

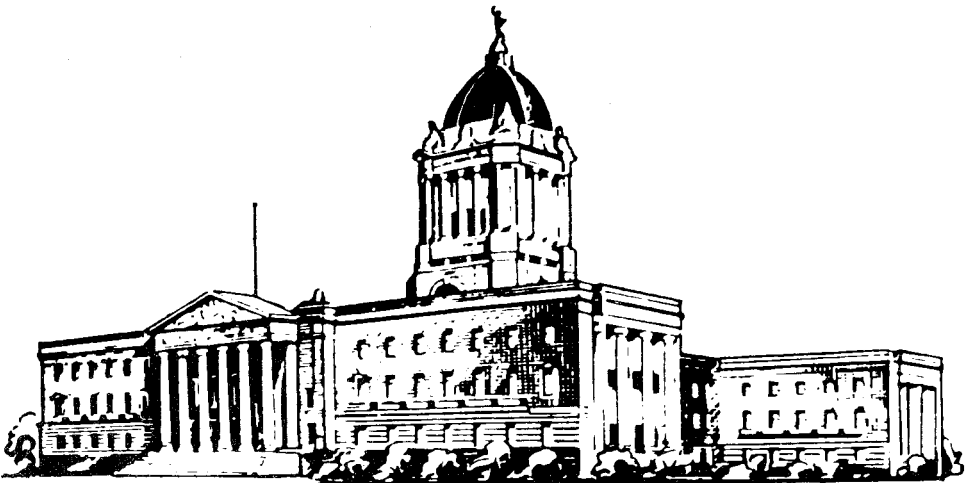


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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Thirty-Fourth Legislature

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 17, 1988.

The House met at 8 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I call the committee to order. On Community Services, Section 4.(e) Family Dispute Services: Provides program direction for the Family Conciliation Services of the Family Division of the Court of Queen's Bench and coordinates the Family Violence Program for the province.

Subsection (1) Salaries, \$858,300.00. Shall the item pass?

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): No. I am wondering if, to begin with in this particular section, the Minister has an organizational chart that she could table for us.

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Yes, we can provide that information for the Member.

Ms. Gray: To begin with, with the Family Dispute Services, as we look under the Family Conciliation area and in response to the announcements that have been made by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) regarding the Access pilot program, could the Minister indicate to us, where it says Access Assistance and 2.0, I see that means 2 SYs. Are these new positions or have these positions been there in the last fiscal year?

Mrs. Oleson: They are new positions.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us what the purposes of these positions are?

Mrs. Oleson: Those staff positions will help to facilitate access to children after separation and divorce. Also, I should inform the Member it is a joint project between the Attorney-General and Community Services, and includes legal and informational mediation components.

Ms. Gray: Have these two positions been filled as yet?

Mrs. Oleson: No, they have not, but they are in the process of being classified by the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Gray: The Access pilot program, as was indicated in the News Service, the annual cost of the program would be about \$144,000.00. Does the Minister have information as to how those dollars are broken down in terms of salary costs and/or operational costs?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, \$72,000 is the Community Services portion of that; \$59,000 in salary and \$13,000 in operating.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain to us when this pilot project, what the expected start date is?

Mrs. Oleson: February 1.

Ms. Gray: Who within the Department of Community Services, which staff will be responsible for developing the details of the program and delivery of this program?

Mrs. Oleson: Do you want the names or positions?

Ms. Gray: Both.

Mrs. Oleson: Doreen Martin, Director of Family Conciliation.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, with this pilot project, what involvement has her department had to date in regard to developing this particular pilot program? Could she tell us what involvement in terms of where the idea for the pilot project came from? Are there other details of this program that are made known to date in regard to how the program will actually be delivered?

* (2010)

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, because of concern over access to children, this program has been developed over a number of years between the Attorney-General's Department and the Community Services Department, with discussions with the federal Government. It was in response to a concern that fathers were not getting access to children was one of the major concerns, and it is felt that it is a program to assist children.

Ms. Gray: These two staff positions which will be involved through family conciliation, will it be part of their job to actually work with both parents to try to sort out where some of the difficulties may lie in regard to access to children?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: This is a pilot program. Could the Minister indicate to us within what jurisdictional area will this pilot program operate out of, i.e., geographical area?

Mrs. Oleson: Winnipeg or adjacent municipalities: Winnipeg, St. Boniface, Selkirk and surrounding areas, the eastern judicial district.

Ms. Gray: The Family Conciliation Services, could the Minister indicate to us the major areas of responsibility or the major service areas of this particular family conciliation branch provides?

Mrs. Oleson: The services offered by the Conciliation Service is information and referral, conciliation counselling, decision making and planning regarding

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separation and divorce, mediation, court orders assessment reports, parent groups, and weekly children's groups.

Ms. Gray: To clarify this particular service, does it provide family counselling to families who are not separated but where families are experiencing difficulties in the marriage? Does this service provide any type of marriage/family counselling?

Mrs. Oleson: The intent is for families with children, with a potential threatening situation where there is potential for separation or divorce.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us where situations would come to Family Conciliation where it would appear that long-term counselling is provided? Where does Family Conciliation refer on to other services and, if so, what services are in the community that they can refer to?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they do refer people. Some referrals are made to Family Services of Winnipeg and Interfaith Council and also any other agency that does counselling of that type.

Ms. Gray: Would this service refer to the Department of Community Services family counsellors where there may be some still in existence?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, is the Family Conciliation Branch aware or has it come to their attention or do they experience that with referrals to these other agencies that in fact there may be waiting lists and it is difficult to make referrals where the families can be dealt with in an expedient manner?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are aware that there are waiting lists. They monitor them on a biweekly basis to identify the waiting period.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated that the Family Conciliation monitors these waiting lists on a biweekly basis? Did I hear correctly?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are in touch with the executive directors.

Ms. Gray: For informational purposes, in earlier discussions in Estimates, there was a discussion about family counselling and whether in fact there were waiting lists with services. The Minister seemed to be concerned that in order to gather information about waiting lists and services in the community would be an onerous task. Now it would appear that within her own department there are at least some statistics and information available as to the waiting lists for family counselling. I am wondering if the Minister could tell us, has there been identified through Family Conciliation with ongoing long-term services in regard to marriage counselling that there is a gap for service in the community? Has that been identified at all through this branch?

Mrs. Oleson: We are aware that there is a high demand. There is a waiting period of three to five weeks for counselling. I think what the Member did not realize when we were discussing this before, we were not discussing this specific program. We are talking here about the conciliation program. What the Member was wanting me to identify when she was asking about it before was identify the needs. At that time, I understood she wanted us to identify all the needs in the province. This focus that we are on tonight is in connection with the Conciliation Branch. As far as I can figure out, we were talking about two different things.

Ms. Gray: I think I know what I was talking about in the previous discussion in Estimates. What I was referring to in our previous discussion was a discussion about family counselling services, specifically in Winnipeg, because that seemed to be where a few SYs remaining where people were still entitled to family counsellors. The discussion was surrounding what other services were available for long-term family and marital counselling. The Minister had indicated that it might be a difficult task to undertake some identification of what the need was. My suggestion was that in fact, with the existing agencies, of which there are not a lot, University of Manitoba Family Services, Interfaith Pastoral Institute and a number of other small private communities, that in fact it would not be that difficult to identify what the need would be in regard to family counselling.

I wanted to make a couple of comments about Family Conciliation Services before we move on to the other area of the division of Family Dispute Services. I had the opportunity to be involved with Family Conciliation a number of years ago when in fact the Winnipeg region took the Family Conciliation Services over. I wanted to put on the record to the credit of the previous administration but more to the credit of the staff, in particular Shirley Smith who were involved with the Family Conciliation Services when they literally moved from the basement of Fort Osborne to the Woodsworth Building. I think what we have seen over the last few years is a recognition by the previous Government, and I certainly hope a continuing recognition by this Government, of the very fine services that can be offered through Family Conciliation and certainly the need that they provide.

I think what we have seen is a real interdisciplinary team approach where the legal profession in the court system and professionals can work together for the benefit of families during very, very difficult times in terms of separation and break-up. I think that is a credit to the Family Conciliation Services and, although there are some concerns about the pilot project, we are pleased to see that there is some movement in this area.

* (2020)

We hope that the Family Conciliation Services will remain as strong as they have become in the last few years and that they will continue to grow as a service and provide services, hopefully, expanding into the rest of Manitoba. We know that the jurisdiction of Family Conciliation is not province-wide and I certainly hope

that it is something that this Government would be willing to look at in regard to expanding the services of the Family Conciliation area.

If I could move on to the wife abuse services, first of all, just a statement about the Committee on Wife Abuse. With the Minister's announcement that funding would no longer be given to the Committee on Wife Abuse, it was certainly mentioned by myself and other Members of the Liberal caucus that one of the concerns would be that in fact there will be some type of umbrella organization or membership organization which would act as an umbrella group to possibly replace some of the services that the Committee on Wife Abuse was supposed to provide and that the Government worked towards working with individual shelters across the province to do that.

In discussions with many of the shelters across Manitoba, they have indicated that they would like to see a movement toward some type of membership organization or advocacy group that in fact would be outside the realm of Government so that they could act as an advocacy group and then feel that they were part of the membership. Could the Minister tell us if her department has made any strides towards looking at establishing some sort of umbrella organization?

Mrs. Oleson: There is a group that is forming of its volition within the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Service Providers, and I am sure within the whole realm of wife abuse services there is some thought, as the Member says, of having a group. I think a group like that really should come from those organizations themselves. I do not think I would want to go out and say, you are having a group and this will be the membership. I do not think that would serve any purpose. I think the ideas and the formation would have to come from the groups themselves.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister tell us if any of the wife abuse shelters or organizations throughout the province have identified to the Minister or to her staff that in fact they do see the need for an umbrella group?

Mrs. Oleson: They have not formally approached me or written to me stating that, but I am aware there is some feeling that there should be a group.

Ms. Gray: For the Minister's information, in my discussions, and certainly the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) would agree, in our discussions with a number of the various shelters throughout the province, that is certainly one item which has been mentioned to us informally in conversations in meetings that they would like to see some sort of an umbrella organization.

I am wondering if the Minister could explain a bit more fully, in her ministerial statement where she spoke about the changing in funding for wife abuse services, she indicates that the roles and responsibilities formerly played by MCWA are now an integral part of the network of the community-based agencies. Would she elaborate on that statement?

Mrs. Oleson: What I was indicating in that press release was that many of the services that had been provided

by the committee to which the Member refers are now provided within the department. There is a section of the department that deals with them. There were other services that they were providing at one time that they no longer provide, for instance, a Crisis Line. That is the sort of thing that I was indicating in the press release.

Ms. Gray: For clarification, the Minister is indicating that some of the services, i.e., the roles and responsibilities formerly played by MCWA are now being played by members of her departmental staff. Am I correct in interpreting it that way?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Would the Minister indicate to us specifically what responsibilities her departmental staff have taken over that MCWA were formerly doing or were formerly mandated to do?

Mrs. Oleson: The department coordinates the development of budgets and coordinates the activities of these. There are also other agencies that have come to be since the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse was first formed as well.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating that then the MCWA formerly had responsibilities for assisting shelters in preparation of budgets for the department?

Mrs. Oleson: In the early days, they did play an advocacy role for that, but now the department assists the shelters and the committees with their work.

Ms. Gray: I would say that there is a difference between an advocacy role in regard to advocating for certain dollars on behalf of agencies to the Government and actually in assisting in the preparation of budgets. Could the Minister indicate, did the MCWA play both roles or one of these roles?

Mrs. Oleson: When the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse was formed or when it started out, there were two organizations dealing with wife abuse. There are now approximately 24. The whole thing is changing and evolving and roles have changed over the years.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate for us, are some of her departmental staff now providing services in crisis intervention or training or public education?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, in training and education.

Ms. Gray: Are the community-based agencies providing any of their own training or education? Is that a specific role of the shelters as well?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister explain to us the delineation between what her departmental staff do and what the responsibilities are of the specific shelters?

Mrs. Oleson: The shelters are mainly involved with training of volunteers who in turn help at the shelters.

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The department is more involved with training professionals and working with the boards of these shelters and committees, helping them to develop their budgets, helping them with the overall organization of their agency.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister saying then that in fact the specific shelters, the only training that they would do would be in regard to volunteers that they would have within the shelter?

Mrs. Oleson: They would be involved with training their own staff and volunteers. That would be the primary training function.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us—there is reference in her statement made to services in the area of crisis intervention. What is the nature of those services and who has the responsibility for providing those services?

