review was done on the Welcome Home Program? It was submitted to the ACL but this report has not been available to us. Would she acknowledge that it was done and would the Minister make it available to this committee?

HON. M. SMITH: Again, I repeat, there's a provincial steering committee for Welcome Home made up of provincial staff and representatives of all the major groups that are interested in the mentally handicapped at the provincial level. It was that group that commissioned this evaluation, and, has since received it and debated it.

I, myself, read it and I thought it stated very strongly a particular perspective and I didn't feel that it evaluated the program satisfactorily from my own experience or perspective.

But I think very often evaluations, unless they are designed in a planning and program sense, end up following the values of the group that does the evaluation and not necessarily need to be accepted holus-bolus.

For example, that report indicated that they thought all the residential settings should be in groups of two or single placements, and foster placements, and so on. They saw the smaller scale residences - which we've been developing quite a few - of four, five or six persons, as too large. They also didn't like the idea of sheltered workshops. I think the committee and certainly myself accepted that as a strong statement of one end of the continuum of opinions.

On reflection, we saw it as a goal that some people have, but felt that the mix of programs that we are developing are appropriate to where Manitobans are at today, and what kind of program we want and what is the optimum mix. So again, I think evaluation reports have their worth, but they don't tell you what to think; they just give you a perspective from a certain mind set.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister tells us that she would like us to work with her and to give her something concrete and good recommendations; but if we don't have the information that the Minister has and the insight - we're open to other thoughts and to other ideas.

So I think if the Minister really wants us to be able to give her much more help than what she has been getting - and she sure needs a lot of help - then we need some more of that information.

Could the Minister tell us what organizations are involved in developing the programs for the mentally handicapped?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, that report has been reviewed by all the staff and volunteer persons that are on the provincial steering committee. As I say, I think they've had a lively debate on it, and haven't come down in unanimous support of it; I certainly have misgivings about it. I don't mind making it available, but I guess I would like to caution the member not to assume that it represents either the committee's consensus view or mine, because it does not.

MR. E. CONNERY: What associations or organizations are part of the steering committee that have input into the programs?

HON. M. SMITH: The auxiliary to the MDC; the Manitoba Committee on Work and Rehabilitation, which is the association of almost all of the workshop or the activity centres. The ACL, the provincial chapter - hang on I'm getting the longer list because it's been expanding. We have been willing to include any province-wide organization. Pelican Lake, as you know, we have 70 persons at the Pelican Lake Centre, and Parent-to-Parent and St. Amant; and then the government departments that get involved: Housing, Education, Community Services and Recreation.

MR. E. CONNERY: Could the Minister name the committee and what organizations they're from?

HON. M. SMITH: We'll prepare that list. I named the organizations and we'll get their current representatives. They designate who they wish their representative to be.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, I guess I should have asked the Minister at the same time if she could - with that list - give us the amount of funding for the various organizations that make up the members of that committee.

HON. M. SMITH: I don't think we have a funding program for the organizations. Some of them, because of historical pattern, had some funding and some have performed contract work for the committee.

MR. E. CONNERY: Are these figures not available, Mr. Chairman?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, they are available.

MR. E. CONNERY: Then hopefully, with the other information that we'll be receiving for the next meeting, we could have that.

I'd like to go back to the activities centre at the MDC because we haven't had a chance to discuss it and I am interested in it, and I'm very keen on it; I'm very pleased that it's there.

Could the Minister, first of all, tell us - it's ahead of schedule - could she tell us how it is as far as the budget goes? Is it on schedule dollar-wise and then what are the activities that are going to be in that particular facility?

HON. M. SMITH: It's ahead of schedule in terms of completion date, I understand. The detail on the costs would be supervised by Government Services. The activities in the building will be vocational, educational, social and recreational and I guess, nutritional, since there'll be a cafeteria.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister stated that, earlier when Northgrove was closed, when the activities building was in operation, that Northgrove was going to be levelled. I ask the Minister if this is still the fact and, if it is, why would you bulldoze it down? Is there not some other use that we could make of a facility, because there was a lot of expense put into it and I think it could be fixed up.

HON. M. SMITH: We do intend to demolish it. The planning, with regard to Northgrove, started several years back when we were faced with a bill that would run between \$2 million and \$3 million to upgrade it for fire safety, according to contemporary standards.

We were given temporary approval, provided we had a plan to empty it, but rendering it fully safe under fire and safety would require major structural change. I think we went through some of this debate last year when we talked about some of the materials that would be involved in an upgrade and there were some that had been bought in bulk and were around the centre; but in fact the major costs that would have been involved in the upgrade were structural. They would have had to replace the door frames throughout that large, several storey building. The total cost - it shocked me when I first saw it and I sent it back for several reworks because I wanted to be sure that we were weighing the options of improving it and emptying it fairly; and the figures kept coming in between \$2 million and \$3 million to do that upgrade.

We don't want a large dormitory facility on the grounds and, again, we don't envision MDC getting any larger in terms of population, and therefore we think the other facilities we have are more appropriate.

MR. E. CONNERY: Just a comment. The Minister knows what it would cost to rejuvenate Northgrove but doesn't know what it's going to cost her to finish off our activities building.

Mr. Chairman, I have a concern. We're talking about downgrading the staff at the MDC and we look at the projections for this coming year and we see the projections going from 601 to 580, a reduction of 21 staff, but they're in the professional-technical sector. Why would we not see some managerial downgrading and some administrative support downgrading in the terms of numbers, if we're going to have less people in the facility and less people to supervise?

The complaint that comes to me all the time is that the administration stays the same or grows, but the people who are actually working with the mentally handicapped are reduced, and there's confusion on

staff as to why this should take place. Is the managerial staff getting a little older and longer in the tooth and can't look after as many? I think it's not a good indication - if you're going to be reducing, I know in a business, if you reduce the staff at the bottom end, you also reduce the supervisory and managerial. Can the Minister tell us why these numbers are staying the same?

HON. M. SMITH: There are several factors that influence the pattern of change, one is that the managerial staff work only one shift, the bulk of them, whereas the bulk of the other people are on a three-shift basis. So there is a different ratio there. Also the pattern of staffing in the institution prior to the downscaling was not very heavily developed at the managerial and professional level. In fact, some of the weaknesses that were identified in the Ombudsman's report, specifically the pharmacist, the need for an extra pharmacist, are the type of thing that does contribute to a shift in staffing.

The human resource plan does show an overall increase on developmental programming staff, because it's part of the hope we have for people there that they will spend more of their day in developmental programming and less just in a sense being supervised without much actual activity.

MR. E. CONNERY: One question I omitted to ask the Minister back when we were talking about the activities facility, with the degree of mentally handicapped, physically handicapped, so forth, and because it's a free-standing building with no connection to any of the other dormitories or living quarters, has the Minister developed a plan as to get the people from where they are in their residence to the facility?

HON. M. SMITH: The entire layout at MDC, there's a lot of open space and a lot of separated buildings. It's never been developed with underground passages or sheltered walkways. Again, it is time-consuming to move people outside and it does call for outdoor clothing and some assistance with moving, but, even that, in the daily program of an individual, provides them with some of the stimulus and variety. It may seem like a little thing to us or just a nuisance to have to go from building to building but, when a person's range of experiences is fairly circumscribed, even that bit of mobility is actually quite stimulating. The staff assure me that with their pattern of work, they can incorporate the mobility of the residents. Some are, of course, independently mobile, but they can be delivered to the building for their program.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister for Government Services is here and this is not an embarrassing question to him; it's a clarification question which the Minister of Community Services couldn't answer. We were talking about an elevator going into the administration building. My recollection was that the Minister of Government Services said, yes, there was going into the administration building. If he could verify that fact and also tell us if it's coming in on the cost projection at the same time.