Mrs. Oleson: Would the Member clarify her question? Is she meaning at the individual shelters? Could you clarify, please, what you mean by your question?

* (2030)

Ms. Gray: Yes. Actually, I find this whole paragraph in the ministerial statement confusing, but maybe if I just read it and the Minister could comment. It says: "The end result is that the roles and responsibilities formerly played by MCWA are now an integral part of the network of community-based agencies." From that statement, I would assume then that whatever roles MCWA played, now the community-based agencies are going to play that role. That is how I interpret that statement.

Then the statement goes on to say: "These include crisis intervention training, public education and advocacy." I guess I would like clarification on those statements because, based on what the Minister has said this evening, it would appear that her staff within the department would have some of those responsibilities as opposed to the community-based agencies having them, and I am asking for clarification in that area.

Mrs. Oleson: As I had indicated before, when the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse was first in place, it and one other were the only agencies that were doing crisis intervention and training and the gamut. Now, as I indicated before, there are 24 agencies all doing that. The agencies themselves do the crisis intervention, not the department itself. The agencies do, to a large degree and a lesser degree depending on the size of the agency, their own counselling and crisis intervention, do the training of the volunteers. The department, as I had indicated before, do the professional training and work with the boards.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if the MCWA had any responsibilities or did any direct outreach work or any direct service delivery? When I say service delivery, I am referring to service delivery with individual clients.

Mrs. Oleson: We have one-on-one counselling and some small group counselling.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have statistics as to the number of people whom they were servicing through this one-to-one counselling and group counselling?

Mrs. Oleson: The committee indicated some numbers to us, but we were not able to verify the exact numbers that they were dealing with. When I met with them in discussions—it would be the day that I put out the press release—we had asked them to indicate to us, and staff would meet with them and discuss any cases that they had ongoing. We would try to fit them into other agencies if there was a problem with one-on-one counselling.

Ms. Gray: Then to your knowledge, Madam Minister, in regard to any individuals who may have been seeking counselling, to your knowledge or to your department's knowledge, there were no names of individuals passed on to you who would require further service that was being provided previously by the committee?

Mrs. Oleson: No, as I had indicated to the Member before, when I met with the group we asked them to meet with the department, but we did not receive from them any list of names of people who were requiring service.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us when her department made the decision to discontinue the funding to the Committee on Wife Abuse?

Mrs. Oleson: It was done in conjunction with program reviews and in conjunction with the budget process and in conjunction with the receipt of the report, the review of the report.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us when the Committee on Wife Abuse was informed of the decision to discontinue the funding?

Mrs. Oleson: After we had finalized the decision.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us when the decision was finalized, the date?

Mrs. Oleson: I do not have the exact dates, but it all revolved around the same time as the—I met with them and discussed this and the news release was put out. Obviously a decision would be made before that though, sometime before that or we would not have had time to prepare the news release.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate if she had any discussions with the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse previous to meeting with them and telling them of the decision to end the funding? There seemed to be some concern from the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse that before they were told a decision, there was indication that their funding would be discontinued, and they continued to operate and become more in debt because they really had not had a final word as to whether their funding would be continued.

What I am trying to determine is when that decision was thought of that the funding should be ended

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because of recommendations from the report. Were there initial discussions with the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse in regard to possibly discontinuing their funding?

Mrs. Oleson: I had met with the group at one point, not long after I was appointed, in the office to discuss the report. Subsequently, the final report was prepared. There were rumors to them that they were and people kept asking me about it, if their funding was to be discontinued, but in the meantime they, as well as all other agencies in the department, had been told to operate as if the fiscal year was '87-88. When their funding was cut, it was indicated that we would meet any obligations and meet the deficit that they had. So we were aware that they were still operating.

There has to be some time to make these decisions. There has to be time in which the decisions can then be interpreted to the organizations. It was indicated to them at the time that they were told that the obligations would be met.

Ms. Gray: The Minister also announced in late August that there would be an increase in crisis services particularly in rural and northern Manitoba. Could she elaborate as to exactly where those crisis services will be increased and are these services attached to specific agencies or shelters?

* (2040)

Mrs. Oleson: I could read this out to the Member: The Clinic Inc. Community Health Centre for the Evolve Program, 37.6; Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc., 10.8; Women's Post Treatment Project, 3.3; Women's Second Stage Housing, 26.5; Thompson Crisis Centre Inc., 24.8; Flin Flon-Creighton Crisis Centre, 17.1; Parkland Crisis Centre, 15.5; Portage Women's Shelter, 10.4; Selkirk Cooperative on Abuse against Women, 24.1; South Central Committee on Family Violence, 15.9; Southeast Family Crisis Intervention Centre, \$14,000; and it makes a total of \$200,000.00.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister tell us, does she have an updated status as to where the department is at or actually where Osborne House is at in regard to securing alternate accommodation?

Mrs. Oleson: There will be an announcement about that shortly. I am hopeful that there has been some movement there. I cannot really pre-empt the Minister of Housing's (Mr. Ducharme) announcement. There will be, I am sure, a favourable announcement about that in the near future.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, I understand that there is a shelter in Winnipeg that is run by the Salvation Army and that there were some initial discussions by Salvation Army in regard to looking at their centre for a women's shelter. Could the Minister indicate to us if her or her senior staff have had discussions with Salvation Army about this type of residential service?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they have contacted me personally about it by letter. I did meet with the Salvation Army

and toured the facility at Baldwin House—I believe that is what the Member is referring to—at that time and, through other communication, they have indicated to me their thoughts on having their centre used as a wife abuse centre.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, what is the range of salary for staff who work in shelters, crisis units?

Mrs. Oleson: \$4.50 to \$6.50 an hour.

Ms. Gray: When the Minister indicates in her ministerial statement that there will be an equity in staff salaries amongst the shelters, apparently there have been some inequities amongst salaries in rural Manitoba versus urban. Is that where we will see inequity in staff salaries?

Mrs. Oleson: There are two models when we come to funding for these centres. One is a satellite model and one is the shelter model. We could give out to the Member some details of those two funding models if that would be helpful.

Ms. Gray: Yes, that would be helpful. Further questions before I turn it over. The Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) has some questions as well. Again, the Minister has indicated to the House that there will be some consideration made for services to immigrant women. Could the Minister indicate to us what initiatives her department has undertaken specifically for services for immigrant women in relation to abuse?

Mrs. Oleson: Just last week, there was a centre opened to do with the International Centre, in connection with the International Centre, for immigrant women, and this department contributed \$147,800 to that initiative.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister expand on the nature of this project? Is it a shelter, is it a counselling service, is it crisis intervention?

Mrs. Oleson: It is initially a counselling service. There is no shelter attached at the moment.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate—is the full funding for this project coming from the Minister's department?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister have information as to how many staff will be hired as part of this project, and is the target population for women all across Metro Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: The staff includes one coordinator and two counsellors and one term position. The target population is immigrant women no matter where they live in Winnipeg, and I am sure that anyone who contacted them from out of Winnipeg would be served as well.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): I would ask the Minister if the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse in any way

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held funds and transferred funds to remote areas in order to help women in crisis in remote areas?

Mrs. Oleson: Not to the best of our knowledge.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister explain how remote areas will be serviced as to reaching assistance in order to get out of remote areas and find some shelter and some counselling?

Mrs. Oleson: Some of that is done through the Thompson Crisis Centre and some through Indian Affairs, but we do recognize that is an area that needs some improvement.

Mrs. Charles: If the Thompson Crisis Centre does manage to contact these families in crisis and have women come out, can you explain how the funding takes place through the Thompson Crisis Centre?

Mrs. Oleson: There is funding through the Employment Services and Economic Security Department the same as there would be for other parts of Manitoba, and through the Department of Health, I understand, as well.

Mrs. Charles: Just for explanation on that, does that mean if they incur a certain amount of a bill in order to get a family or a woman out of a remote area, will they submit that bill and have it reimbursed?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, there is help supplied for transportation, if that is what the Member means, through Economic Security.

* (2050)

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister explain what type of housing is available for women or families coming out of the remote areas?

Mrs. Oleson: The Thompson Crisis Centre itself is a shelter that would provide accommodation for the short term and there is transition housing, as well, available at Thompson.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister explain if there is any process whereby communities are made aware of this program that is available to them?

Mrs. Oleson: There is a Northern Development Program that has sent workers to 26 different reserves and there are people working on those reserves who do help women in that position.

Mrs. Charles: Is the Thompson Centre made aware of their responsibilities and the money that is available for funding of people in need?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Mrs. Charles: To go on, Mr. Chairperson, the Minister made reference to the fact that her staff were now assisting in budgeting that used to take place under the Wife Abuse Committee. Is that correct?

Mrs. Oleson: No. There are 24 different groups in existence now where there were not when the Committee on Wife Abuse first started, and I had indicated that the department now does this assistance with budgeting and working with boards. It may have been part of the function at one time and they may have been involved, the Committee on Wife Abuse, in that sort of thing, but it was not a primary function of theirs at the time but it is now of the people in the department.

Mrs. Charles: Does your department then assist all shelters and satellite centres with their budgeting?

Mrs. Oleson: They submit a budget. Yes, they do get assistance.

Mrs. Charles: Are the shelters or the satellite areas funded in any particular ratio? Is it a per capita ratio or is it per centre funded?

Mrs. Oleson: All these centres have a different make-up, a different history. They are funded, many of them, in different ways. I am finding that there is a great deal of discrepancy in how they are funded. Some of them are funded according to size.

One of the problems we are getting into with satellites is that they are funded in such a way that they have to be full occupancy to make them viable. Of course, that is not always the case and we do not really want it to be the case that they are fully used all the time. So there is a great deal of difficulty with funding them and my department is looking at that and trying to discover how we can alleviate that situation because many of the centres, as the Member knows—I believe the one in her community is one of them—are having a great deal of difficulty in operating.

Mrs. Charles: Just to clarify then, there is no formula but you are working on producing a formula for funding?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we are working on the formula. They ranged a great deal, for instance, last year in what they were funded. There is one listed here at \$14,000, another at \$24,000, another at \$15,000, and another at \$17,000.00. We are trying to get that and we got it closer this year. The range is only from a low of 55 to a high of 61.9, so we are getting them more on a more evenly funded basis this year and we are looking at how we can improve for future years.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister elaborate as to perhaps how her department is thinking of funding these? Is there any consideration on an area covered or a per capita basis? Is there any method that they are looking at, at all, in the funding?

Mrs. Oleson: I just was handed out a paper on the different models. There is some information in there that might be useful.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, when the funding is taking place, will there be consideration that the shelters may be drop-in centres as well as shelters?

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Mrs. Oleson: That would be part of their function.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, could you tell me where you gathered the statistics for such numbers?

Mrs. Oleson: They all send their statistics into the central office and—if you will just bear this a moment. . . . figures here for 1987 for the number of women and children seeking shelter in Manitoba, towns and municipalities which include motels, safe homes and shelters—just a minute till I get them—excuse me. Excuse me, we will start again. In the realm of towns and municipalities, we have a figure for motels and safe homes: women-362, children-521, for a total of 883, for a total of 3,065 bed nights. In the towns and municipalities with shelters, we have: 361 women, 666 children, for a total of 1,027, with a total of bed nights of 5,081. For the City of Winnipeg shelters: women-564, children-1,008, for a total of 1,572, for total bed nights of 6,194. So the totals then of women are 1,287, children-2,195, for a total of 3,482, with total bed nights of 14,340.

* (2100)

Mrs. Charles: Mr. Chairperson, as for funding for the shelters, as I understand now—the Minister, I am sure, will correct me—the rural communities are funded differently from Osborne House, the city shelters.

Mrs. Oleson: The shelters are funded in the same way and then the satellites are funded in the same way. There are two different models of centres. The Osborne House and that type of shelter are funded by the per diems that are paid on behalf of the people who stay in them.

Mrs. Charles: Madam Minister, then you are saying that the per diems in, for instance, Selkirk would this be the same as the per diem in the City of Winnipeg?

Mrs. Oleson: In the shelters, the range varies from \$35 to \$41.76 per diem. That range is because of different costs and so forth. In the satellites, the per diems range from \$13.80 for adults to \$6.90 for children. I might say to the Member that she has hit upon one thing that is a problem. There is quite a discrepancy in those per diems.

Mrs. Charles: I just want to clarify this. I do not know whether it is myself that is confused or whether it is the discussion that is confusing. The centre, and I will use Selkirk as an example because I know it so well, which is an overnight bed night situation, is that called a shelter or is that referred to as a satellite model?

Mrs. Oleson: That is known as a satellite.

Mrs. Charles: Could you tell me the differentiation between the satellite then and the shelter?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, I can give the Member a sheet here that has the definitions of the different types of components of these programs. There are the shelters in their second stage and satellite safe homes,

crisis offices. I can give the Member that list plus a sheet on the funding models, like the satellite model and the shelter model which I handed out to the other Members. Perhaps that would be helpful.

Mrs. Charles: Until I receive that, Madam Minister, could you tell me if the shelter in Thompson and the shelter in Winnipeg are funded comparably?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are both shelters so they are funded similarly, except in the case of Thompson there would be extra funding because of a northern allowance. It would be \$39.89 versus \$35 at Osborne House.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister tell me if there is any money given as extras to the Osborne House here in the City of Winnipeg for the increased volume they have, serving obviously the greatest amount of population in Manitoba? They do provide, as I understand, a lot of non-residential services, even perhaps ones that do not come through their building but ones they are referred to and direct and help in many ways.

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, Osborne House, because it has such high volume, gets more per diems. Their funding is larger. They do not get any extra grant because of their size or anything, but by sheer volume they do get more funds.

Mrs. Charles: Is the Minister then saying that their caseload obviously being larger and even if they do not have these people going through their doors, they are still being budgeted and supported financially for those services?

Mrs. Oleson: At the bottom of the definition that I just gave, it says: "Note: Shelters and satellite housing are funded through three departments: Housing, Employment Services and Economic Security, and Community Services."

The Department of Housing often assists in the purchase of the facility, renovations and maintenance. Employment Services and Economic Security under The Social Allowances Acts allocates per diem rates on behalf of eligible women and their children to the shelter or satellite housing. Community Services provides non-residential grants for crisis counselling, advocacy, public education and outreach work. In addition, Community Services provides fee waiver to shelters to cover the cost of women who are not eligible for the per diem rate. As I had indicated in that, there is core funding from Community Services for non-residential services and per diems for occupancy.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister go on to explain what type of training counsellors are receiving in these crisis centres?

Mrs. Oleson: The department has done some workshops on training. There is a training component through New Careers which is run out of the Employment Services and Economic Security Department. There is also training done by EVOLVE.

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Mrs. Charles: Just to complete my understanding of the counselling services, when families in crisis come into these centres and they get immediate counselling, I suppose by the volunteers or staff there, are they then directed to professional counsellors?

Mrs. Oleson: If necessary, that would often be done, not always as a matter of course but, if it were necessary, they would be.

Mrs. Charles: I understand on these definitions there is one item here called Women's Resource Centres. Could the Minister explain in a little bit more detail what centres we have of these in Manitoba?

Mrs. Oleson: There is the Fort Garry Women's Centre and the North End Women's Resource Centre. They perform various functions in counselling. I had a meeting with them and I was amazed at the types of work they do with counselling not only for abused women but in various aspects. They help people who are on social assistance to better use their funds. They do a lot of education and referral service.

Mrs. Charles: The wages that these non-professional counsellors are paid, could the Minister give an example of a comparable wage and a position that would be filled by that comparable wage?

Mrs. Oleson: Is the Minister asking for the wages of the counsellors who are involved, for instance, with Osborne House? It is between \$24,000 and \$28,000, depending on experience.

Mrs. Charles: Are those the professional counsellors or are those the non-trained counsellors?

Mrs. Oleson: Paraprofessionals would be about 24, and the professionals at 28.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister explain the staffing rate that is allowed in shelters?

Mrs. Oleson: What does the Member mean? Is it staffing ratio? Is that what she is indicating? It is on one of the sheets. I think the Member has probably found the information now. It is on the shelter model, non-residential services sheet that I handed out.

Mrs. Charles: Is this an average ratio of people who are in the home, are using the home, or how is this established or projected for the year to come?

* (2110)

Mrs. Oleson: This sheet is for the non-residential services. Was the Member asking for staff ratios within the shelter? There is no set standard for the residential. We were working this year with non-residential. That is something that has to be worked on, shall we say.

Mrs. Charles: Just to finish off, my concern is for the many, many Manitobans to whom English is a second language. In crisis, they certainly would feel more comfortable obviously in their first language and

particularly, I suppose, the Indian, Metis and indigenous people as well as immigrants, and I think as well Franco-Manitobans. Can the Minister explain any direction towards providing services to these people?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, that was one reason why we funded, of course, the Immigrant Women's Centre through the International Centre. Also, we have been working with the Native women. There is unfortunately, a holdup with them being able to get space, but they have been promised some help to get that thing going when they find the space. So we are working with the Native women. We do understand that they have needs that are very pressing.

I have met with a group of Francophone women who discussed with me setting up a shelter for them. They are to send me a proposal on that which will have to be considered, of course, and considered in relation to funding and so forth. I indicated to them at the time that perhaps in the interim we could work on getting someone when we get the crisis line established as to where it is to be and in place. There definitely could be some thought given to someone working on that line, perhaps more than one who would be bilingual if that would be of assistance to them in the interim while we are considering their proposal.

Mrs. Charles: A final direction to be taken, could the Minister give any indication whether a study has been done or is about to be undertaken on the wage scale of people working within these shelters or residences? Is there any action towards some pay equity promotion?

Mrs. Oleson: The non-resident services, the introduction of that model will go some way to help with that component, but we will have to work on the other wage scales for next year. But I know, I recognize that there is a great deal of discrepancy in wages. They are certainly not highly paid people and they do a great service to the community in these shelters. We recognize that the pay is not great and that it is something that has to be looked at.

Mr. Chairman: On item (e)(1), shall the item pass? The Member of St. Johns.

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): A few questions on this area, first of all, with respect to the decision to not proceed with funding of the operational grant to the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse, I realize we have touched on this area. I am just wondering if the Minister could give us any indication that she is initiating efforts to put in place to help sponsor some sort of a community-based non-profit umbrella organization that can provide this kind of training, public education, advocacy work, ongoing advice to Government, and whether or not she has felt that the voices from the community for such an organization—I would consider strong voices from the community for a similar type organization—are being considered by her and her Government and what steps are under way specifically to reallocate the \$189,000, I believe it is, annual grant to the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse.

Mrs. Oleson: When we discussed this earlier, I did mention that the Winnipeg Care Providers have an

organization at the moment. I will be meeting with them. They are going to be proposing to me options for the crisis line, for one thing, but I am sure there will be other topics they wish to discuss and that may very well be one of them, other organizations, and I have asked staff to give me proposals.

As I have said before, when we were discussing it, that I would not want to impose an organization on the group. I think that maybe the ideas and that should come from them because they know what would best serve them. I would want it to be province-wide. The one presently on the go, shall we say, or working is the Winnipeg Care Providers. But, no, I am willing to look at any proposal that would be given to me on that because it does not need to be coordination of these services. We want to be sure that no one shelter or organization is left on their own to cope with and reinvent the wheel, shall we say, with every aspect of this. I think probably an umbrella organization may very well be a good idea. I would not be going out and saying, you people need an organization, here it is and you will live with it. I would want them to come to me with a proposal of how they would like to proceed.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I certainly appreciate the fact the Minister is not wanting to impose something on the community, and I think I agree with her. It has to come from the community. Could the Minister give us assurances that any efforts on the part of community activists in this field will not be discouraged, that the money that now goes to the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse will be set aside for such a purpose if the community expresses that will? Can she give us basic assurances today that if groups come forward with such an idea with an interest in forming an umbrella group to do advocacy training, public education, policy advice, that this Government will not come in the way of such efforts and will encourage those efforts and fund such a proposal?

* (2120)

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, I certainly would look at proposals that might come forward and I would certainly consider funding it. I should remark though, when the Member said that earmarking the money from the Committee on Wife Abuse, that has been earmarked as part of the Crisis Line, so that money has already been spoken for, shall we say. I assure the Member that I would be very willing to look at proposals to do with a group such as she states and would be quite willing to sit down with them, whoever came forward, and discuss it and look at how we could fund it.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Mr. Chairperson, I would be concerned if the money from the organization is seen solely in terms of the crisis line and that there is not a belief on the part of this Government, if the community expresses an interest in an umbrella advocacy public education group, that those funds will not be found from somewhere to support such an effort, notwithstanding the fact that the Crisis Line must be funded and must go on and does take resources. Is it within the framework of this Government that both can be funded adequately?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, certainly we have indicated that the Crisis Line will be funded. As I said, we had earmarked those funds for that. I mean, we have not set just a block of dollars and said this is the only thing we can do with it. I have already indicated that I certainly would look at any proposal on a group and then the funding of it would have to, of course, be another consideration. Certainly, I would look at a proposal that they might come forward with because, as I say, we do not want to have any of these particular shelters or groups left without supports around them. I have undertaken to the Member to look at the proposal that may come forward.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Mr. Chairperson, with respect to Osborne House, could the Minister give us an update as to the current situation, if progress has been made with respect to negotiations around a building when she foresees that issue being resolved?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Chairman, we hope to make a favourable announcement quite soon.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: A follow-up question to some of the questions asked by the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) and the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), has any consideration been given to meeting the programming needs, the non-residential services provided by a shelter like Osborne House that has obviously moved into a number of different areas with respect to counselling and treatment and education around the difficult issues of wife battering, spousal assault. Can the Minister indicate whether or not she is giving consideration to any changes in funding for Osborne House, any additional funding with respect to programming, any further consideration being given to the fact that the clientele being served by Osborne House is so great in comparison to the province as a whole?

Mrs. Oleson: It was in recognition of the need not only for space for shelter, but in recognition of the need for space for counselling and training that we undertook to look for an alternative space for Osborne House. It is not only important that people have a shelter but there be a place within that shelter in which to offer programs. That was one of the problems with Osborne House is that there was no private place for counselling. There was no space within that facility for programs. It must be, because they are still there, extremely difficult to serve their clients the way things are. We are hoping that certainly will improve when we get additional or alternate space, that there will be room. We do have a strong commitment to this area and want to improve services in whatever way we can.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I appreciate that answer and the fact that obviously my question is tied to a better facility for Osborne House. Notwithstanding that, because once the larger facility is found, there will still be a considerable concern on the part of Osborne House for funding to provide the programs, to meet the non-residential needs of their service, to be more than a warehousing of women who have experienced battery and assault in their homes.

Is there some long-term plan? I realize it takes resources. Is there some long-term plan to deal with

the fact that there is a real crisis coming to provide resources to meet those needs?

Mrs. Oleson: I certainly hope to develop a long-term plan. That is one thing that has been a problem in this area. It has had growth but with not quite enough planning as to how the needs will be met.

I should remind the Member that our commitment is very evident in this area since we have committed a 43 percent increase in grants to this area, which is a \$597 million commitment to work in this area. I view that as one of my goals is to develop some long-term plans, not only in some of the other areas in the department, which we have discussed over the course of these Estimates, but in this area to develop some plan of how we can gradually improve services. You cannot all of a sudden in one Budget meet every need. You have to have a planned and orderly approach. That certainly is, hopefully, what we can get to.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: The Minister would expect me to put on the record that the increase that the Minister refers to is almost as good as the increase in the defeated NDP Budget. We are pleased that this Government has chosen to at least try to hold the line with respect to commitments and ongoing work in this area. But I think there is a problem that all of us have to grapple with and that is, as more work is done in this area, more cases come forward, more work needs to be done and we must start to look at the broader issues of prevention and treatment and community education.

Related to the question about programming for Osborne House, I know that the Minister would be fully aware of the fact that many of the satellite homes are, despite the increases in this budget, still going to be faced with deficits. They are still going to be in trouble, they are still going to be forced with tough decisions and perhaps even closure of a satellite home here and there. What plans are in place by this Government, what thoughts has the Minister given to dealing with this situation that could come to a head at any point, which could be a crisis at any point?

* (2130)

Mrs. Oleson: I had indicated before to the Member that one of the goals was to have some planning to get these facilities on a sound footing, and the staff are working with many of the satellites right now in helping them to arrange their affairs so that they can operate. Then of course we have to take into consideration what we can do for them next year. We have to, as I said, have some long-term plans to get them on the proper footing so they know where they are. One of the problems are they are funded from this source and funded from that source and the other, and it is rather a fragmented approach and it needs some coordination. Hopefully, we can get to that. I hope to do that for next year's budget. It may be impossible to get every plan in place. We may have to look at longer term but, with regard to, for instance, to Osborne House in 1987, 1988, it was an actual of 27,200 and in 1988, 1989, 89,700, so we are trying to improve the funding of those agencies.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: In the meantime, could the Minister give us assurances that no safe home, no satellite home will be forced to close because of financial difficulty and that this Government will come to the assistance of any such home finding itself in such a deficit situation that it feels it must close its doors.