HON. M. SMITH: If I could comment on that, apparently there is a building code standard that when we do

major renovations, we install elevators so that the physically disabled have access and that's a government-wide policy. With that correction, I don't know if the Minister would care to comment as well.

MR. E. CONNERY: . . . - (inaudible) - . . .

HON. M. SMITH: . . . the assumption being that it's not only a question of some of the residents being handicapped, but in fact, some of the employees may be as well. This is part of the overall government desire to make our buildings progressively more accessible to the handicapped.

MR. E. CONNERY: The other question the Minister could maybe ask her cohort, is it coming in on the 2.7 million schedule, or is it under or over? - (Interjection) - Activities building, it's the only thing you're building, Harry.

HON. M. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chair. I think the procedure is that you wait for the Government Services Estimates to put questions. I was behaving in an informal way when my colleague came in, but I think that it would be more appropriate for the member just to store that question . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he asks at the appropriate forum then.

The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister was prepared to answer but the other Minister . . . so I guess we have a conflict.

I would like the Minister to give us a breakdown on the staff of how many are full time, how many are part-time staff, and how many are contingency staff at the MDC.

HON. M. SMITH: We would like to compile that and make it available later. We have the summary but I think we can present it in a more useful way.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, the line of thinking, we're going to be going through the MDC and I would have thought that this would be a normal thing for the staff to have on the MDC. It kills the line of questioning where we could have brought something to fruition today.

What is the maximum number of people or residents under one person's supervision at the MDC at any one time, whether it be day time or at night, what is the maximum number?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, if the member would care to provide us with his whole list of questions, then we can make that available at the next Session.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, it does make it very difficult to continue on a line of questioning. Last year when we were in the Estimates the Minister had the information for us because we can go back to Hansard and see where the Minister replied.

I am told that it is in the area of 15 people, is the maximum number, but there are cottages where there

are 32, 33 people in and they've only had two supervisors on duty.

Is the Minister aware that there is understaffing, or overcrowding at some of the cottages and residences there?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, what I have are aggregate figures. We don't necessarily have the data in quite the form that the member asks for and I repeat, if he would complete the questions, the information he'd like, we will do our best to provide it next Session.

MR. E. CONNERY: How many residents are there in the MDC at the present time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many residents?

HON. M. SMITH: Last week, we were at 615.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, last year, Mr. Chairman, we were at May 1 - and we were of course in Estimates somewhat later than this - there were 722, and the Minister said there would be 220 moving into the community. I thought, by the questioning, that it would be by the end of December. The Minister's figures show that she is a long ways away from achieving the goal of moving 220 into the community. What is the time frame now to move those 220 into the community?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the 220 figure was a three-year process, and we started in October '84 and, by June '87, we will have met the 220.

MR. E. CONNERY: What was the figure the Minister was starting with? While I'm asking questions, it's hard to peruse Hansard. She said she's going back to '84. When we were in Estimates last year, I don't recall a mention of '84 where we were starting from.

HON. M. SMITH: Again, Welcome Home has always been a three-year program, and we have said as well that in the process the planning was critical and that we would not move people before we had the appropriate plans. We started with 790 over three years ago, and we will, give or take around 10, I think we will be at our goal by the 1st of July this year, and there will be some further slight reduction between then and next year.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, on June 23 of last year, Mr. Chairman, the Minister, in reply to a question from the Member for River Heights, said that we would be at 565 by next March - which, I believe, would be the March that we have just passed through - would be 565, and we're at 615 at this point. Can the Minister tell us where her program went wrong?

HON. M. SMITH: We will have achieved the goal by June. I repeat, a lot of the time has gone into planning. The culmination of the plans, they do tend to bunch together somewhat towards the end of the program. Also it was the target, and we did undertake not to move anyone prior to there being an appropriate plan.

We have in fact exceeded our goal in one other area, which was the improving of services to persons at risk

in the community. We targeted 220 there, and in fact we're closer to 300 on that side of the program. For those persons generally, conditions of aging caregivers or such, the provision of services to them in the community means that they do not require admission to the institution. So the two prongs of the program are quite connected.

MR. E. CONNERY: Can the Minister tell us, it's 50 people she has to move out into the community. Now, 565 was one figure. She was also discussing 550, but she was allowing herself a little bit of slop, and so 565 we can accept then the number of 565 by June. It was suppose to be by March of this year, so we're a little bit late but we can accept that. But there are 50 people she's going to move out into the community by June and we're in May, so we're looking at one month, a month-and-a-half before we see the end of June. Where are these residences and where are these people scheduled to move into? They must be completed or almost completed at this time if they're going to move in there next month.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think there's a very important issue here. We set a target for downsizing the institution. We set a time frame within which we would try to achieve that target, but we also committed to very sound planning. We have no intention of moving people for the artificial goal of achieving a target at a precise point in time. We are within range of meeting the target. We're continuing to plan carefully and with the community. I think the member runs the risk of scaring people in somehow suggesting that we're either moving too quickly or we're not moving quickly enough. I think he wants to either say the program has failed because we haven't got to the precise - well, I think he's given us some grace on the number and, for that, I thank him - or that we're moving too quickly because we're trying to meet the date prematurely.

This is a process, it's a planning process, it's a responsible process, and we believe that we're coming in roughly on target. It's taken a little longer than we'd anticipated, but we won't force artificial goals if we can't ensure ourselves that the individual planning is completed.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, it boggles my mind. The Minister just said a few minutes ago that they will be into the community by June and that target would be met. Now if that target can be met in the next six weeks, the Minister must know where they're going. If she doesn't, then of course she's giving us some more of that bafflelegab which she's so very good at.

I don't like to badger the Minister but, my gosh, if she can tell us one minute they'll be out in the community within the next six weeks and, at this point, she says she's not going to force them, then obviously there are no facilities available and she is hoping again that something will happen. We don't want to hope. I'm not anxious to move them into the community. I don't want the Minister to get me wrong. I'm not saying that they have to be in there but, if she's saying they will be there, then the plans must be in place to move them into that community.

All I'm asking the Minister is to tell us where are they going.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the plans are in place. The readiness of the individual dwellings is causing some of the delay, but we actually have the commitment, the housing, if it's rehabilitated housing or new housing and so on. We have those on the schedule, as it were, and we have target dates for their departure from MDC.

The development of these plans and the implementation takes place over quite a long period of time but, people who pass the sort of tentative planned stage and are into the finalization with an expected date of moving out, we have places for that number. It's a question of gearing up with staffing and ensuring that the residences are ready to receive them, but all the approvals and the actual facilities are in place.

I can actually give you the detail of where the 48 will be. There are community residences that have been approved but aren't yet operational as at April 1. In Central Region, there's one at Pine Creek in Austin and one at Carman. Each of them will have six, and we have a targeted opening date for them. The first one, Pine Creek, is moving next week. The target was April; the actual date for moving is May. So there's often a little slippage, but we try our best to anticipate. The one in Carman will be ready before August of this year. Parklands in Dauphin, there are services for four; that should be ready this month. In Winnipeg, there's a residence for two two-beds and three three-beds, making a total of nine sponsored by one group and four, and they're due to flow in May of this year. Westman, there is a residence in Brandon for five, and one in Virden for one, and roughly the same time frame; and Gimli, the same time frame, six. So that's 48 who should be placed this month or next. It's in that time frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: No questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: He's just getting a little cramped up and getting a little bit of a rest.