Mrs. Oleson: I indicated before that the staff are working with several of those satellites right now to help them with their financing. We certainly do not want any of them closed. That is certainly not our goal, to close those facilities.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: I mentioned earlier that this Government should be commended for bringing in almost the same increase as the previous NDP administration's Budget. However, in one area, there is quite a shortfall on the part of this Government. Under External Agencies, there is a shortfall of at least \$116,000 from the previous NDP Budget. Could the Minister explain why \$116,000 plus has been cut from the Budget, as previously introduced by the former administration, and what specific initiatives and programs have been eliminated or not proceeded with as a result of the decision to trim in this area?

Mrs. Oleson: The Member should realize that the part-year costs we are looking at because of the timing of the Budget, that probably next year it will translate into even more funding because of full-year costs. The Budget the Member was referring to, the defeated Budget, was addressing full year and, by the time we get to getting things into place, we are looking at part-year costs.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: It may be only part-year now but, when this Budget was put in place, it was certainly close to a full-year Budget. The Minister has not addressed the fact that there has been, as there has been with a number of lines in this department, some shifts in dollars and some cuts indicating different priorities from the previous administration. In this case, it is a shortfall of \$116,000-plus. Is that a specific initiative that was planned for? Is that a specific program that has been cut? Is there some detail that the Minister could provide with respect to the discrepancy between the two Budgets?

Mrs. Oleson: There were no programs that were not proceeded with. I referred before that this is a part year. The Member has to realize this is a part year and the full-year annualization next year will be more than \$300,000 of the external agency she is talking about.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate whether or not at least part of this reduction is a decision on her Government's part not to proceed with funding of any other women's resource centre?

Mrs. Oleson: When the Member refers to what she calls a "funding cut," there was a \$100,000 reduction in the family violence initiative, and part-year funding for late opening of Northern Shelter. That accounted for that. There is a \$15,000 reduction in funding requirement due to a late startup and \$28,000 in salary

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line due to lower-paid incumbents. So it is mainly the result of a Budget that comes in during the year and it does not reflect the full-year costs.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister indicate where the money in her budget is for an additional women's resource centre?

Mrs. Oleson: There is \$48,000 dedicated to the Northern Women's Resource Centre, Inc. That has not got started yet, as I understand, but there is money earmarked for it.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: That money is included in the total of 1.96 million?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes. It is to start up in December.

Ms. Wasylycia-Leis: Could the Minister go back for one second and explain again what she feels is the main factor for the discrepancy between this Budget and the Budget proposed by the NDP administration?

Mrs. Oleson: As I indicated before, it is part-year costs that reflect that. For instance, the Northern Women's Centre will not be starting up until December, so it will not use a full year's funding. But for next year when you annualize it, the funding for this area will be \$300,000.00.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): I do not want to extend the discussion. I know the Minister has received my many letters in terms of the Northern Women's Resource Centre. I am just wondering, in terms of the funding that is being looked at, what particular model of delivery the funding is based on, because I do know that they had looked at a proposal that would have some ability, not just to deal with Thompson where it would perhaps be the official office location but also the many other northern communities. I was wondering if the Minister could indicate what the funding will allow the resource centre to do.

Mrs. Oleson: I understand, yes, that there will be community outreach. The use of the centre may be beyond the borders of Thompson. There are 2.5 staff to be with that centre, and the full year cost will be \$106,600.00.

Mr. Ashton: I am just wondering what discussion there has been with the collective that has been organizing this in terms of response to their proposals.

* (2140)

Mrs. Oleson: There have been discussions with them on the staff level. The staff are awaiting a response from them which they expect in a short time.

Mr. Ashton: So will it be the anticipation of the Minister, given a favourable response then, that this December date would be feasible? I guess the concern I have is that we are just a couple of months away from that.

Mrs. Oleson: We are anticipating a December start up.

Mr. Ashton: Actually I would like to indicate that I do believe it will be a valuable addition. I know it is something that has been in the planning stages for a considerable period of time. There was the study done, I know, under the previous Government. I really hope that something can be finalized because I think it will provide the same kind of services that women do have in other areas of the province in northern Manitoba. I realize that not every area of the province will yet even have a resource centre, but I think the North is certainly the area of the next greatest need.

Mrs. Charles: I have two final questions, Mr. Chairperson, one for areas in rural communities. I understand the Minister has pointed out how funds could be made available in Thompson to remote areas. But is there any extra funding for the need for transportation, that is, to go even in the Interlake from Selkirk to Gypsumville or somewhere to pick up a client?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are reimbursed through the Employment Services and Economic Security Department.

Mrs. Charles: One final question, understanding that our goal is really to do away with any need for shelters and I think one area that we have to all look to is the area of education, to make the women aware of their self-importance, that they do not enter into any relationships that would be obviously harmful to them or stay in that situation. Has this Minister been in contact with the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) or any other Minister for that matter to develop a program of education that supports the importance of women in our schooling system and in our community system?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, we are looking at the preventive aspects and education. We are working with the federal Government on this subject and Education Department, various departments. Also, the Member mentioned to teach women, educate women—I think all society needs to be educated, that this is just absolutely an unacceptable practice and that realization has to come not only to women, of course, but to men.

Ms. Gray: With the Minister's last comments, if her department is working with some of the other departments, are these discussions active and can we expect some sort of announcement about any program initiatives in this area before the end of the fiscal year?

Mrs. Oleson: They are all at the developmental stage.

Ms. Gray: Can we expect any program announcements when the Minister indicates "developmental stage"? What does that mean?

Mrs. Oleson: I mean preliminary discussions. Nothing concrete has developed yet but we are working on it.

Mr. Chairman: Item 4.(e)(1) Salaries \$858,300—pass; item 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$201,500—pass; item 4.(e)(3) External Agencies \$1,960,800—pass.

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Item 4.(f) Children's Special Services: Provides program direction for services provided to children with mental and physical handicaps and other families. Subsection (1) Salaries, \$205,400—shall the item pass? The Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I have a few questions in this area which should not take too long providing we get comprehensive answers. To begin with, under the Salary section, there is one manager and two professionals. Could she tell us the position titles of the two professionals and who these three individuals are in these positions?

Mrs. Oleson: We have a Director who is Brian Law. We have a Provincial Coordinator, Sid Rogers, and Early Intervention Coordinator, Jeanne Strutinsky, and the clinic coordinator's position is vacant at the moment.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has just indicated four SYs, or are some of those individuals in part-time positions?

Mrs. Oleson: That is right.

Ms. Gray: Under the objectives of Children's Special Services, it indicates that the programs are for disabled children. Would the Minister define specifically as to what children would fall within the category of being disabled as would be serviced through this program?

Mrs. Oleson: Mentally and physically handicapped children.

Ms. Gray: Does this particular Children's Special Services area then, do they have any ongoing relationship with the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities who would also deal with physically handicapped children?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they work closely with them.

Ms. Gray: Does this branch also provide services to children who would be considered schizophrenic?

Mrs. Oleson: No, that would be through the Mental Health Department area.

Ms. Gray: In order for children to receive services through Children's Special Services, what type of criteria is there in order for children to receive service? Must there be a medical diagnosis in regard to the child's disability? Or what type of information is required in order for Children's Special Services to determine, or in order for a region to determine on behalf of Children's Special Services, if these children would qualify for services?

Mrs. Oleson: The physically handicapped would be a medical assessment and the mentally handicapped would be through the Child Development Centre, the assessment through them—the clinic, excuse me.

Ms. Gray: Is the Minister indicating then that all children who would receive service who would be mentally handicapped would be referred through the Child

Development Centre, through the staffperson that she has referred to?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, a high percentage of them would come through the Child Development Clinic. But staff informed me, if the child was born with Down's syndrome, then they get services right away. They would not have to wait for an assessment.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, under the Activity Identification, there is an indication that services are provided through respite care. I am wondering if the Minister could clarify the role of Children's Special Services in regard to respite care and supplies in transportation. Is their role one of a directorate in nature where the program content is outlined and standards are developed and evaluations done, or is there any type of service delivery or service delivery control that it is done through Children's Special Services?

* (2150)

Mrs. Oleson: The University of Manitoba School of Social Work has done an evaluation and assessment of the program and they got a very positive response from parents. They get feedback from parents on how the program is working.

Ms. Gray: I am following up on the Minister's comments which I do not think related to my question, but this evaluation she has now mentioned, an evaluation of the program, what does the Minister mean when she refers to the program?

Mrs. Oleson: Regions deliver the program. I am talking about the assessment done on the program.

Ms. Gray: If I can rephrase my question, in regard to the role of Children's Special Services, the Minister has indicated that service delivery is handled by the regions. Is the Minister then saying that the Respite Care Services, Child Development Services, and Supplies and Transportation, that the only responsibility Children's Special Services has is in terms of what would be considered a provincially coordinating directorate function, i.e., they would develop the program content, the criteria, develop standards for the program and look at evaluation? Is this what this Children's Special Services does? Are they involved at all in service delivery?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, they are involved in service delivery. They develop programs, but they also have a service delivery.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us what specific components of service delivery Children's Special Services are involved in?

Mrs. Oleson: They are involved with additional care and support and cobalt therapy.

Ms. Gray: Is that all the components of service delivery of this particular Special Services?

Mrs. Oleson: They also have 200 cases which are direct referrals from the Child Guidance Clinic to the regions.

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Ms. Gray: The Minister indicated that the target population, i.e., disabled children, that these services deal with the mentally handicapped and physically handicapped children. Are these the only children with only these disabilities with which this service deals with?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes.

Ms. Gray: The Minister had indicated that services for hyperactive children, that there were some responsibilities as well through Children's Special Services. Is that correct?

Mrs. Oleson: It is indicated to me that this is a very grey area. The department errs on the side of providing the service where sometimes the doctors are reluctant to actually define that whether or not it is a learning disability, a mental disability or hyperactivity. Sometimes it is very difficult for them to discern. I am told that they err on the side of giving the children help.

Ms. Gray: Therefore, the Minister is indicating that in fact this particular Children's Special Services also provides service to children who are considered hyperactive. Could the Minister indicate, is this diagnosis something which must be determined by a physician?

Mrs. Oleson: Generally, yes.

Ms. Gray: Does "generally" mean in all cases? Is that part of the criteria that in fact a physician must have indicated that the child is hyperactive?

Mrs. Oleson: Or a psychologist from the school. But I indicated before that this is a grey area and sometimes it is difficult to definitely define what is the exact problem. There is some erring on the side of providing the service, even though it is not clearly identified exactly what the problem is.

Ms. Gray: Do Children's Special Services also provide services to children who would be considered learning disabled?

Mrs. Oleson: That would be time limited and in severe cases. It is pretty well the same answer for the hyperactive. It is not always clearly defined by the physicians, but we would try to accommodate people.

Ms. Gray: Therefore, we begin with saying that this particular Children's Special Services provides services for disabled children who would be defined as mentally handicapped or physically handicapped and, with further questioning, we find that this area also provides services to children who would be considered learning disabled and who would be considered hyperactive. Would my last statement be a more inclusive and more accurate reflection of the services provided in this particular area?

Mrs. Oleson: I think the Member should be aware that assessments cannot be final when children are very young. There may be a grey area, as I indicated before, of exactly what is the problem. The department likes to err on the side of helping the children and the families.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister then indicate to us what criteria has Children's Special Services developed to assist field workers in determining whether or not families or the children of families should be eligible for services under Children's Special Services?

Mrs. Oleson: There has to be a medical and a physical assessment. As I had indicated before, in some cases, not the majority, there is a gray area and the service is provided.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, in regard to the Respite Care Program, what are the guidelines for determining how much and what type of respite care families would be eligible for?

Mrs. Oleson: It is done on an individual case-by-case basis with the worker sitting down with the family.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, are there any guidelines in regard to the maximum number of hours that a family might be eligible for or of which a family could not exceed in any given fiscal year?

Mrs. Oleson: There is a general guideline of two weeks but some single-parent families would in some cases access more time than that.

Ms. Gray: To clarify, Mr. Chairperson, did the Minister say that some single-parent families might access more weeks than that?

Mrs. Oleson: Yes, that is what I indicated.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, is there any maximum dollar amount in regard to how many dollars a family might use for respite care in a given year?

Mrs. Oleson: The general guideline is \$3,000 per year and that is allocated regionally. I should mention too, in the previous answer, I said to single-parent families. There are sometimes families in crisis that would access more time than the general guideline of the two weeks.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us if regional staff feel that a family should access more dollars because they are in crisis? What is the process by which that approval is given for more dollars? Is it done regionally or is it done through Children's Special Services?

* (2200)

Mrs. Oleson: If it is over \$3,000, it would have to be approved by Children's Special Services.

Ms. Gray: The Minister gave us some guidelines in regard to dollars and numbers of hours that families could utilize. Could the Minister tell us, are there any more detailed guidelines in regard to these dollar amounts or weeks if, for instance, we have family situations where there may be two or more handicapped children in the family, or family situations where there may be a handicapped child and also an adult who is handicapped in that family? Are there any variations in those dollar amounts or time frame guidelines?

Mrs. Oleson: It is generally \$3,000 per family but, in exceptional circumstances, then it can be approved through Children's Special Services but each case of course has to be looked at individually.

Ms. Gray: With these two-week amounts the Minister has indicated and the \$3,000 per family, could the Minister indicate, for families who would qualify for the respite service, does that mean that all families who would qualify then are eligible or entitled to this two week or \$3,000 amount?

Mrs. Oleson: It is based on individual planning with the family.

Mr. Chairman: The hour being ten o'clock, what is the will of the committee?

Mrs. Oleson: Let us get this completed.

Mr. Chairman: Committee rise.

* (2000)

SUPPLY—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture. We are presently on item 4.(f) Marketing Branch, (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): Can the Minister indicate whether or not this Marketing Branch has been a long-term component of the department or is it a relatively new addition to the Department of Agriculture? -(Interjection)- No, there are not many things that have.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Since the very early Seventies, about 1971.

Mr. Laurie Evans: What type of integration or cooperation is there between this department and what I would assume was a similar group within Industry, Trade and Tourism?

Mr. Findlay: There is a fair bit of liaison between the two departments and when missions come in. If they involve agriculture, they deal primarily with us. If it involves the commercial side, they deal primarily with IT and T. But there is a close linkage and a lot of times both departments are involved with missions that are multifaceted in terms of the commercial side and the agricultural side.

In terms of missions going from Manitoba into other parts of the world, there is always a relationship between the two departments as to whether one department can benefit the other on a particular mission. So there is a fair bit of liaison, but there is no question there needs to continue to be a strong liaison between the two departments so we are not competing with each other or covering the same tracks.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Mr. Chairperson, I am not sure from the Minister's comment whether he would entertain any

thoughts of amalgamation of these two or whether there is a long-term requirement to have this Marketing Branch retained within the Department of Agriculture. If there is, I would be interested in just what he feels are the main reasons for the maintenance of the two discreet groups.

Mr. Findlay: It is our desire to maintain the two marketing activities separate. We believe that there is enough expertise required in the selling of agricultural commodities that we have in the department, and our contacts through the department to the producers that we should be maintaining our agricultural activity in agriculture, and the commercial and business and industrial activity in IT and T is quite distinct and separate from selling food commodities, agricultural commodities, which is our mission.

We see no reason why they should get together because their interests in the export market are quite different, and we think the agrolgist background and the contact with the producers is important for the ability of people in our Marketing Branch to negotiate and make contacts and help the business sector expand its export trade.

* (2010)

We see that there is no need to bring the two together, other than the liaison of being able to go on joint missions or entertain missions that come to the province in a joint fashion as much as possible.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Is there a distinct attempt to promote the value-added concept, or am I right in getting the impression that there is more emphasis placed on the marketing of the raw material? Going through the descriptions that are provided, I get the impression that most of the effort is on the sale of non-processed commodities. If that is the case, does the Industry, Trade and Tourism group become more involved in the value-added and the processed product?

Mr. Findlay: I think really the major efforts are on the process side of selling a somewhat processed product like canola oil, canola meal, pork products into Japan, and just in the turkey area we are selling processed turkey products that the trade here has been able to cut and package in a fashion that is acceptable to the Japanese market.

There is increased emphasis on the process side, in other words, value added here in the Province of Manitoba, and that is certainly very beneficial to the overall economy of the province that we not only produce the raw product, but we process it to some degree before we market it. So that is where the increased emphasis is going.

I guess, in terms of raw product, we do export breeding stock and there is opportunity in that area, but you cannot process it much more than through the breeding.

Mr. Laurie Evans: A final question in this area, Mr. Chairperson, does the Minister see any major change in emphasis with the possibility of free trade coming into action very shortly?

Mr. Findlay: We are talking exports here now. We have mentioned Japan quite often as a market. It is a new marketing opportunity but there is no question that the American market is a very large market which we have considerable penetration into now, and we believe that the contacts and the activities that are going in that direction will continue. The emphasis of the Marketing Branch is to develop new markets and, if there are new markets that we can find in the United States for raw products or processed products, certainly that is a major market that we will continue to work on also.

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): Mr. Chairman, I want to just make a few brief comments in this area and to acknowledge the service of the staff from the department and especially the director, Al Gascoigne, who has joined us and his dedication and expertise in the area of marketing. I want to reaffirm the comments made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) in terms of the potential of the markets in eastern Asia, and particularly in Japan where we have a country, one basically the size of the State of Montana, with 120 million people. The potential there is such that really it cannot be imagined by most of us living in the North American continent, at least in the Canadian context.

The key, I think, and it will not occur overnight in terms of our export opportunities but the key, Mr. Chairman, is to continue what I guess staff have been advising Ministers in the past, is that you have got to get out there, you have to meet those people on a personal basis. They have to get to know you and then they will decide whether they believe your sincerity and your desire to do long-term business and then it will pay off.

I had the honour and privilege of making two visits to Japan and into the Orient on behalf of the department and the Government with missions at both times. I want to tell you that it is an experience that will remain with me for a lifetime. The personal contact and really the friendship gained on behalf of Canada and Manitoba in particular is something that will be invaluable.

I want to say to this Minister, if the opportunity arises, you will be doing a disservice to Manitoba if you do not go. I say to you, make the opportunity. If it is there, do it. It can only, over the longer term, if we make sure that we are there and we continue to meet these people and new ones at the same time, it will be of long-term benefits. You have here in the department, including the director, who has an intimate knowledge and has gained the respect of the people over there, that I say is second to none. I do not say that because he is here. I would say that to you if he were not here.

Do not miss any opportunity to promote Manitoba processors and do it. I know the branch has been in existence for probably 15 years and it will always be a difficult time in terms of trying to set your priorities with a limited amount of staff but, given the staff that we have and the determination of that group, I think Manitoba certainly has come into some of the markets where, as a small province in this country, we really have done, I would say, remarkably well including a number of products, like pork and buckwheat. Even the Minister's comments today about an entire

delegation coming from Japan, here is a recognition that we are important to them. They are prepared to spend money here and I guess we have to if we are prepared to be in that activity, and we should be. We are a net exporting province. We should be doing all we can to enhance and build on those relationships that have been developed in the past.

I have some further questions, Mr. Chairman, although we have moved off the area. I thank the Minister for giving me the copy on glyphosate. The report that was commissioned for the department done by UMA Engineering looked at the study in two stages, stage 1 being this report and stage 2 recommending two approaches or at least to examining two approaches. The initiation of a registration program for generic glyphosate and/or conducted detailed economic assessment and feasibility study.

In the report, there are comments made about the question of, I guess what one could put, the experimental manufacturer and testing of a patented invention without the patentee's authorization is a patent infringement and is not settled in this country. It appears to be an open question and the legal advice, I am assuming by the law firm that did the work, the patent registrars who are in Manitoba indicate on one of the cases that the Supreme Court of Canada found that the experimental use in question was not an infringement of the patent, and that was the Micro Chemicals Limited et al versus Smith, Klyne & French, where an applicant for a compulsory licence had experimented with a manufacturer of a patented pharmaceutical before the compulsory licence was granted.

We have work being done here in the Province of Manitoba, I think fairly extensive work because the process is not secretive, and that is by Atomic Energy of Canada. I am not hung up, I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, on whether or not the Government should get into the manufacturing. I am not interested in that. What I am interested in, and that is the reason this study was initiated, was to in fact put some pressure on primarily the sole patentee, I guess the description is, to lower the price of the chemicals.

* (2020)

From this study, it points out that—and maybe I have misread it in the quick time that I have had over the supper hour—the generic chemical could in fact be imported into our country by a generic manufacturer and that being one of the offshore manufacturers. I would like some clarification on it and that is related on page 36 of the study 73, where an estimate of commercial scale production costs was developed in the following manner. Using a quotation from a generic supplier, "It was estimated that importation into Canada would be running at \$12.16 a Canadian litre, of course, assuming a reasonable markup of 50 percent yields at cost to manufacturing, including freight and packaging of approximately \$8.10 per litre. If freight and packaging costs of \$1 per litre is assumed, the cost of manufacturing including the chemical costs would be approximately \$7.10 a litre. Note: the supplier indicated that this price was based on a one-time order of one

million litres. The price could be negotiated downward depending on the volume of order and length of supply contract established." I guess I raised the question, and the Minister told me earlier today that he wanted to put this report on the ministerial agenda a year from now.

Might I suggest to the Minister that he consider doing some—and there is a fair bit of work done in terms of the volumes used, forestry industry as well as agriculture, whether or not—and maybe he needs a legal opinion in this whole area. It might be advisable to say we will bring in glyphosate, a generic glyphosate into Canada, and basically challenge the existing patent regulation or patent control of Monsanto and have an impact on the marketplace and put the generic on. I am assuming, and maybe the staff who have been working on this will correct me if I am wrong, that the generic is of the standard and quality that Monsanto, who has the patent in this country. If it is, would it be advisable or is it a route to look at, and that would not take very long.

We would not have to wait until next year, in terms of the ministerial conference to, say, let us put a product on the market or even spend the summer—I guess it will be next year—to bring some of that generic product in and test it. You have the work here already of basically a pilot plant. I mean there is probably a need for equipment, but Atomic Energy of Canada, as I understand it, at least has some interest from the developmental point of view. We may be able to have an impact on the marketplace at least a period of time before the patent expires, because my interest is one thing and one thing only. Unless, according to the study, the costs of the herbicide are less than the capital cost, basically the capital cost of tillage which is running about \$14 an acre, unless the costs of using the herbicides are below that, it becomes fairly unattractive to use it. Conventional tillage is still the recognized or at least will be the preferred method.

So what the objective of the study has been from my part, and I do not know from the Minister, do not put it on the shelf. Let us work around this to see whether we can have an indirect impact on the market from the study without sort of saying let us put it on the Ministers so all the Ministers can talk about it. Let us take a leadership role in Manitoba. There has been a fair bit of work. There may have to be some further work done in this area to get some—maybe it may mean more legal advice or whatever. I would like to see where the Minister is coming from on this in this area.

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, certainly I am going to rehash my comments of this afternoon but certainly nobody has put anything on the shelf as far as producing a generic available in Manitoba and western Canada, in fact all of Canada. The way we talked this afternoon was we believe it is the job of the private sector to produce the chemical in a generic form here in Canada, and I can assure the Members that both the focus on inputs and AECL are still actively moving along in their agenda to have the product in position to market when the time comes, and we are talking March of 1990 when the patent comes off. Is it November? Okay.

Certainly our activities have to come from the side dealing with the PSR, and we just found out over the supper hour that Ag Canada has a proposal that they are going to bring forward very shortly on a new policy for PSR. So there is starting to be movement from that end in identifying and acting on the problem of PSR. We have not seen a copy of that proposal yet but we will fairly soon. That is the direction that we can have some impact in helping the private sector in being able to produce the generic in some formulated fashion here in Canada. So we are not putting anything on the shelves, no waiting for a year from now when the Ministers meet again.

It is my hope that the Ministers of Agriculture will meet shortly after the New Year when a new Government is in place, and there are a number of issues that cannot be left until next July. We are certainly moving. They are wanting to see some degree of ministerial meeting early in the New Year.