The Pine Creek house or the residence, is this the one that the Minister sent a congratulatory letter on the wonderful facility three weeks before it had the sod turning?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the member please repeat the question?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chair, I think the member is going to have to give me a little more information. I don't know whether I often congratulate people because they've got a plan, but before they turn the sod or not. But perhaps if you could be more specific, I'll research my correspondence.

MR. E. CONNERY: I don't know if there are that many houses in the Austin area or Pine Creek area that the Minister would be involved in, but maybe she just had an overexuberant employee who was going. So it was just kind of funny that we would have a letter saying how great the facilities were before they had turned

the sod, and I just thought I'd bring it to the Minister's . . .

HON. M. SMITH: Maybe we saw the plan.

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, could be.

Mr. Chairman, I would pass to the Member for River Heights.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to go back to a certain extent to the questions with regard to the placements of individuals in the community, and I'd like to quote from the Estimates of last year.

In a response to a question from myself, the Minister said - or I think from Mr. Connery actually - "We now have in place concrete regional plans for 131 adults and 27 children to be moved by the end of December this year," December 1986. That was 158 combined, which would have made the population at MDC as of December 31, 1986 a population of 563.

Now I don't object to the fact that we're not at that point. What I object to is the fact that the Minister went public, held press conferences, issued press releases, assured the public that we were going to, in fact, put 220 mentally retarded adults and children into the community by December 1986. And now she's critical of the Member for Portage because he says you didn't do it.

Well I think, Mr. Chairman, it was perfectly obvious it wasn't going to be done at the time, and the Minister was warned it was not going to be done at the time. She kept assuring us it indeed was going to be done at the time. Now you can't have it both ways. You can't say you're going to put these grandiose plans into place, get the target dates going; and then, when it doesn't happen, say, well we have to concentrate on the planning procedure. Of course you have to concentrate on the planning procedure, but then we shouldn't go around raising expectations in a community that we can't meet. I would like the Minister to comment on that.

HON. M. SMITH: Three years ago, Mr. Chair, when we introduced Welcome Home, we said that our goal was to move 220 out of MDC; to meet the special needs of 220 at risk in the community; and also to improve programming in the institution. Now we set target dates, and I think last year there was some talk about, if we couldn't achieve it by December, had we alternative plans? What if we were still in Northgrove? In fact, we said we did have some contingency planning. We could use Southgrove for awhile and we could do this and that; in fact, we did empty Northgrove in February. It wasn't December, it was two months later.

With regard to the meeting of the target, I think you have to set a rough target when you're starting a program like this, with the very complexity of the programming, where you work with individuals with community groups. Sometimes we've encountered, although we've had a great deal of cooperation from housing, problems with leases and some of the problems that anyone who is setting up a home

encounters that have called for delay. But in no case has it been more than delayed.

We haven't changed our goal. We haven't changed, other than enriched really the planning process. We, I think, have not sacrificed quality to coming in exactly on target. It's not a blueprint where one can just lay on 50 residences for five people and move people out. We've got a much more flexible program and one of the consequences of that is that we are subject to some delays in the system.

You know, the members opposite can say it was inappropriate for me to announce the program and the target date and that I should say *mea culpa* for not having achieved the date exactly. I don't mind that kind of criticism, Mr. Chair, I guess I feel so good about the achievements of the program and the way in which the varying community groups, with all their differences of opinion and their different hopes and fears, have managed to work together and really make this program work. I think my hat's been off to the staff and the community groups and the families, who have been so committed to making this program work, they haven't allowed temporary delays or some unanticipated difficulties to stop them.

Again, as I say, I think we've made a best effort and the fact that we haven't precisely met deadlines, I think can be looked at the other way around; that we weren't prepared to set artificial targets and push people into them, to meet our needs. We've consistently put the well-being and the appropriate placement of the individuals to the fore.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: That's precisely my difficulty, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister had ever used the word "target," then I would approve totally what she had done. In fact, she said, "concrete regional plans." What happened to the concrete regional plans?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, some of them have taken longer to implement. There has been more training going in with the boards, prior to setting up, and there are sometimes delays around land titles and approvals.

Again, this is not a program that was following a well-worn path. In many ways, we were innovating. Again, if the member chooses to fault me for having stated, with too much precision, the date at which we hoped to achieve our goal; I guess that's her privilege. Because on the substance, we are slower at reaching the goal, but we are reaching it, Mr. Chair, and I think we're doing it in a responsible and caring way.

As I say, I think the involvement of the community people in this process has been - well it's been an inspiration to me. Because I think when I started, if I'd had any notion of the complexity of what we're doing, I might have turned aside. But I don't think this type of change occurs without people being willing to get in there and solve the problems as they come along, and build a program of which we can all be proud.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, in the last three years, Manitoba Developmental Centre has been given a grandiose sum increase of 3.8 increase, the lowest of any particular aspect of this Minister's department. Some of the rationale for that was, was that we were inclined to, in fact, have considerably less number of

clients, and therefore, they weren't going to require the increase in monies because they weren't going to be there. They were going to be in the community, but, in fact, they were there; yet the budget did not see a substantial increase.

We now have a situation in which we are presented with this year's budget at a 1.8 percent increase for the Manitoba Developmental Centre, which is again the low point in the budget for this particular department.

Can the Minister tell me how she is going to bring about any kind of improvement in the physical plant, thereby affecting the individuals living at MDC and the individuals working there - how that physical plant is going to be increased, when, in fact, the operating expenditures are down by 1.8 percent?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the population may not have gone down quite as quickly as the member indicates I had promised it would, but it has gone down. At no time has the staff ratio gone into reverse. It has been improving steadily, not as fast as any of us would like, but it has shown steady improvement. The space per individual has shown quite a remarkable improvement. We will be at the 118 square foot per individual very shortly. There have been program improvements and there have been physical improvements. The budget for the physical improvements, namely, the 2.5 million activities building and the major renovations at Southgrove, and the current fire and safety upgrade at the nurses' residence, show up in the Government Services budget rather than in our department's budget.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I'm aware of the fact that the major capital expenditures find themselves in the Government Services. I'm really talking about the type of things that can enhance the life of the individuals. For example, how many bliss symbol tables are we estimating to buy at MDC for the following year? How many occupational activities, such as easy-games situation, are we going to provide in the cottages? Because if you are in the activities room of the cottages you will note that it is a bare room, there are no tables, there are no chairs, there are no balls. There is, in fact, no activity that can take place because there's nothing so that an activity could take place with.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the types of equipment that are being discussed are the kind of program supports, along with the staff, that we are trying to build in through the human resource plan and the development of program at MDC. The centre has come - again, I don't know whether the member visited it back previously - a considerable way in trying to make the environment homier, the clothing less institutional. There's an increase in equipment but again with the activities building where there are places to store materials, where there's a control over access so, in a sense, the activity space isn't also the living space or so on.

There's much more flexibility for providing the materials under appropriate supervision. The whole bliss symbol area, and that is referring to all the supports and speech hearing communication, and there's a small unit at the centre in that field, I think there's great

potential for development, but a few years ago there was virtually nil. Again, I guess we would all like to do more everywhere faster.

We have made a major effort to build the community option where virtually none existed before. Members may disagree and they may say we shouldn't have done the community option or we should have put less money into it and more into the institution, or we should have raised taxes more and done them both. Those are legitimate policy differences. But we believe that what we've done is responsible, that it fiscally prudent but that it is also planning to better meet the needs of that community.

There's also been a tremendous enrichment going into the support for the very young mentally disabled and their families, because it's our belief, in terms of how you build a system where none existed before, that it's building that kind of support for the very young and for their families and supports in the community that is the best way to remedy what were, in a sense I hesitate to say, decades of neglect. It was sort of that was the community standard in those days. Now, the community standard is changing, thanks to the work of many of the advocacy groups and maybe they're pulling us further faster than even we're willing to go. But again, I acknowledge that a lot can be done in that centre to give more activity, equipment and programming and supports to the residents.

I'm happy to hear this really heightened concern because I think it's matching the changing values of the community who will no longer accept that the mentally disabled be out of sight and just sort of looked after in a physical sense. I think there's a growing recognition that they too deserve as full a life as they're capable of experiencing.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: There's a new Assistant Deputy Minister, a transfer from another post within the position. Since the new ADM moved into this department and considering that MDC is 32.8 percent of her budget responsibilities, how much time has the ADM spent at the Manitoba Developmental Centre to familiarize herself with the operations?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the new ADM has visited the centre twice. She did have the centre reporting to her for a period of time earlier on, so she had some familiarity with the centre but has been very active working on the policy and program issues.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Does the Minister believe that two visits to MDC, when it does account to almost 33 percent of her budget, is an adequate amount of time to familiarize herself with the way in which the clients of the MDC actually live on a day-to-day basis?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, my new deputy and the ADM have a regular schedule of visits out into the field and assure me that MDC will be a regular point of visiting.

I think one of the issues that we've identified has been not only just whether or not department staff visit there because I think there's been a fair bit of toing and froing, but in fact the centre has operated, and many of the staff in it have operated in a relatively

isolated way from many of their colleagues throughout the broader community, and that's managerial level, professional-technical level.

It's been one of the great advantages of the Welcome Home planning process, both at the Steering Committee level and the regional teams, and then dealing with the individual plans, that there has been much more interaction between parents, community advocates, local staff and the centre so that they can come to see themselves as colleagues in the total pattern of service rather than just isolated in one area of service.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: My concern in this area, Mr. Chairman, is that an awful lot of things which an ADM administers, there's a lot of contact with the general public, write letters to complain about conditions, about the way in which administrators are running it or not running it, as the case may be. What you're dealing with at MDC is the situation which the client is not in a position to complain, so any information which the ADM is going to get is going to be information supplied by staff officers of that particular centre.

Just as the Minister, I think very wisely, has moved into the area of investigating day care centres on an inspection basis with no one knowing when they're going to come so that there's a good control on the day care activities, I think the same type of thing needs to go on at the Manitoba Developmental Centre. It particularly requires the ADM to familiarize herself with the way in which, not that it's just being administrated, so she can get a feel for the client in that particular home.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, again I take the comments as indicating a desire for a lot of hands-on awareness of programming. I also take it indirectly as an endorsement of what we've been trying to do, in including all the community groups with our program planning, so that we can have not just staff involved with the mentally disabled; and, admittedly, they are among the most vulnerable in the community; but many of their parents, friends and advocates, so that there are many protections that are available to the individuals.

My new ADM has, in fact, over her years of work, had a lot of contact with institutional care and with this particular institution. Again I think the comments are well taken that the hands-on experience, the frequent visits, the occasionally showing up unannounced and becoming more involved in the day-to-day work is important. But it's also important that we set out expectations for our staff in the field and the different supervisors that we have connected with the MDC program, that they too have clear expectations laid on them.

I remember when I first became Minister in this area, I said, well what are the minimum standards in this institutions? It was at that point when people said, well there have never been any, and we don't have them, that I started expecting my staff to undertake that process of development; and it's been as a result of that, that we've got some of the program work and the careful statistical analysis and so on off the ground; but much more remaining to be done and we're committed to continuing that process.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell us how often she herself does a full tour, including

all of the wards, the cafeteria and activity area, vocational activities of the MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I have not done a complete tour each visit, but I have been there six or seven times; and in some cases, it's going around on a walking-observing tour, and other times it's in large and small meetings with individuals around particular issues.

I did interest myself, particularly in the drug issue prior to it having become a public issue, because it's been an area of the use of drugs and medication, and had fairly extended conversations with the gentleman who's currently responsible for the medical program. Again, I do get out there as often as I can and intend to continue that.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, the budget this year is \$19.4 million and last year it was \$19 million. But in fact, in figures that the Minister has provided to me, it looks as if they will be spending close to \$20 million for the last fiscal year, \$19,994,000.00. Can the Minister explain where they're going to find the \$594,000 out of this budget, that they spent last year, that they presumably are not going to spend this year?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, perhaps the member could just clarify for us where she is drawing her figure. In fact, our budget out there was not overspent in 1986-87. I don't know what figure she's working from. I don't think you have the year-end figures for actual yet, because they are only just being coordinated. Are you using the Supplementary Information? If you could just tell us where you're reading the number, perhaps we can . . .

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I'm reading from the 1986-87 Quarterly Forecast of Monthly Expenditures, which the Minister sent to me and which indicates that sub-appropriation No. 3.(c) in terms of staffing would be spending \$591,000 more than budgeted, and for other expenses would be \$40,000 under.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, in fact, the end of year was not overbudget. I think the figures the member has were projections, and again, I think the reconciliation of those figures comes when we have our actuals for the year. I can undertake, when those become available, to discuss them with the member.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to spend a little bit of time talking about the activity centre. The activity centre, which is scheduled to open July of '87 according to last year's Estimates, and appears to be on schedule if not a little ahead of schedule; certainly is a welcome initiative at the Manitoba Developmental Centre. But I'm concerned about the staff requirements, because we have a declining staff in those individuals who, presumably, would transport clients from either cottage or ward to the activity centre. Many of these people will need help in clothing themselves and they will obviously need people at the centre in order to engage in activities with them.

My question is: How is this going to be possible with a reduction of 21.47 staff, when there is virtually no activity program going on now and there will be,

presumably, an activity program going on when the centre comes on stream?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, there is some activity staff and programming on, but we have been working - we have, under very active consideration, a transitional group of people where the staff years would reside with the region, but in fact be used at MDC to develop programs, and then the sorting out as to what the mix of staff who would stay at MDC and which ones would move into the community as we downsized would be dealt with down the road. But we do have a plan whereby we feel we can make a significant improvement in the program staff available for the MDC residents for the coming year.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: On page 44 of the Supplementary Information for Legislative Review, can the Minister tell us what is anticipated will be the capital expenditure of \$110,000.00?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a full breakdown, other than the general usage of that material. It's for general repairs and maintenance. As you can appreciate in an institution that size, there are beds that need repair and mattresses that need replacement and so on. I think there's some interest in an ironer to help with the ironing of sheets and so on.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: If I could just clarify with the Minister, she's referring to repairs on equipment or adding to equipment, but she's not talking about repairs to the building itself such as painting and that type of thing.