Just to go back to your earlier comments with regard to missions into Japan, we were to have been in Japan right now but naturally had to delay that effort because we knew that the House would still be in Session. Certainly, there is a strong level of desire from invitations from Japan to have a mission go over there some time in the late winter or early spring period of 1989.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me, do his staff feel there is some legal risk or impediment for a pursuit or advice to one of the two groups that he speaks of about either (a) seeking a compulsory licence—I think it is called a compulsory licence—based on the patent control of Monsanto or the alternative to use a process that has been patented in another country but not in Canada. The study would refer that to the generic and the pricing that was made available to us in terms of the study within this report whether that is an option that is worth considering at this time.

If it is, Mr. Chairman, then is there anything preventing the Minister from sitting down with these two groups and at least taking a leadership role and advising them, either of them to say, look, our legal advice says that there may be an option? We would at least facilitate, do the homework or the groundwork in terms of these legal avenues that have to be hurdled and then at least put the ball in their court, if they want to proceed, if they have gone far enough. From that area, I think Government and support of private initiative is what I am really referring to. I would like to hear the Minister's advice.

Mr. Findlay: Really it is our belief that there are certain legal impediments to getting involved and doing the research before the patent period is up. Indications are that Monsanto would maybe like nothing better than to test that in court. We might be subjecting ourselves to considerable legal costs if we did move in that area.

* (2030)

I can tell the Member that I have had one casual discussion with one of the private entrepreneurs who is interested in this area. We are going to get together

as soon as we have an opportunity here in the next two or three weeks to look at what they believe is a right course of action to follow from their point of view. We will be doing everything we can to facilitate them in being able to get a generic on the market as soon as is legally possible.

Certainly our information to date is it is, if not a grey area, a dangerous area to get into. We do not want to get into an expensive legal battle that we do not have a good opportunity of winning, I guess, to put it mildly. Naturally Monsanto, and I guess all chemical companies probably would realize they have a significant issue here to protect. They might be prepared to spend a lot of money in defending their position. I would want to be awfully sure that we move before the patent is up, that we were on safe legal grounds. We just cannot afford those kinds of court challenges.

Mr. Uruski: Is the Minister considering doing further work on stage two of the proposal or at least a portion of stage two if he is not prepared to do one? Is he prepared to do one or the other of stage two and put some money into that area in terms of the registration program for generic or conduct a detailed economic assessment and feasibility study?

Mr. Findlay: I guess at this point we are not prepared to be committing money to any particular action for here on until we sit down and have a discussion of those two groups that were involved and to see what they found out since the study has been done, because they are looking at what the right steps are to go. We will be prepared to work with them. If there are additional resources needed for a specific kind of study or to develop certain kinds of information, we will be more than willing to do whatever we can to stimulate them or help them through whatever hurdles they are going to face in terms of the process of being able to produce the generic here in Manitoba or in Canada some time in the very near future. So we want to sit down and talk with them. I have already committed myself to one of the groups, that we will talk very soon to look at what the alternative possibilities are in the coming months.

Mr. Uruski: Is the Minister indicating that there are meetings scheduled in the next while with either one or both? I am assuming that, if he meets with one, he will be as well calling both of them? Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the section to pass item 4.(f)(1)—pass; item 4.(f)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 10: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$11,998,100 for Agriculture, Agricultural Development and Marketing Division, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

I wish now to direct Members' attention to Item 5., Farm and Rural Development Division 5.(a) Northwest Region: (1) Salaries.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Mr. Chairperson, I would expect that we would deal with these as one group as far as the

regions are concerned and my question to the Minister is, just what degree of autonomy do these individual regions have in terms of being self-contained, and how much reliance do they have on the head office? In other words, what degree of contact is there? I guess to put it more bluntly, how long would they operate without the back-up support from the central location here?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, let me introduce two of our regional directors, Roger Chychota from the Northwest Region, and Dave Donaghy from the Eastern Region.

Certainly one of the reasons for setting up the regions was to have a certain level of autonomy outside of the central body so that certain decisions could be made in the regions that were closer to the people who we are delivering our service to, but naturally those regions can draw upon the specialists in the central part of the department at will and as needed. So there is a fair level of autonomy but there is close working relationship also with the total department.

* (2040)

Mr. Laurie Evans: In the Supplementary Estimates that are provided, Mr. Chairperson, they indicate that the description that is provided for the Northwest Region applies cumulatively to all regions. Is there in fact quite a difference in the level of emphasis from one region to another? I would assume that the southwest must have a lot higher input into crop production than some of the others, whereas the Interlake and the Eastern Region would be more emphasis on the livestock sector and special crops and so on. How is that decision—has it grown up over time or is this the way it was laid out right from square one with the decentralization?

Mr. Findlay: The regions do vary considerably in terms of the level of need with producers. For the southwest, it is mainly cereal grain; in the Central Region, a lot of special crops; in the Eastern Region, a lot of intensive livestock use. You get up in the Interlake and you have livestock, you have crops, and you get quite a difference between the north end and the south end in terms of water being a problem in the north end and lack of water maybe being a problem in the southern end of that particular region and then, up in the northwest, probably a heavy concentration in livestock as well as the mixed farming context.

The programs in the regions are developed to respond to the producer needs and, if a producer needs change over time, then the programs and the direction of that region will change in response. The directors have some degree of producer advisory committees in place through their ag reps to try to be able to respond to the producer needs in their regions. There is no question that, with the kind of drought we are facing, some of the needs in various regions have shifted quite a bit in the last year or two.

Mr. Laurie Evans: In looking over the five regions, there is something like a \$700,000 difference in the budget from one region to the other. Does that difference in budget reflect the level of production in

the area, or is it more a reflection of the range of services that are needed because of the level of diversity in the regions?

Mr. Findlay: I can tell the Member that if you take the various regions and consider the farm population and divide it into the amount budgeted, it is pretty similar on a per-producer basis. The Northwest Region has a little more expense in the travelling side because of their distance from the central part of the department here in the city but, other than that, on a per-producer basis, it is fairly similar between the regions.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Getting into one somewhat more specific issue, and that was regarding the Interlake area particularly, I remember a few years ago there was a lot of pressure being put on at that time to try and even go so far as to the establishment of a substation with an idea of attempting to get a much better handle on the range of production that was possible in the northern fringe of the Interlake agricultural area. Has there been any emphasis on that in recent years? Is there still some thought being given to more experimentation in that Washow Bay area? As you get into the area, there seems to be some controversy as to whether it should be agricultural as opposed to being a forestry type of transition area.

Mr. Findlay: Right now, there is an agri-food project under way up in the Washow Bay area looking at the ability to produce crops in that area. There is not a lot of desire to push the frontier any further north. We are trying to do a better job of producing on the land that is presently in crop production of one type or another, a better job on that rather than expanding the frontier to the north. So that is where the initiatives are going right now.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Mr. Chairperson, a somewhat philosophical question, and that is it seems to me that we are always in a sort of a cyclical pattern in agriculture and we may be just on the verge of another one of those changes. Up until now and perhaps for another year or two, it appears as though there is tremendous emphasis on farm management, better financial arrangements and that aspect of it, and in my point of view, during that period of time, because there is a glut, there is a de-emphasis of the production side of it. Then all of a sudden, there is a shortage of grain, a shortage of other commodities. Everybody can be a farm manager because it is easy to make bucks, and then the emphasis shifts over to the production side of it. I am a little concerned as to whether or not an operation such as this can be responsive to those changes.

I am looking at the overall supplement here. There seems to be a lot of emphasis placed on the delivery of programs, but I have difficulty grasping what I would regard as the overall Manitoba Department of Agriculture policy. I am a little concerned as to whether or not that policy exists in a format that a person can hand out a page and say, this is the philosophical policy direction of the department and this is how it can be changed from time to time. Can that transition be made or is it necessary to be made from emphasizing one area to another over a short period of time?

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, in terms of saying that this or that is the specific mission of the Department of Agriculture is always very difficult because there are changing needs and changing levels, as you mentioned. For one period of years, we are in a production cycle where any manager can make money. Then all of a sudden, we are back to where we have been in the last five or six years of being able to teach people management, because all of a sudden they are very conscious of money management and farm management, because that is what makes the difference between success and lack of success.

The overall thrust of the department in the future really, if I can say anything, it is to respond to the challenges of the future. We are in a changing industry. You look back over the last 10 or 20 years, you look at the changes that have occurred in the industry, and there is no question that change is part of our lifestyle and it will not slow down. It will just pick up. I think the mission of the department is to try to help farmers respond to the challenging technology and the changes that will occur.

I put a high level of emphasis on being able to do the right research and then translate that research and that technology out to the producers through extension, through education. We have talked about marketing, we have talked about basic production. There are different areas of interest to different producers and at different age levels. A young producer, he is looking for information on the production side. An older producer, if he is not changing industries, has really got a good handle on the basic production elements. He may be looking at new horizons, or new challenges, or new information.

* (2050)

Whatever area you are talking about, whatever age group you are talking about, whatever type of production you are talking about, you have different requirements. I think overall the department has to be looking at developing with researchers the kind of information that is needed to meet those challenges and translating that information to the farm population at large, and at the same time responding to what the farm population is saying to us individually, and one-on-one contacts with any department member and listening to the farm organizations as they speak to their members as to what we need to do to help producers meet those challenges. They are many and varied in the Department of Agriculture, so it is difficult to focus on "this is the mission" other than, as I say in a general sense, help producers meet the challenges of the future as farm families.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I still have a little problem here, and that is we have heard quite a bit in the last while, not only from this Minister but from other Ministers and the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) for that matter in terms of the whole dilemma that we have with rural Manitoba, all the way from not only the health of the farm or the agriculture industry but the whole business of the retention of the population structure, the maintenance of the towns. We talk about the rural postal abandonment, railroad abandonment and all the rest

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of it, and I do not see in the submission from the Department of Agriculture a clear indication that it is the department that is going to play the lead role in attempting to coordinate this overall effort to maintain the rural infrastructure.

I guess my question is to the Minister, how does this Minister visualize the overall structure that is necessary to come to grips with the rural Manitoba problem, if I can use that term, as opposed to segmenting it into the agriculture problem, the industry and trade problem, the tourism problem? The coordination in the network does not appear to be gelling very well and I wonder if the Minister can see the overall approach to that that is going to bring these pieces together and come to grips with the rural problem in a hurry.

Mr. Findlay: If I had a magic wand, I would sure pull it out right now. There is no question that the rural future problem relates around trying to maintain population, trying to stem the flow of population away from the rural area. I can speak as a producer in a small town that you look around and you see smaller towns just dying steadily because people are able to travel further and do business further. We tend to focus on going to bigger centres, going to the cities to do business.

We have tended in the past to believe that we should be selling the raw product we are producing, selling it out of the country as wheat or rapeseed or as animals. In my mind, one of the ways we can approach retention of population is to put more emphasis in this province, in this country, on secondary processing. I think of some examples out around Manitoba, CSP at Harrowby, Mohawk at Minnedosa, Springhill at Neepawa, those kinds of activities are needed out there to stabilize the population. You have one of those employees of 40, 60, 80 or 100 jobs. It puts a lot of economic return to that centre and stabilizes that community so that the farm service sector can stay in the area.

If I look back, in my own particular area over the last 30 years, we have gone from, I would guess, 30 to 40 machinery dealerships down to about half a dozen. We are travelling further to get our services, increasing our cost of operating. We have to, you say, coordinate and try to direct. I guess we, as a Government, are making some effort in that direction. We have formed a Rural Business Development Committee of Cabinet which involves the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst), the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) and a couple of others. We are trying to grapple with that problem of trying to collectively put some emphasis on doing things in the rural area that will stabilize the population and, hopefully, in some areas attract more people to the area.

You mentioned tourism and it certainly is an untapped resource in many parts of rural Manitoba, particularly on our No. 10, No. 83 and No. 75 highways, those three highways coming in from the South. We have a lot of attractions throughout the Interlake and in the lakes and in western and northern Manitoba. The agricultural industry to me is more than just farmers. It is the whole rural lifestyle, the whole rural activity involving

production, involving process, involving supplies of goods and services in the rural areas.

I think there is no question that we have to show some degree of leadership in Government to try to attract industry, attract entrepreneurs, attract investment opportunities from all over the world to rural Manitoba where and when possible. It is a competitive game to do that with other provinces in this country and other countries around the world, but we have to do what we can. We do not have a lot of money to play the game with in terms of attracting people to locate. I think the secondary process in the component and the tourism component are two of the major areas we can have some input in helping to stabilize the population out there so that our farm community has some bodies to work with, because without bodies you do not have communities. When communities die, farmers have to travel further for their goods and services or to deliver their grain.