Can the Minister explain why then this budget indeed would go down? I get extremely disconcerted talking about MDC simply because I was so appalled at the conditions there. I really do think any Manitoban, including the Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister who went there, would be equally concerned about the furniture, about the bedding, about the general ambience of that institution and yet, here is an area again where the Minister feels that she can make a cut. Now I realize it's not substantial, but it is a cut in an area where I think these individuals, quite frankly, deserve a major increase in order to give them a warm environment in which to live.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is no cut in the level of service. There's a modest, well a maintenance plus a modest improvement. Like a food and clothing item naturally does go down when you reduce the number of people and, over the year, the average number of residents will go down significantly.

Again picking up on the general point of what kind of a place it is and what could be done to improve it, I know one can't build hindsight in for members, but there are some of us - and myself again I can only claim to have been involved for the last couple of years in a face-to-face way. But there are members of staff and other folk who have seen the institutions over many years and, believe it or not, their current state is an improvement over what they were.

I can't repeat enough that there was a time when the mentally disabled were kept in much larger numbers

at a much more minimal level of care. There was institutional clothing where everyone was dressed alike. There were very few curtains or pictures or furniture anywhere, very little organized activity or developmental programs.

Now, that's a painful and a difficult reality for many people for whom having people off and out of sight in big park-like settings, in the rural setting was deemed to be appropriate and sufficient. But for years, people who've been visiting their relatives or working in these institutions, they've gradually acquired a different expectation. I think that's all well and good. As Government of the Day, I think it's up to us build on that improvement.

But again we chose, given the dearth of anything on the community side or any concerted program to plan for that option, to put the bulk of the new money into that type of program. Had we not, for example, dealt with the 220 people at risk in the community, we would have had the population at MDC rapidly escalating, not even stabilizing but rapidly escalating. So it's these types of realities. We cannot, in a few short years, overcome neglect and limited programming that had been going on for the lifetime of that institution.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not trying to hold the particular Minister to blame for the conditions for many years that existed with the mentally retarded in institutions like the Manitoba Developmental Centre. That's not fair; she wasn't the Minister all through that period of time.

But she has been the Minister for a number of years, and we have a situation in this province where we just took \$286 million from the taxpayers of Manitoba, but we have no more money to give to capital for MDC this year than we had last year. In fact, we have \$1,500 less. The Minister says that there were no drapes, there were no pictures. There still aren't any drapes and there still aren't any pictures, and there still aren't any activities for these people to do. When are we going to address this issue?

The Minister has been blamed, and I think wrongly, for saying that she's forcing everyone into the community. She has said that it will still be an institution into the year 2000. I think it will be, unfortunately, an institution even longer than that. But the reality is that, if it's an institution, why can't we make it an institution that has an ambience that's attractive. It's happening at St. Amant. Why isn't it happening at MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: Well I think, Mr. Chairman, that we, perhaps the long way around, have got at one of the issues. The physical layout at St. Amant does create a very different and more positive impression than at MDC. There was in existence a great volunteer effort, and it centered around St. Amant mainly because the parents, the families of the children and the adults, live close to that institution and involve themselves in the care and the development - there were fund-raising drives and so on - and involve themselves in improving that institution. With MDC, the local community I think work very, very hard, but they were a small community relative to the very large number of residents. Over time, because of the geographical distance and so on and the lack of really any easy appealing way for family

visits to occur, although the auxiliary to the centre has worked long and hard and I think has really accomplished a lot, but relatively speaking there were fewer involved community and family volunteers than have existed at St. Amant where many more of the families live close to and stay involved with their family member.

But I think that the lesson to be learned from that is that we want from the very beginning, from the childhood of the mentally disabled, to try to maintain those family connections and that involvement and the volunteer enrichment. And that is, I think, what's been the - it has been the priority of this government to make gradual change out at MDC, but to focus quite a lot of effort into the support programs for the young families, for the young mentally disabled in the community, and to build the community network of residential services day programming and all the supportive services so that staying in the community is a real option for many more people. So it doesn't fall solely on family members and face the family with a dreadful choice really of overwork or a killing workload for a family with no public support or complete institutionalization.

Again, it would be great if we had the luxury of doing all things great for all people. There has been a focus and a priority in the Welcome Home Program, and I think we've made substantive gains at the centre. But I think it's time to focus on some of these - I don't like to call them cosmetic things - but to warm the environment, to make it more personal and attractive and to have more challenging and varied activities at the centre.

It's not that there's been no progress, but the money only stretches so far. We believe that it was the virtual lack of a community thrust before that was the most crying need and, in the long run, the most preventive and supportive. But I welcome the awareness and the caring on the part of the critics for what goes on in that particular institution, because I think they are vulnerable people and the weakening of their ties with the family - no blame cast, it was just the geographical struggle of people trying to maintain contact - has produced the result that there just hasn't been as much community initiative and support for that institution.

If the members have ideas of how to build that up, we're hoping that the new activity centre, in that it will be a much more attractive and lively place for visiting, that we will start to build up the flow of parents and community people into the centre and provide enrichment in that way.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Just a final question, Mr. Chairman, in 1983 to the 1987 period of time, certain sections of the Minister's department - and I use Child and Family Services as an example - have gone up \$18 million, '83-84; \$18.3 million, '84-85; \$18 million, '85-86; \$8 million, '86-87; \$12 million, '87-88.

What can this side do, this side of the Legislature, to persuade the Minister to become a greater advocate for MDC, because it is the one area of her budget that just doesn't seem to get the kind of financial help that others get, and I wonder what we could do, in terms of evidence or persuasion, to make the Minister understand that the 615 residents who are now there

and the 565 targeted residents need to have more money spent to enhance their lives.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, again, I would like to be the miracle worker and I'd like to be able to transfer all the pain and the underneed that I encounter and take to heart. Anyone who knows me, knows that I'm not insensitive, but again, I am only able to accomplish a certain amount of change and improvement. It was our determination, by looking at the pattern of services to the mentally disabled several years ago, to realize that if we didn't build on the community side, if we didn't deal with the at-risk people in the community, the aging care giver, we were going to have a markedly worse situation in the institutions.

We were going to swallow up all the available money, and probably it would never be enough to put in really the kind of services we would want, so we would be back to warehousing. In a way, Mr. Chair, it's because that had been the approach before for so many years that we were making so little gain on the community side; and it was our determination that we had to put a priority into a real thrust to demonstrate that the community option could work and to provide the support services for particularly the young children and young families in the community to get a different pattern, a light-years-ahead improvement in the total support system available to people that didn't catch people into having to make impossible choices of exhaustion at home or institutionalization in a very distant town.

I don't apologize for that choice having been made, Mr. Chair, at that point in time. I think, given what we were faced with, it was the responsible choice; but I agree that if we're going to, as a society, keep institutions and keep the mentally disabled in significant numbers living in them, that we all have to seek out ways of improving their quality of life.

I believe that the human resource plan is dedicated to that. I also believe that the mechanism that we are currently exploring for putting some of the people attached to the regions at work on the program side in MDC and helping with transition will actually be, if it were done in dollars and all tied to MDC, would in fact show an increase this year much closer to 10 percent or 12 percent.

But, again, I'll wait for this process a year from now to comment on the effectiveness of that thrust.

MR. E. CONNERY: I asked the Minister for a breakdown on staff at the MDC earlier. I'd also like it down by occupation, whether physiotherapist, whether they're hairdressers, or whatever, so that we have a better idea of what these people are doing.

I'd like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, what capital programs has the Department of Government Services for the MDC this year? I know it's not her department as far as doing it, but since she's in charge of the well-being of the residents of the MDC, she should be knowing what is happening at the MDC. Can she tell us that?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, we've added that to the list.

MR. E. CONNERY: I would be somewhat surprised if there was anything of any significant amount, because

in the Annual Report of Government Services - oh, this will be for the last year. There was nothing done last year. I would have to see the Supplementary Information to see if there was anything in the budget for this year.

But last year there were significant amounts of money spent all through the province and something like \$60 million at the Law Courts Building, which I think is still going on. So there was nothing in the category of \$25,000-and-over spent at the MDC last year. I'll have to take a look at the Supplementary Information to see if they have anything budgeted, or maybe by then the Minister will have that information for me.

Can the Minister tell us what is the level of retardation that prevents an individual from entering the Welcome Home Program? Is there any individual who cannot go into the Welcome Home Program?

HON. M. SMITH: Just a comment on the preamble that I don't think was connected to the question, but I don't want to let it go unchallenged.

Government Services this past year has done major renovations in the Southgrove building and built a \$2.5 million activities building. They may appear in the Government Services listings - one may appear under Miscellaneous Capital and another under Special Projects - but I am telling you that they were both done during '86-'87 at MDC.

Now back to the eligibility for Welcome Home, there is no exclusion in terms of level of need, per se. The selection of individuals has been based on a combination of factors: the willingness and interest of the family to have them in the home community; the availability of a viable plan; and the ability to meet their needs in the community. We try to have a cross-section of ability levels so as not to skim, in a sense, the least - as a matter of fact a lot of the less disabled had been leaving in the prior years. In fact, the total numbers show, if anything, a bias towards the slightly more disabled.

Some proposals emerged during the program that we hadn't anticipated, and I think a couple of them - two that I'd like to comment on - are noteworthy because they show the flexibility in the program, but also the influence that the local communities had in what we've been able to do.

In Altona, there were some aging care givers who had profoundly disabled family members. The families realized that they wouldn't be able to cope much longer, and because there is a very strong community spirit out there, wanted to provide for them in the community, and they got together with a proposal to build a home, really a very lovely home, for five or six there.

But, of course, the costing, when we looked at it all, was coming in significantly higher than what our program covered. So we worked with them, and on the agreement that the community would meet the difference, we accommodated that group of people. So I think they are all Level 5 and there are five or six - there may be a respite bed included - in a very lovely home in the community of Altona.

In Brandon, we actually put in a somewhat specialized home - I don't know the numbers that are there - but for people who had somewhat beyond the average medical needs and enabled an extra funding, in fact a full-time nurse, to supplement the normal pattern.

So, as I say, because we have not started with the notion of six-bed residences sprinkled evenly over the province, but with planning for the individuals, we have been flexible enough to be able to make the program meet the needs of the individuals.

MR. E. CONNERY: We had a new problem arise, but a couple of other before we go on to that.

One of the concerns brought to me by a staff member was in the case of an emergency - and as you know, there was one a few years back when Wesco Storage burned and the fumes were pouring out over and the MDC had to be evacuated, or a lot of people were anyways - the Southgrove residence, the buses cannot drive in and turn out, they have to back out, and the Southgrove is a fairly large facility. If it took place in the wintertime where you couldn't drive over the grass and through the ditch, there's an opportunity that buses would be up against each other and couldn't back out and they couldn't facilitate a very swift evacuation.

So I bring this to the Minister's attention that she might take a look at it and see what can be done. I think it's just a matter of a modification in the parking lot. But these are the sorts of things that people have.

Oh, this is the Austin Home one again, to remind me of it. But does the Minister have a reply to that?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I will look into that. Again, I encourage the member to do, just in a sense, what he's doing, but throughout the year and to encourage others as well. If they have a question or a concern about safety or program, if they would let us know, as I say, the best help from our point of view is to hear about these concerns quickly and give us a chance to look into them and deal with them quickly.

Sometimes there is another plan or approach that may be in place that the casual observer might not know about and in which case we'd be happy to share that information, but sometimes the vigilant person does spot something that has gone overlooked. So again, I encourage the member to submit questions or comments throughout the year.

MR. E. CONNERY: I'm delighted that the Minister is now prepared to start listening and take some of our direction and maybe we can make an improvement.

Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, we've seen a lot of residents wandering from the MDC. Now, after one became public and it was in the newspaper, all of a sudden people are telling me, yes, we have found them at our house, six, eight miles away from the residence and so obviously there has been a significant number. Can the Minister tell us over the last year how many incidences have been reported of residents wandering and have any of them - in fact, I think there was one, if I recall, two or three years ago where one froze in a field, if I'm not mistaken. Can the Minister tell us how many over the last three or four years, maybe by year, individuals have wandered and was there indeed any deaths from people wandering?

HON. M. SMITH: We will obtain those stats for you. We do have a monitoring process in place now where we try to see what progress we're making in ensuring safety. I guess the other side of it is that the centre

was established as a residence, not a prison. It is not fenced in. But then that of course puts a responsibility on staff to ensure supervision and careful checking. Some individuals do have day privileges and, as the Member for Portage well knows, do appear in the town and again those privileges are given carefully after an assessment of a person's ability to cope.

But I agree, I think this is one area, both in the community and in the institutions, where we can't be too vigilant if people are going to have a little bit more freedom of movement and exposure to the community. We also need good fail-safe or fall-back systems as we can devise.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, we, in Portage, are very familiar with the mentally handicapped and we're not uncomfortable with them in our community because we've learned to live with them. A lot of them are very special people, people who I know very carefully; and Jo-Jo, who I buy cigars for and knows me very well and is very happy to get these odd cigars. Now that I've quit, I don't have as many to give him, but we are very comfortable with him.

I think, Mr. Chairman, we could have maybe a little more fail-safe method. To call it a jail because it is fenced isn't saying that those with day passes can't leave. A fence would maybe keep those who shouldn't leave within bounds. If some of them leave who aren't capable of wandering, as the one who fell in the slough and if this local person hadn't walked along and helped him out, he probably would have drowned. That would have been a tragedy.

So I think we should take a look at what is in the best interest. If anybody can wander, we could be in trouble. The one individual they lost, he was in the man-hole system. If he hadn't been making a bit of a noise, they wouldn't have found him.

I think we need a little bit better system to make sure that those who are at risk by wandering are not allowed to wander.

HON. M. SMITH: I agree that these kinds of issues are going to need vigilance and innovation. I felt concern about it, too. I'm not sure what the answers are. There may be a variety of things that we need to do, but I thank the member for his suggestion.

MR. E. CONNERY: It's obvious, Mr. Chairman, that these people who wander would be those who possibly could move into the community. So if they're in downtown Winnipeg - or not downtown Winnipeg but the suburbs - whether it be Westwood or whatever, one of the Winserv homes, there must be something to stop them from wandering in Winnipeg. I haven't heard of instances. What do they do in Winnipeg to prevent them from wandering and be at risk and maybe get hit by a car or fall into a swimming pool, or whatever, or the river?