But we are never going to stop change. Change will occur. People will change; it is our job to try to manage change. It is in the best interests of rural Manitoba.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see some of our regional staff participate in the Estimates process. In terms of the services provided from my own perspective, I believe that the regional staff and the department over a long period of time have had a very close and positive liaison with the farming community. I want to take this opportunity to say to our regional staff on an ongoing basis that they have done an excellent job in working with all groups in rural Manitoba.

I want to ask the Minister whether there is any contemplated major departure from the overall policy directive of the regions in terms of the efforts of providing extension and technical support to the farm community. Regions have consistently provided regional plans through the department and have been approved. Does he see major changes in those approaches at all?

Mr. Findlay: No, we really do not have any plans for any major changes at all in the regional structure. We think it has been working quite well. As you mentioned, they have done a very good service of relating back to our clients.

If there is any further emphasis that I would like to see, it is our relationship with our clients which are the producers. I may ask to put more emphasis, it is emphasis between our staff and our clients and being able to understand them and deal with the issues that they have to deal with and supply the best technical support that we can. That is our mission. We want to do our very best job. We may give consideration to a bit of a survey to understand what our clients want so that we can find out if we are considered to be in touch and, if we are not in touch in certain areas, we want to sharpen that focus with our clients.

Mr. Uruski: There have been a number of strategies that the department developed over the last number of years. Does he see any major difficulties with those

strategies? Does he contemplate any changes? If he does, could he indicate in what areas?

* (2100)

Mr. Findlay: No, there is no desire to change any particular strategies that are in place. As conditions change and we get back into higher-priced grain and so on, maybe the strategy for management will shift a little bit more back to production. But right now, the missions that are being attempted and the programs that are in place will be kept in place as long there is need. When there is a need for some degree of shift, we will respond under the direction for the best of the farm community.

Mr. Uruski: To what extent are our regional staff and particularly the home ec and the farm management specialists involved in the mediation process? Is there any statistical information that the regions have in terms of who is where and how many cases are they involved in in areas of the farm financial difficulties that families are in, or are we hiring a lot of outside assistance as well in the mediation process, or are we doing most of our provincial cases, handling them ourselves?

Mr. Findlay: In terms of dealing with the mediation cases that are before the Mediation Board, the farm management specialists spend a fair bit of time dealing with those cases. What workload they cannot handle, as much as possible, the ag reps are picking up activities in that area.

In certain regions, Southwest, and to some degree Central and Northwest, there is additional workload that they cannot handle and some consultants are used. Generally, they are farm people who have some fair level of experience in the mediation process. They work with the farm management specialists to deal with those particular mediation cases. So there is a combination of the specialists, the farm management specialists, the ag rep and consultants where and when needed, all working in conjunction with each other on the variety of cases that are coming forward.

Mr. Uruski: Just one more question to the Minister, he did not provide in the last two branches the number of staff positions that are vacant in those areas and what those vacancies are in terms of the two divisions.

Mr. Findlay: Yes, if we go back to the Animal Industry Branch, there are two vacancies there, a lab supervisor and a lab assistant. Veterinary Services Branch, there is one position vacant, a secretary to the director. In the Technical Services and Training Branch, there are two positions vacant—one, the principal at the Ag Extension Centre in Brandon and the other is a 4-H specialist in Thompson. In the Marketing Branch, there is a marketing officer and a food marketing officer vacancy there. In the Northwest Region, there are four vacancies—administrative secretary, livestock technician, grassland technician and a home economist; Southwest Region, there is an ag rep position vacant; in the Central Region, a dairy technician position vacant; in the Eastern Regions, a home economist position

vacant; and the Interlake Region a home economist position vacant. So in the regions, in total, there are eight positions vacant in the regions.

Mr. Uruski: I am assuming that those positions, some of those are in the various stages of recruitment.

Mr. Findlay: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(b)(1) Southwest Region Salaries—pass; 5.(b)(2)—pass; 5.(c) Central Region, (1) Salaries—pass; 5.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(d) Eastern Region, (1) Salaries—pass; 5.(d)(2)—pass; 5.(e)—pass; 5.(e)(2)—pass.

Item 5.(f), Manitoba Water Services Board, (1) Salaries.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I expect there will be a change of some personnel.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I would ask Honourable Members of the section to draw their attention to item 5.(f)(1), Manitoba Water Services Board, Salaries.

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce two members who just came in: Mr. Erv Griffin, General Manager of the Water Services Board; and Mr. Les Baseraba, the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Management and Operations.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Could the Minister give us again a general breakdown of those 30 staff years that are in the professional and technical area? What areas do they actually work under?

* (2110)

Mr. Findlay: Geotechnical services, two staff years; design and development, nine staff years; field services administration, five staff years; construction, five staff years; and maintenance, five staff years.

Mr. Laurie Evans: One more question, Mr. Chairperson, and that is, how well has the Water Services Branch been able to cope with the drought situation in 1988?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Findlay: Certainly, the level of activity for the Water Services Board has been considerably increased this year. In the dugout pumping program, to this point in time, there has been 504 applications received, 345 of those dugouts have been filled, 51 of the applications have been cancelled, and there are 108 left to be filled.

With regard to the Community Well Drilling Program, there were approximately 100 community wells in place prior to this year and 25 more will be put in place this year. So there has been really a 25 percent increase in the number of community wells in the Province of Manitoba, and there are more applications coming in and there will be a demand for more of those community wells in 1989.

Mr. Laurie Evans: How serious is the situation in terms of water shortage at the individual farms? Are there still or has there ever been, for that matter, in the last month or two, farms who have had to dispose of livestock because of the inability to get water or to get a continuing supply of water?

Mr. Findlay: There are some areas with major problems with regard to particularly shallow wells and dugouts are very low. There has been very little regeneration of dugouts throughout the summer. Certainly, if there is no major precipitation before next spring, there is just nothing but pessimism a person can talk about if there is no water supply. A couple of the areas where the greatest problems have occurred with regard to shallow wells is the Southwest Region of the province which has been moisture-deficient for some number of years, and the Westlake area which has had a number of shallow wells that have been coming up dry here.

An Honourable Member: Mine is not doing too well either.

Mr. Findlay: There are problems all over the province. There is no question that any well that was in trouble years ago is in worst shape at this point in time, but certainly there have been efforts on behalf of the Water Services Board, through the Community Well Program, to deal with trying to have major wells in place for people to haul from if they have to haul. There is lots of water hauling going on, but it is not a totally uncommon feature because by this point in time for many years producers do have to haul water for cattle and for livestock because of the shortage of water at this point.

The general position of the major aquifers in the province is reasonably good. The underground water supply, although it is low for shallow wells, the general position of the aquifers is fairly good.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Have we reached a point where any consideration has been given to discontinuance of irrigation from either rivers or streams or from aquifers in the province in terms of the status of it for the next year?

Mr. Findlay: Those activities are licensed under The Water Rights Act, and that would be an appropriate question when the Minister of Natural Resource's (Mr. Penner) Estimates are out.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Here again the question in terms of the long-term planning, I think I mentioned to the Minister once before a concern that the activities of drought proofing, the enthusiasm for it disappears as soon as the rain starts to fall. What is the plan as far drought proofing and the activities of the Water Services Board and the PFRA in 1989, because—

An Honourable Member: People are building dams like the Alameda and the Rafferty and a few others like that in Manitoba—Pembina—

Mr. Laurie Evans: Well, we will listen as the list goes on, but I am thinking more in terms of the necessity

for water supplies to villages, to farming communities, Hutterite colonies.

An Honourable Member: That is exactly where they get them from.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Some of them do and some of them do not.

Mr. Findlay: In terms of planning towards drought proofing the province, given the experience of this year and looking on into the future, there is a high level of activity between Natural Resources, the Water Services Board and PFRA looking at what needs to be done to drought proof certain, you might say, susceptible areas of the province. There are, at this point in time, some 12 pipeline projects that were in place prior to this year and eight more were put in this year. That is one way in which water can be brought from a particular source and made available to communities and to farmers in particular areas where there is a chronic problem of adequate supply of water.

As a result of the droughts in the rest of western Canada in '84 and '85, PFRA did do some analyses of drought proofing that needs to be done in the Prairies for the coming years. The pipeline idea has been very actively pursued in the two provinces to the west of us and it has been pursued at a more aggressive level in this province because of the ability of pipelining the water to drought proof areas that are chronically short of water.

It is our desire to continue to do projects in the future that will reduce the impact of droughts that we have seen this year and may well see in coming years.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Could the Minister outline the responsibilities or the levels of authority when it comes to situations such as the aquifer at Carberry and the concern about pumping water out of it? Who has the ultimate authority as to what can or cannot be done with underground resources?

Mr. Findlay: The authority to determine who shall withdraw water from aquifers and how much is handled is by a licence under The Water Rights Act which is under the Department of Natural Resources.

* (2120)

The level of prioritization that is used to establish who should have first rights to water is one, domestic; second, municipal; third, industrial; fourth, agriculture; and fifth, irrigation.

As you well know, in the Carberry aquifer, there are concerns being expressed by people who are irrigators and the producers who have wells in that aquifer about the withdrawal that is being proposed for the pipeline into the Westlake area up into the Gladstone-Plumas area, which are areas that are chronically short of water and have for many years had to haul water at various times.

There has been a study done involving Water Services Board and PFRA as to what is the best way to bring

water, the cheapest, the most efficient way to bring water into that area, and there were various choices. One was taken from Lake Manitoba and the other from the Carberry aquifer and from some other creeks in the area. The most cost-efficient way was determined to draw from the Carberry aquifer. If you take all the licensed uses that are presently in place for that aquifer, it will withdraw about 18 percent of the volume of that aquifer each year. Of course, it is regenerated at the same time. The withdrawal that will serve the needs for the Westlake area in the proposed pipeline is an additional 2 percent. So it is a very small additional withdrawal from that particular aquifer that is needed to handle the drought proofing for that Westlake area.

I do not think there is a good understanding of the technology at the farming level there about what small impact this will have on that aquifer. There is a group of citizens from both the area that is presently on the aquifer and the area that we are trying to drought proof that have met once and we are going to make all the technical information available to them to help them understand. Maybe they can, between themselves, resolve their differences in the opinion on whether the water should be going into the Westlake area or not. I have had two different meetings with people from that area and there is certainly a dispute as to who has the right on that water, but legally it is handled under The Water Rights Act and no producers who live over that water owns that water at all.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I know that within the same area, and that is the whole question of recharge of these aquifers, is there evidence that our farming practices and the draining of wetlands and so on has in fact been detrimental to the rate of recharge in some of these aquifers, or are they still being adequately replenished that we should not be taking policy changes that would attempt to redevelop and promote the recharge areas?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, I have here a graph that shows the water level in that aquifer over the last 20 years. Since 1968 to '79, the level in the aquifer has steadily increased and since '79 it has backed off just marginally. So if you look at the level in the aquifer now as opposed to 20 years ago—and in this past 20 years, it has been a lot drier than the 20 years before 1968. The level of the aquifer is now higher, fairly significantly higher than it was 20 years ago. So the farming practices where the irrigation has been active in the last 20 years has not drawn that aquifer down at all. In fact, the level is higher because of the recharge that has been going on. What impact the drainage activities of producers has had on it would indicate it has been positive for the aquifer.

Mr. Laurie Evans: Could I infer from that then that the comments that have been made by some producers in that area that their wells have gone dry in recent years are either wells that were put in recently and that the change in water level does not depict a problem with any of those wells that are in the area, because that seemed to be the concern that they had. There were some who claimed they had long-term water supplies and, all of a sudden, their wells were not

providing adequate water. It is due to a different reason, I guess.

Mr. Findlay: The kinds of wells that have shown less volume of water are very, very shallow wells that were put down just to the water level. What you referred to was drawing off sweet water, just the very surface water in the particular zone of the aquifer and maybe down a bit here and up a bit over there. It is not a true indication of what is happening to the overall body of water in the aquifer because anybody who has, you might say, a permanent well sunk to a reasonable depth in the aquifer, there is absolutely no reduction in the volume.

Mr. Uruski: Could the Minister indicate the list that he would have in his possession, the projects that are ongoing and constructed and committed for this year? What is the level of expenditure expected in this year on the projects that are being proposed by the Water Services Board?

Mr. Findlay: Probably the best thing to do is just give each critic a copy. There is a long list of projects, two pages worth here of various projects that are in various stages of activity so I will give both Members a copy.