HON. M. SMITH: Working with a disabled person and gradually expanding their area of freedom and responsibility is not dissimilar to the way one would bring up one's own child in that it's a judgment call by the person who's responsible for protection, what the particular mix of freedom and protection is, because

again the mentally disabled present us with some particular challenges. Some of them are extremely predictable and patterned in their behaviour and exhibit a great deal of consistency over time, probably a lot more than you or I.

Others, perhaps because they don't foresee or look at consequences, not unlike some children that I've known and raised, don't anticipate consequences; and I think part of the training and the planning for an individual is to be very conscientious in determining exactly what that individual can do and where they have difficulty and how to provide both challenge and support. As I say, I think it's the challenge to all of us to remain vigilant as well because we're going to need the sense of the community supports to help protect people.

But I think basically it's a question of getting to know the individual and their gradually expanding area of self-reliance and then having checking systems so that if they don't show up at their day program or if they don't show up at home on time, you can quickly get a remedial move in place.

Again, I think the safety factors are always going to need scrutiny and can stand improvement. Whether we'll ever be able to have full security, I don't know, but I think it behooves all of us to try to achieve that.

MR. E. CONNERY: For those who are moving into the community, what preparation is there to make them a little bit more at home when they finally go out into a residence, or are they taken right from the MDC and taken to a residence in whatever part of Manitoba it is?

HON. M. SMITH: There's quite a variety of preparation that goes on. The caretakers will visit the individual at MDC; the resident will also have visits to the prospective home. There is quite an extensive pre-planning process.

I must say the last time I was out at MDC, an individual who couldn't - he didn't have expressive speech, but he did have one of those bliss symbol-type boards and he was able to tell me, by pointing to the pictures, that in 10 days, he was going to move to a house in the city and there were going to be three young men with him, and we were able to communicate back and forth to quite an extent. He could understand my speech but couldn't articulate back. I certainly understood that he had a picture in his mind of what he was going to do in the future, where he was going to go and the look on his face was quite delightful, because he obviously was approaching it with great anticipation.

The need will vary, depending on the individual, but there's quite a lot of care given to try to make the transition as reassuring and positive for the individual. When they are in the home - if a behaviour emerges that the staff are having difficulty with - we've got behaviour management consultants, who can move in quickly and help to try and sort out what the cause of the disturbance is; and we will also move people, if a first placement doesn't work, we will look at movement. In other words, there's a real conscientious effort to match the individual, in as positive a way as possible, with the other inhabitants of the home and the staff and the location.

MR. E. CONNERY: One of the complaints that I've had, Mr. Chairman, is that there isn't enough preparation

for the individual. Maybe we need a halfway house on the premises, where they can go into a residence atmosphere without being totally shifted away, and for what this Minister wants to take from it; it is a concern that has been expressed to me by some of the experts in the field that this has not been sufficient. So for what it is, I leave it with her.

Last year I asked the Minister what was the total cost of keeping a resident at the MDC, with all of the support services that are there, versus somebody in the community with all the support services that are there; the inspection people, the social worker and whatever. I think at this point, it is vital that as a community service, and we, as a province, have a handle on the total cost of where we're going.

My concern, Mr. Chairman, is that we're going to get a lot of people into the community and we see all of a sudden the restriction on spending, because we're in a restricted time in spending and we don't have a lot of extra money. We should know the cost of both areas, because if it is significantly higher in the community, then we have to be very careful as to how many we put into the community, to make sure we have the resources to keep them there in a non at-risk situation.

This Minister didn't know last year, I would hope she knows this year; if she doesn't, we're going to pressure her to come up with some figures. But it's got to be the total support service of all people, including the Robsons and the money to ACL and all of those factors need to be part of it.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, there's not an easy answer to that question, but I would like to comment. If you went through the total cost benefit, you'd have to go into the value of land and depreciation of buildings, replacement costs, etc, etc. I suppose all that could be carried out.

The total Welcome Home thrust was never justified on the basis that it would necessarily cost less. I think we acknowledged that probably the initial expenditure would be less but probably, over time, with varying needs and so on, that it would be much more on a par, and could even inch a bit ahead, although it would be in the same ball park.

I think there's two reasons though, why we need a balance in the programming and we need to promote the community option, so that that is a realistic alternative for the people. I think the quality of life available to someone who has grown up in the community, whose family had the supports - I'm taking a sort of birth to old age approach here - that if they can stay in their local community and have their needs met there, that all the linkages with family and friends are more likely to be sustained. I think individuals deserve that. There are some, of course, for whom that isn't the same option because they've lost track of their families, and so we're into that other issue.

We have found right across the country - as you can appreciate, we may be the only NDP Government, but we're certainly not the only government that's been looking at these particular issues - the community delivering of service to the mentally handicapped in the community is a trend we're seeing right across the country. The Federal Government is showing a lot more

interest in supporting community options than it ever did in the past. So it may be, although it wasn't directly in our planning, our thinking about it initially, we may end up finding that the money goes a lot further in the community now.

Of course, if you want to think of it the other way around, the taxpayer is supporting the federal dollars as well, rather than just how much money is coming into Manitoba, and you could argue it both ways; but I think we have to take a principled stand in terms of where can we give the best quality in the most cost-efficient way.

I believe it's by having the whole range of services so that the individual can be appropriately placed, again with the measure of least restrictive environment compatible with that individual and family's ability to cope.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister says, "the best quality in the most cost-efficient way," but the Minister doesn't know the cost.

Mr. Chairman, this is exactly what I said. It's ludicrous, absolutely ludicrous to think that we'll be developing a program that we don't have any idea of the cost of. She's saying it may be cheaper in the community. If it's cheaper in the community, let's push that angle for those that want it and for those that are capable to go, but unless we know the cost, we're going blindly down the road. This is what this government has done; it's very obvious by the deficits it's got that they've gone blindly down the road.

The Member for Morris has asked the Finance Minister: Give us a budget, give us a five-year projection. No, no. Put on the blinkers and don't look around. A typical socialist movement is in home care in Portage la Prairie. They've cut the services but they added another managerial position. Now that makes a lot of sense. They cut the services, cut the hours of the workers, and they add another position at the ministerial level, and I can tell the Minister that person after if he would like.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As of today, we're cutting home care in Portage la Prairie.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, okay, you're cutting home care in Portage. The Ministers don't like a little criticism. That's fine, because he'll never win Portage anyways.-(Interjection)- So the Minister of Health says, "Now we're going to cut home care in Portage; we're going to close the hospital in Portage." I know he's jesting, so I'm not too worried.-(Interjection)- Oh, I didn't mean to put it on the record, Mr. Chairman.

But getting back to the seriousness of not knowing the cost, I don't think any businessman, any business would ever go into a venture blindly and say, well, it's going to be a good deal. You'd have done your projections. You'd have done your dreaming and then put a cost on your dream till you know where you're going.

The Minister of Health knows very well that we're in trouble with money. He recognizes that his department has to do some things, and I agree with him, we have to be very careful where we're going.

This department has to be equally as careful where we're going. If you go ahead blindly and don't know

what it's going to cost to do a program, then you're not doing a service to the people of Manitoba and to the youth of Manitoba, who were here today, who are going to be loaded with a tremendous deficit.

So while we want to do the best for the mentally retarded, the mentally handicapped, for all the people of Manitoba, we should at least, before we go on a program, analyze the cost and the cost down the road and make sure that it is in the best interest of all the people of Manitoba.

HON. M. SMITH: We do have the benchmark per diems, and one thing that came fairly clear when we looked at institutional care for the mentally disabled is that quite a lot of money was going in there relative to how far that money would go in the community.

My honourable colleague here from the Department of Health knows some of the per diems in teaching hospitals, regular hospitals and mental health institutions, and I can tell you, they are well in advance of what the mentally disabled institutions are.

We know the per diems in the institutions run, without all the utilities and so on, \$8 to \$100 per diem. We also know that in the community we can deliver the basic mortgage, the rent and the level of care in the neighbourhood of 40-50 on average. We also know that there is a cost to education, transportation and recreation.

It looks like the averages are going to come out significantly below the current institutional per diem, but we haven't justified it on that basis because I think over time certainly people are quite right to ask for improved quality in the institutions at the same time as we're trying to improve care in the community.

There's also a question of unmet-need day care. We are integrating day care for the disabled into our day care development.

So these are things that were never thought of before. There is a lot of programming that is developing, and that's what I'm saying. If you wanted to include all of the costs, I think our approach is that there are some special needs the disabled have and there are other things that they should get as part of the community. If that's income support or education or health care, they should get it as being members of the total community. Then they have the special needs for residential support next to care and supervision. We do have those figures. We have a flexible range, but we do have a rough fix on the averages.

I think over time the community type of care will go up somewhat because I think initially the wage levels are somewhat lower than prevailed in the institutions, but I don't think that will happen quickly. We've never justified the program overall solely on the money. We think you get further value for the dollar spent, but we've placed our program also in terms of the quality of life that the individual is entitled to.

And I think again, if I can take the earlier comments by the members opposite, they are also concerned about that quality of life. As a matter of fact, they have already given me five or six different areas where they think I should be spending more at the institution. So neither side is only trying to keep the lid. We are trying to give quality care to a vulnerable group in the community.

Now we do know that at this point in time we are able to give comparable care in the community, certainly, for no more money.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, J. Maloway: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. E. CONNERY: The quality of life the Minister refers to, as I perceive it, Mr. Chairman, what is happening is that the Minister is not wanting to enhance the MDC at all to try to - (Interjection) - The Minister will have her opportunity to respond. As I perceive it, the Minister does not want the MDC enhanced because she wants the people to encourage their relatives to go into the community, and I think this is part of the program. We've read in my grievance where one of the employees there said the Minister - not necessarily the Minister - the department was trying to make it a hellhole so that people would be glad to get out of there.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

I can see in the community the enhancement, the quality of life the Minister speaks of, and I have no quarrel with the quality of life in the community. I don't think the quality of life is adequate in the community, and we'll get into that when we get into (d) and possibly some of it in (b).

But I think it's the plan of the Minister to allow the MDC to be a poor place to live and, therefore, people will want to move into the community. The quality of life that people are entitled to should be both in the community and at the MDC or what other residence there is.

But, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister: What are the comparisons of the per diems? Taking into account that the Government Services runs the facility at MDC, what is the money given to per diems to the St. Amant Home and to the MDC? Last year, it was obvious there was a fairly large gap, and the Minister wasn't sure when this gap was going to be closed completely or whether it ever would be. What can the Minister tell us about the per diems to St. Amant and MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: I can give you ballpark comparisons from community support, MDC and St. Amant, allowing for the fact there are some variations within. St. Amant, for example, has many more children that require, because of their relative greater immaturity, some more supervision.

Roughly speaking, MDC has lagged behind St. Amant, but it's coming in now at around \$88 per day, and St. Amant at around \$106.00. Combining the residential care and the day program, the range is from \$33 to \$69 or \$70.00. Now that's not adding in if there were transportation or whatever, but it is including the basic residential care, sort of the mortgage, capital, whatever, the care and support in the home, and then the day programming that the person would receive.

So that's roughly the range of where we're at now. We have been gradually building up the standards in the activity centres and the day programs and gradually giving a little bit more money there, but also encouraging them to place more people in the regular workforce. We've targeted about 6 percent of the people

moving through to placement, if they can achieve that. So those are the ballpark figures of where we're at now.

New institutions, had we had to accommodate the 220 at risk and the growing numbers of the disabled who are in the community because of more young children being kept alive because of medical advances and the total disabled community living much longer - just five or ten years ago, the average life expectancy was close to 40. We now have it up in the mid-60's, so we're getting larger numbers on both those counts.

If we'd had to build new institutions or replacement buildings out, say, at MDC or further additions at St. Amant, the per diems would be quite a lot higher. So institutional forms of care are very expensive, they really are. On the dollar for dollar, I think a good case can be made for the community, but we have never justified it solely on that. We want to promote it on the basis of the quality of care and build that in, and of the mix so that there's the continuum of services available.

MR. E. CONNERY: If I recall last year, Mr. Chairman, we were \$75 at MDC and \$110 at St. Amant, I think those were the figures. If those aren't the facts, then they can - (Interjection) - oh, I was hoping that you weren't bringing it closer together by lowering the amount at St. Amant. That wouldn't be an acceptable figure to me.

Mr. Chairman, I had a complaint given to me about a girl coming back from one of the foster homes - and because it's from a smaller community, I won't mention the name of the community here but I will mention it to the Minister after the meeting - but a young girl by the name of Margaret Charlette (phonetic) who came back to the MDC, who came back very severely in very bad shape. I wonder, this Minister always says that I speak in generalities - and I'm told that this girl came back and was not in very good shape from the foster home or the home that she was in - if she would take it upon herself to investigate this case because I made some queries at the MDC and other people verified what - a person called me on the phone or left a message on my recorder, didn't leave their name, but said that this case had happened.

It's quite disturbing. If this is the case, the Minister should know first-hand, because we're going to be moving into the Welcome Home sector of the mentally handicapped. I think it would be advantageous for the Minister to know, and I would appreciate her letting me know, if the facts of this case are true.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I'm very disturbed to hear this and thank the member for bringing it forward, and I take it you will give me the name after.

We do have a procedure now where we're asking for a very detailed report on any readmissions or any problems that occur to see again if there is any change in policy or procedure that is dictated by that experience. We've tried to be as careful and anticipatory as we can be but if, as I say, as we go along if there are any areas where we can tighten up, we want to do that.

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

MR. E. CONNERY: Thank you.

Has the Minister investigated what the ACL even said was an abnormally high number of deaths at the MDC in the last 18 months. Of course, earlier we had a discussion over the numbers of deaths at the MDC, whether there's a disparity between the numbers reported, and it was the fashion that deaths were reported in. But everybody tells us there's an abnormally high number in the last 18 months.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, there is a review process whenever a death occurs at MDC. Again, we try to look at both the short-run stats, but also the longer-run patterns because we do have a frail and elderly population because of the average age increasing, which must mean that people are living longer. Of course, there does come a time when people die.

The individual review plus reviewing the trends over time, we figure, are two good ways to keep a fix on what's going on. We wouldn't be achieving the higher average age if there was some increase in negative or dangerous circumstances, and of course that's what we want to keep really close on.

But the Chief Medical Examiner reviews all the deaths at the institutions. I think this issue came up when The Fatality Inquiries Act Report was discussed, and we

have a two-stage review. The Chief Medical Examiner reviews, and then may or may not send it to the Winnipeg office for recording in the Fatality Inquiries, only if he thinks there are unusual circumstances or situations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hour being six o'clock, committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Madam Speaker and requested leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Member for Portage la Prairie, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow. (Wednesday)