Mr. Uruski: Can I ask the Minister, what is the current waiting list or what the department could determine the global value of requests held at the present time by the Water Services Board in terms of communities lining up for projects across Manitoba? We were at—I guess about a year ago when we were negotiating the federal-provincial agreement, it would be a year ago last August—about \$60 million worth of projects that would have been approved. It probably was more than that but at least, as part of the agreement, we were looking at about \$60 million.

Has that list or global amount of requests changed and, if it has, what kind of indication and what changes up or down have been made?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, certainly the value of the major projects that need to be done in the Province of Manitoba with a number of our communities, the figure is \$60 million plus. It is probably a little higher than that at this time. There are some possibly 10 communities involved in the list in which there need to be major projects conducted. We are still in the negotiation stage with the federal level of Government to be able to have the resources for those projects. As you well know, some of them are a lot larger than other ones and there is a fair level of urgency with a few of them.

* (2130)

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, since the Minister has resumed responsibility for this area, has the provincial Government's stance in terms of negotiations and agreement changed at all?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, the negotiation process is still ongoing. It really involves

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a relationship between the three levels of Government, the federal, provincial and municipal. I do not think I am at liberty to divulge what kind of sharing relationship is in the discussion process.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, the program, although it is true that all three levels of Government are involved, the municipal Government is widely known to have of course lined up, by virtue of the request that we have for the last five or six years since our last agreement expired, I guess at the end of 1982. Since then, we attempted to renegotiate a similar agreement to the—what was it called?—Community Service Centres Agreement, I think was the predecessor to what we are trying to negotiate now. Generally speaking, the tone of the province has been to continue the program that is in place now with the municipalities. They know what the formula is. What would occur is generally the splitting off of the programming between the federal Government taking the very large communities through PFRA and the province assuming its contingent role for the smaller communities, but committing equal sums of money by virtue of the loan capital.

I guess what I am getting at, and it is no secret of what our negotiating position or at least our discussions were with the federal Government up until August of the previous year. We were prepared to commit ourselves to a multiyear program whereby our capital contributions in cash would equate those of the federal Government and the province would guarantee, as it always has done, the borrowing by-laws of municipalities through our program and, in general terms, either the province or through MPIC or through the general bonding agencies that we borrow from, we would have picked up all of those borrowing by-laws, those debentures unless municipalities had funds in reserves and they would buy them back themselves, whichever the case would be, but that was generally our formula. I guess what I am trying to get at from the Minister, is he changing—because I know the federal Government was, at least in some of the initial discussions, a little bit reluctant to put up cash along with the province. They viewed the municipal share as being less in terms of its input.

Towards the end of August of '87, when we thought we had an agreement, in fact, it was left to Mr. Griffin here, general manager of the Board—and I think Hugh McKay was the name of the federal civil servant—were to sit down and basically draft an agreement. Then all of a sudden, there was a backing off by the federal Minister, whom the Manitoba Minister, the lead Minister then was the Honourable Jake Epp. I know that he wanted certain additional projects to be included in the agreement which were not Water Services Board projects. I will put it on the record, our position was that, look, let us not clutter up this agreement with projects other than Water Services Board projects. If there is a desire to have an agreement on—I will put it on the record. The whole issue of the Carman diversion was part and parcel of those discussions.

We basically said, look, there may be some room in the Agri-Food Agreement, or let us create another agreement for a number of those water protection or schemes in the Province of Manitoba. We would be

prepared to participate in more than just that one program. That was the end of the discussions at that point in time. What I am trying to get from the Minister is, Has the federal position or has the province's position changed at all from that which was in place in August of '87?

Mr. Findlay: I guess it is difficult to be able to say too much about what the negotiations are on the ongoing process. Let us face it, you may well appreciate they are at the ticklish stage of completion. I would not want to jeopardize them by anything that we might say at this point other than, for the Province of Manitoba and the number of projects and the size of projects that need to be done, I think we will all be fairly happy if things go on the track they are presently on. I do not think it would be fair to say anything more at this time. We still want a federal-provincial sharing relationship because we cannot afford it, the municipalities cannot afford it. That is a well-known fact, and we are looking for the greatest federal input that we can get.

* (2140)

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I guess if I can put a note of disappointment on the record, and that is it will be seen for what it is in terms of a last minute during the last days of a Government to now during the last months of the election if we sign an agreement within the next 30 days. I will view that as being very cynical on behalf of the federal politicians because clearly it is not an issue that I viewed as being a political issue in terms of gaining political brownie points. It was a win-win situation for all of us. The need was there three years ago or four years ago when we made several approaches to the federal Government, as it is today. It was equally as great.

To now have an announcement between now and the 22nd of November, knowing that the Government has already put in its Supplementary Estimates an amount that would equate the capital commitment that is required to sign a multiyear agreement, I put a note of disappointment. I have read the Brandon Sun and Lee Clark making some comments there about the potential agreement. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, it should have been signed if it was going to be signed, and it could have been signed in July, it could have been signed in May, it could have been signed in '87. I mean, we were that close. I will view that agreement with a fair bit of cynicism and political posturing if it is signed within the next 30 days. I would venture to say that it really should be left after the 22nd of November and not signed before that.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, leaving aside the Honourable Member's cynicism, the question is, can this department and this Minister respond to what I believe to be a pretty significant indication of support from the federal level of Government in this area, knowing that this section of his department has a pretty long shopping list of communities that are waiting for improvements to their infrastructure, to their water supply systems and so forth? Is this department taking any steps to anticipate the accelerated pace of development that this agreement when it is signed, and

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I hope it is signed—whether it is signed this week or next week or on November 19th, it does not really make any difference. What is important, of course, is that a number of communities will have enhanced and improved water supplies as a result of it. I would hope that this directorate and this Minister is going to take full advantage of it.

Mr. Findlay: No question. We will take full advantage of it. I think no matter when it is signed the important thing is that it get signed and the communities that have been in dire need of particularly the sewage treatment facilities that are needed because of the wet industries, the need is so great that I do not think that those communities will care when it is signed, as long as it is signed.

Let us face it. You have a greater potential of getting it signed in the next month than you do the month after that and we need it done now. It has been a long time coming and there has been a lot of anticipation over the last two years that it is close at hand, and I would be disappointed if there was cynicism when it is signed, because the important thing is that it is signed and that the money does come and the communities do get the sewage treatment facilities that are so desperately needed. If there is to be any further expansion of those communities in terms of homes or any additional industry, many of them are at the position that they cannot do any more expanding because of lack of sufficient treatment facilities. When it is signed, it will be positive for the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Uruski: In terms of the present drought situation, are there any areas—and the Minister reported on the number of dugouts and some cancelled. The cancellations, can the Minister indicate whether that is because the sources of original pumping are now dry and it is useless pumping because of the distances involved? What does the branch anticipate in terms of requests and/or work in terms of an emergency nature over the next, I would say, six to nine months?

Mr. Findlay: In terms of the 50-plus applications for dugout pumping that were cancelled, they were cancelled by the applicant for undoubtedly a number of reasons. Maybe they found an alternate source of water or decided they did not want to go to the expense of pumping the water from whatever distance they had to get it, but they were cancelled by the applicant.

In terms of dealing with emergency situations, there is no doubt that there are going to be some producers who will be in a position where they will have to haul water and I guess just hope that, by and large, in most instances water can be found close enough that they do not have to haul long distances.

In regard to specific communities that have potential problems or perceived potential problems in the next number of months, Boissevain and Baldur are a couple of those communities. In Boissevain, there is concern that the reservoir may not carry them through till spring. So the Water Services Board, in conjunction with PFRA, has done some test drilling and have found an alternate source of groundwater and are meeting with Boissevain

next week to look at whether they want to proceed with developing the well to guarantee them a secure water supply until the reservoir is recharged.

Mr. Uruski: Can the Minister indicate whether or not there was a press release issued by Charlie Mayer's office about the issue in Carberry vs. Gladstone that everything is on hold? Were there funds to be committed to that pipeline from PFRA and, if so, is the process back on track by the meetings that the Minister talked about earlier to try and resolve some of the misunderstandings between a community so that pipeline can, in fact, go ahead?

* (2150)

Mr. Findlay: Just a further comment on the meeting I mentioned that occurred last week involving the two sides in the issue, and the decision of that group at that time, with Irv there, was that they would continue with their test drilling, which is what they have been doing to date, to determine what would happen when they withdrew a certain volume of water from the aquifer. That test drilling and report and development of data, and the report of it will continue.

Next Monday, a week tonight, there is going to be a meeting involving seven municipal Governments that are involved, both from the withdrawal area and the service area, to determine if there are any additional areas of concern those municipalities have. There is a process of ongoing meetings involving the two affected areas, Water Services Board, Natural Resources and PFRA and, slowly and steadily, we hope that we will resolve the concerns and meet the needs.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, I wish the Minister well because it is certainly one that one wants to see the process handled delicately and conscientiously, but yet to make sure that the prime needs of the communities, of their water needs to be met, and clearly that should be done.

I have one other question in this area of communities, and that is the community of Portage la Prairie, which is a long, long-standing issue there, and basically the Government is in a position of virtually administering or about as close to administering a community as is possible. Are we moving ahead or are we waiting for the federal-provincial agreement before additional sums of money to try and rectify what I would think would be putting it very mildly, rectify a scheme that was, at best, not well thought through by the municipal fathers when they originally instituted the—I guess you would call it—deep-shaft system which really has not worked to this day, and are we moving on the project? I am not sure that I see an \$800,000 figure in the program to date. Is that some of the first stages of the redevelopment?

Mr. Findlay: With regard to the activities at Portage, the pre-design work has been done on McLaren and we are presently in the process of putting in a sewage force main where the highway reconstruction is occurring there just by the sewage lagoon in Portage. Those two activities are the components to the figure you see there.

With regard to your comments on the deep-shaft system, I guess hindsight is always fairly sharp, and hindsight says now that the system was not properly designed to handle the load of sewage that was there that had to be handled. Really the position is, it was overloaded right from the day it commenced use. Certainly a greater volume of sewage, because of the wet industries, had to be treated there than was initially believed to be the case.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Chairman, just for the Minister's information, really it is not hindsight. I have to tell him that his own department provided that information to the community before the decision was made. They recommended against it and the community took their desires to a higher political level of the day, and convinced them that their ideas were right. The people of Portage la Prairie and the people of the province are now paying for that decision. It is not a matter of hindsight. I do not fault the Minister at all on this. That is what occurred at the time, but it is not a matter of hindsight in this area.

One other question before I conclude, the budget, and just so that I understand the sheet that was presented to us, shows a potential estimate of \$3.5 million on the grant. However, in the budgeted amount in Capital Grants, unless I am wrong, the \$4.85 million that is in that is directly related to the Water Services Board, or is there something else there in Resolution No. 19 that relates to this amount? Is there a difference, because normally speaking in this estimate—I am assuming that this is what the branch expects to spend until April of next year. If I am wrong, let the Minister correct me.

Mr. Findlay: You are short \$1.35 million in your calculation there in the difference between the two figures. That is the Agri-Water activities which are not on the sheet that you have, which is a tank-loading facility. That is the 1.35 million, Agri-Water. What you have there, you add the Agri-Water of 1.35 million to make up the difference.

Mr. Uruski: The 1.315 million in the Agri-Food Agreement, that is the—

Mr. Findlay: Agri-Water.

Mr. Uruski: —Agri-Water. It is part of that 4.85?

Mr. Findlay: Yes.

Mr. Uruski: Now is there a program or at least a sheet of this nature under the Agri-Water Program as well? Do you have one of those just so we would know the total scope of the programming?

Mr. Findlay: Yes, we do not have a sheet with us at this point, but we will bring one tomorrow with that component.

Mr. Uruski: On the previously constructed works, at what year is it anticipated that the entire phase-out of the subsidies will in fact come into being? I see we are down to \$210,000 per year. We were up to \$600,000 somewhere in the early Eighties. What is the time frame that the board is looking at in terms of total phase-out of the subsidies?

Mr. Findlay: I am advised that it will be about 15 years to 20 years to phase out the subsidies completely.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(f)(1)—pass; item 5.(f)(2)—pass; item 5.(g)—

It would appear it is the will of the Committee to pass Resolution No. 13, Expenditures Related to Capital. The Honourable Member for Interlake.

Mr. Uruski: Not Resolution No. 13, Resolution No. 19.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution 19: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,850,000 for Agriculture, Expenditures Related to Capital for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

* (2200)

(The Acting Chairman, Gulzar Cheema, in the Chair.)

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Cheema: Committee rise.

Please call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko: The hour being 10 p.m., the House is now adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday).