

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, January 30, 1990.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

* (1335)

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Neil Gaudry (Acting Chairman of Committees): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Five Year Report to the Legislature on Fisheries as well as the Supplementary Information with respect to my Estimates.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): I would like to table the official report of The Coopers and Lybrand Consulting Group on the Winnipeg Education Centre study.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table - (interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCrae: —Supplementary Information for Legislative Review of the Department of Justice for 1989-90.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Health Care Extended Care Bed Report

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon).

Mr. Speaker, for more than 20 months we have been asking the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) what the policy is on extended care treatment. He has promised on a number of occasions to implement the recommendations as soon as the report becomes available.

Will the Premier tell this House if he is committed to acting on the recommendations of this very important report?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, of course we are committed to taking action to improve many areas of health care, as we already have. During our time in office we have brought in the most ambitious capital program in the history of this province in health care. During our term in office we have for two straight budgets brought in increases to health care spending that are double the rate of inflation—excellent response to needs out there in the health care field.

We as well, against the wishes of the Liberals, appointed a Health Advisory Network to go out and develop a plan and a strategy to deal with the serious long-term issues in health care in this province. We put on that some very, very highly regarded people from all areas of the health care community, people such as Dr. Arnold Naimark, of course, the president of the University of Manitoba, former dean of Law Schools, the Chair of that group. We put on that group, of course, people such as John Bowman, a past chairman of the Health Sciences Centre, a very learned and well-experienced individual in the health care field; Dr. Jack Armstrong, a former president of the Manitoba Medical Association; Marguerite Chown, a former president of the Seniors Society of Manitoba; Laurent Desjardins, a former Minister of Health, a very, very impressive individual.

Municipal Hospitals

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, the Municipal Hospitals in Winnipeg are in a deplorable situation. Some patients have had to live there for 35 years in a very disgraceful situation. We have raised this issue numerous times, but no positive action has been taken from this administration. Will the Premier (Mr. Filmon) commit today to construct a new facility for the Municipal Hospitals, which his Government has put on hold for the last 20 months?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): As part of this major consultative process, the Health Advisory Network appointed various subcommittees, one of which was, of course, the Extended Treatment Bed Review, and that group that was chaired by Ron Birt, who is the executive director of the Seven Oaks Hospital, looked at the issues surrounding extended treatment beds throughout Manitoba and specifically in the Greater Winnipeg area, because, of course, there are many concerns about what future uses these beds ought to be put to. We have some new beds coming on-stream, we have demands for personal care beds, we have, of course, a facility such as Municipal Hospitals, Concordia and many others that have to be dealt with.

They have, as I understand it, brought in a preliminary report, that subcommittee of the task force, which will be considered by the task force after consultation throughout Winnipeg, because we cannot from this

process eliminate those professionals in the health care field who ought to be considered in arriving at a decision. So we have to have their report out for consultation with the various administrators of the hospitals that will be affected in Winnipeg, the various professionals, would be they doctors, be they nurses, health care—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Deer Lodge Hospital Extended Care Beds

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, while Manitobans wait for the acute beds, 25 percent of these beds are occupied by the extended care patients. At the same time, this Minister of Health and his administration have kept 90 beds vacant at Deer Lodge Hospital. That is completely ignorant on the part of this Minister. They have wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer dollars.

Can the Premier (Mr. Filmon) commit today to open these much needed 90 beds which are clearly indicated by this report?—but the Premier is saying, we know the consultation has taken place. Why are they delaying the implementation of this report?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, the consultation has not taken place because the report has not been laid before the health care professionals and administrators for their input and reaction and response. All that has happened is that the subcommittee of the Health Advisory Network has come up with a proposal that now has to be considered and responded to by those professionals.

Mr. Speaker, we will not do what the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) has proposed, which is to throw out 40 percent of those people who are currently in personal care beds in this province. That is what she suggested in Minnedosa, and I will quote from the article in the Minnedosa Tribune in which she responded to that, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: to another question from the floor—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Filmon: —Mrs. Carstairs indicated that 40 percent of people presently—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Filmon: —residing in personal care homes do not need to be there. That is an irresponsible statement, Mr. Speaker, and the Liberal Party and their Leader ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: I have a new question—Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Premier should be ashamed of repeating the same thing in this House 10 times. Our Leader has never said that. She had advocated for the seniors at the site . . . he is ignorant.

Head Injuries Extended Care Beds

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, with a question.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

The Honourable Member—his postscript, I do not believe, has anything to do with his new question. He is debating an answer which was previously given and, therefore, is out of order.

* (1340)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, with a new question, we have raised the issue of need for the expanded long-care treatment for the patient with head injuries. On an average, head injury patient occupies acute care beds for nine months at an average of 15 to 20 patients at a given time. That report has confirmed what we have been saying for 19 months and this Minister has completely denied that report.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier (Mr. Filmon) commit today that the recommendation from this report to provide the additional beds for patients with head injuries be provided so that we can provide the best possible care and also save tax dollars, which they are wasting for the last 19 months?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Health Critic for the Liberal Party does not seem to understand the process that has been followed by the Health Advisory Network, which is that a subcommittee has developed a proposal as to how to deal with extended bed treatment in this province.

That proposal now has to be looked at and reviewed by administrators in the health care field by health care professionals, the doctors—of whom he is one—the nurses and other practitioners, who will have to deal with those who require extended care treatment in this province.

None of this process has taken place, so that the proposal is in a very undeveloped stage at this point in time. That is why it says preliminary. That is why it says that consultations must take place. That is why it has not even been referred by the Health Advisory Network to the Minister.

Until they have those consultations, until they have the response of the professionals, they cannot put a firm plan in the hands of the Minister. So why should the Minister go running off, putting in place, implementing a plan that has not even been developed fully by the Health Advisory Network? That may be the Liberal way of doing things, but that is not the right way of doing things. That is not the organized way of doing things.

Mr. Cheema: I think it will be to the advantage of the Premier (Mr. Filmon) to read this report and then he will learn something—what is important for health care in Manitoba.

Home Care System Expansion

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, this report clearly indicates the need for more home care services. Will the Premier (Mr. Filmon) commit today to provide and expand the continued care in Manitoba so that people who are waiting for personal care home placement can at least be cared for in the meantime, which they have ignored for the last 19 months?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We are committed to provide adequate facilities in personal care for the elderly of this province who require it, unlike the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) and the Liberal Party who have said that they would turf out 40 percent of those people who are currently in personal care homes. That is their response to a need for personal care bed spaces. In fact the Leader of the Liberal Party said, and I will complete her quote: these people require less than 20 minutes of care per day. They should be living at home, not in personal care homes. That is absolutely absurd. It is the most ignorant thing that has been said by the Liberals, to date, in this province.

Health Care Seniors Services

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): My final question is to the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey).

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan has the floor.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Minister for Seniors. Given the tremendous impact this report will have on the services for seniors, can the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Downey) tell us if he has read the report and what recommendation he is going to make to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and to his Premier (Mr. Filmon) who has not read the report so far?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief and very straightforward.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Downey: The biggest impact on the seniors of Manitoba is, if we had a Liberal Government, that would turf 40 percent of them out in the streets in an irresponsible way.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

* (1345)

Health Care Extended Care Bed Report

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is also to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). We were happy to receive a copy of the report, but we fundamentally disagree, I should say, with the Liberal Party position that they will accept all the recommendations on the interim report and shaft Grace Hospital and Concordia Hospital. I want to ask my question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon)—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) is putting the wrong thing on the record. We have never said we are going to implement all the recommendations. We have said recommendations—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. Order, please. It is clearly a dispute over the facts.

Mr. Doer: I try to keep track of the Liberal Health policy. I pay very close attention to it, Mr. Speaker—user fees, means tests.

I want to ask a question to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), because it is a very serious question for the people in northeast Winnipeg, of all political stripes, and this is a non-partisan question—(interjection)—dealing with the—I know you do not know the word, but it is a non-partisan question.

The people of northeast Winnipeg, of all political stripes, have been calling us today and they want to know from the highest authority, the Government, whether, in fact—notwithstanding the process, it has taken a long time to take place—would the Premier (Mr. Filmon) please acknowledge today that it will be the Cabinet and the Premier that will make the final decisions on the recommendations that come to them, and, therefore, the ability to provide 60 extended care beds in the northeast quadrant of the City of Winnipeg, which is the third busiest section now in Manitoba, and an emergency ward would certainly not be closed by this report or other reports

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) makes precisely the point that I was attempting to make to the Health Critic of the Liberal Party. That is that this is an interim report that has been provided by a subcommittee of the Health Advisory Network and that it is open for

discussion, input and response by administrators of all the hospitals and professionals who have to deal with the consequences.

* (1350)

Indeed, the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) yesterday was willing to accept the report in totality and implement it, perhaps against the better wishes, better interests, and better knowledge of the administrators and health care professionals of this city who have the right to have input into it.

We will not deal with the report until it has been responded to by doctors, by health care professionals, and by administrators. We will not implement it until we have the full picture rather than a part of the picture that the Liberal Party is willing to tie itself to, and just bind its hands, and implement blindly. We will not do that.

Mr. Doer: On behalf of the citizens and the volunteers, as well as the administrators in the health care profession, I would strongly urge the Government to provide the 60 extended care beds in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Concordia Hospital Personal Care Beds

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I would also ask the Premier (Mr. Filmon), on behalf of the citizens and volunteers that are also working in partnership in the health care field with the administrator and with the doctors, would the Government also be able to not implement the recommendation on excluding personal care beds from Concordia Hospital, in that, to date, there has been a community of medical, professional and voluntary members of the community working with the Concordia Hospital with those personal care beds. Therefore, their recommendation may make some medical sense but not any community sense. Would the Premier then give us his assurance in northeast Winnipeg?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We will take into account all the considerations with respect to a decision of this nature. The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) may recall that his own Government ignored the community aspects of decisions they made in health care in the hospitals in Manitoba, and specifically in Winnipeg, four years ago when they cut out the obstetrics at the obstetrical ward at Seven Oaks and at Concordia.

They did not take into account the fact that they were built as community based hospitals intended for community treatment in all respects. They eliminated some very valuable and needed services in both those community areas by cutting out obstetrics and the delivery of children in Concordia and Seven Oaks.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have to consider all these aspects. That is why the report must be responded to by administrators, doctors and health care professionals and then when that report has been responded to, revised or revitalized, or changed in any

way, based on the response, it will then be taken to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), who will have the firm recommendations of the Health Care Advisory Network.

Mr. Doer: The Premier (Mr. Filmon) conveniently leaves out that we expanded the out-surgery department of that section of that hospital, and expanded the emergency section of that hospital. Mr. Speaker, we extended the personal care home beds in that hospital, and it has been frozen ever since with empty beds at Deer Lodge Hospital.

Health Care Federal Funding

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question to the Premier deals with his meetings with the Prime Minister on Medicare. Medicare is under attack from the federal Government; \$100 million was cut out of our five-year budget for health in the last Wilson budget.

The Premier (Mr. Filmon) this weekend met with the Prime Minister of the country. Did the Premier get assurances that Medicare and health care would not be cut in the next federal budget and we would be able to implement some of the recommendations contained in the interim report that will necessitate costs for an aging population? Did he get assurances that the Prime Minister will not cut Medicare payments to Manitoba in the next budget expected in the next four weeks?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) knows full well that matters to do with a budget are not revealed publicly by anybody, whether it be the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister or anybody else. He knows there have been court challenges and there have been all sorts of legal hassles over people revealing what is or is not in a budget.

I can tell him that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and I speak as one voice on this, that we are very concerned—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Filmon: —to ensure that Manitobans are protected, that Manitobans get the support they deserve from the federal Government with respect to health, post-secondary education, and all of the shared-cost programs that we have between the federal and provincial Governments in this country.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, given that the Premier did not raise it at the First Ministers' meeting, and given that we are now in a state of under 40 percent funding for the federal Government for health care, that is going to be the death of Medicare if there is another cutback in terms of the citizens of this country, did the Premier (Mr. Filmon) raise it with the Prime Minister in terms

of a concern of Manitobans, and Manitobans with a health care system? Did the Premier let the Prime Minister know that we would collectively go to the wall to save Medicare in this province, something that did not happen in the last federal budget?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, you may recall as I do that when I spoke at the First Ministers' Conference and gave a very lengthy and extensive speech on many aspects of concern to Manitobans, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) said that he agreed with my speech and he thought that I had done an excellent job. I agreed with him then and I certainly say to you that was the strong position I took on behalf of Manitobans.

The Member for Concordia might also like to explain to Manitobans why the Government of which he was a part, a Minister in Cabinet, froze the expenditures on any of the capital works in health care for a period of well over a year. They froze the capital health care program in Manitoba. It is that kind of irresponsible treatment and action that shows exactly where they stand on Medicare and on health care for Manitobans.

Mary Daley Emergency Shelter

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): M. le president, my question is to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme).

* (1355)

Regrettably there has been another incident involving a blocked chimney, and carbon monoxide gas poisoning Manitobans. Mary Daley and her three young children, who rent their home on Dubuc Street in Winnipeg, had to be hospitalized on Sunday following a discovery that because of a blocked chimney in the home they rent they had been gassed by carbon monoxide. Given that the landlord will not do anything and went to the Rentalsman, they told her to talk to Regional Housing. Regional Housing told her they have no suitable housing for her and her three children.

Is the Minister aware of this situation? Why is there nowhere for this family to live after the Department of Health told them they cannot live in their home?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing): First of all, I thank the Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) for bringing this matter to our attention.

First of all, he did mention they went to Winnipeg Regional Housing, which is a body that looks after the maintenance of the particular placement of people. As a matter of fact, I am meeting with Housing people of Winnipeg Regional at their board meeting tonight. I will bring this matter up. I was not aware of the circumstances. There is no one who should be in that particular predicament. That is why we are addressing these issues in a very important Bill that we are bringing forward in the House, Bill No. 42.

Mary Daley Emergency Shelter

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue. My question to the Minister of Economic Security is: why, after Regional Housing told this family to go to Social Services, did her department yet again provide no answers and simply say finding a place to live was their problem?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services): I will look into that matter for the Member and find out what are the circumstances, and why that was said to them.

Mary Daley Emergency Shelter

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, again my question is for the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme). Will this Minister immediately refer this matter back to the Rentalsman office for the appropriate action against a landlord who appears to have no concern for the health of his tenants?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I did answer the question. It just happens to be tonight that I am meeting with the board of Winnipeg Regional Housing. I will bring it up with Winnipeg Regional Housing. I will go to my staff at the Rentalsman office and get a full report. I am sure we can do something about this very, very important matter.

The Forks Development Visitor Centre Funding

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst). Mr. Speaker, we are now in the dying days of the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement. A very important component of that agreement is funding which has been set aside for a major tourist attraction in the City of Winnipeg. Can the Minister tell us how much money has been allocated for a visitors' centre at The Forks?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Approximately \$4.8 million.

Mr. Carr: I have a supplementary question to the Minister. We have learned that the Honourable Jake Epp has written the Minister telling him that the federal contribution of \$2.4 million will not be forthcoming unless the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst) can raise \$4 million from private sources by tomorrow. Could the Minister tell us how much money he has raised?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. Honourable Minister.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Speaker, we have under consideration a very important and very dramatic project that will significantly be able to showcase Manitoba's tourism

product as well as a variety of other historical—and indeed portions of our industry as well.

First of all, the agreement concludes on March 31. The Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, the Honourable Tom Hockin, under whose responsibility this falls, I met with last Friday morning. Mr. Speaker, he has approved this project. He has put no deadline on the project other than the conclusion of the agreement at March 31, 1990.

Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement Deadline Extension

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, the Minister just confirmed a contradiction between two federal Ministers. One says there is no deadline; the other, in a letter that we have dated December 8, says that the deadline for private money is January 31, which is tomorrow.

The Minister has now told us of two different deadlines from two federal Ministers. Is he asking Mr. Epp for an extension of the deadline contained within this letter? What efforts will he (interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Carr: We understand that the relations between Mr. Epp and the Minister are strained, to say the least, over this controversy. Can the Minister tell us what efforts have been made to extend this deadline and if he can secure this very important project for the City of Winnipeg?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, as in every Government, Ministers have certain responsibilities. The Minister responsible for Small Business and Tourism, under which the agreement falls, I met with last Friday. The agreement expires on March 31, 1990. We have until that date to commit to the project.

* (1400)

Consumer Protection Act Enforcement

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery) and arises out of the Law Amendments Committee this morning. On March 23, 1989, 143 head of cattle were seized from the Heaman family of Virden by P.G. Kelleher on behalf of the Virden Credit Union. Only 109 head were accounted for by the time they arrived in Brandon.

My question to the Minister responsible for The Consumer Protection Act is this. Why, after numerous attempts by the Heamans to lodge complaints against the credit union and the receiver in this and other instances, has this Minister not acted and enforced The Consumer Protection Act, since authorized seizures of cattle and other property have been taking place for a number of years? When is he going to act against these modern-day cattle rustlers?

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the matter raised by the Honourable Member is not a new question. The issues relating to this particular matter have been around for some good long period of time. The fact is also that the Honourable Member has done again today what he has done many times, improperly I suggest, and that is to bring forward personal dispute matters into the Legislature—it has been done by Members on the opposite side as well—but also matters that are subject to court action or matters before the courts. So I suggest that the Honourable Member, if he is really sincere and interested in this matter, he might approach myself or the Honourable Member privately, but certainly a private dispute ought not to be raised on the floor of the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. On the point of order raised by the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae), the subjudice convention I believe applies to a criminal matter. Therefore, on the point of order raised, the Honourable Government House Leader does not have a point of order. But I would like to caution the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) that Beauchesne's 411(3) says, a question which seeks information about proceedings in a committee which has not yet made its report to the House is out of order.

The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

Mr. Maloway: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Why have his Ministers of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), the Attorney General (Mr. McCrae), the Minister of Highways (Mr. Albert Driedger), and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery) and he not acted to investigate these matters and have in fact attempted to cover up, after they promised to help when they were in Opposition?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, the matter goes back some time. If the present question is proper, it could indeed be asked of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), the Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans), the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) and any number of other Honourable Members in the New Democratic Party. No doubt, perhaps the Members of the Liberal Party are becoming acquainted with the issues surrounding the matter.

The point is, I have spent some considerable amount of time on this, as have a number of my colleagues, as have our staffs, as have the courts and the legal people, the Government in general and almost everyone involved in it in particular, Mr. Speaker. So what the Honourable Member raises today is something he appears only recently to have become acquainted with, perhaps as early as this morning during a committee. As Your Honour has pointed out, it is not appropriate to raise it here.

I know that for my part, for the part of other Members on this side of the House, we have extended every effort to be co-operative and to be helpful, but in some circumstances where private disputes are involved, there are times when matters are best left to the proper authorities, in this case the courts and the legal system.

Mr. Maloway: The fact of the matter is that most of these happenings happened in the last year when this Government was in office. The seizure of cattle and other activities did not happen in the past, two years ago. They happened in the last year.

Property Seizure RCMP Investigation

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is to the Attorney General (Mr. McCrae). Given that the RCMP were notified about this and other illegal seizures of property, namely two trucks belonging to Lyle Heaman, and that they have failed to follow through with any investigation and are currently being investigated by the RCMP in Ottawa, and on the request of Lyle Heaman, will the Attorney General initiate an investigation based on today's earlier revelations in committee? Will he investigate the Virden RCMP as he has done in the case of Ste. Anne—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The question has been put. The Honourable Minister of Justice.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): As I say, Mr. Speaker, I will heed what you have said, rather than what the Honourable Member has said, with respect to proceedings before a committee. If citizens of Manitoba have complaints or problems respecting services provided by the RCMP, there is a civilian body that can be approached to make complaints about the RCMP. If there are problems with judges, there are two ways that people can deal with that. One way is to appeal judicial decisions. The other way is, if the allegation is that a judge has behaved improperly, to file a complaint with either the Manitoba Judicial Council or the Canadian Judicial Council.

If a person has a problem with a lawyer or feels that a lawyer has acted inappropriately, we have the Law Society of Manitoba. With regard to anyone else, well obviously, with respect to politicians, the Honourable Member has brought the matter forward to the House, I suggest improperly. The Honourable Member has not been noted since this Session began for a responsible attitude towards his conduct of his business in this House, and I think today is a good demonstration, Mr. Speaker.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Second Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I believe the last comments—

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order?

Mr. Ashton: —of the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) are totally out of order.

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order?

Mr. Ashton: The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is raising a question quite legitimately—it is on a point of order, Mr. Speaker—and I would ask the Government House Leader and Attorney General (Mr. McCrae) to withdraw those comments.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Government House Leader, on the same point of order.

Mr. McCrae: I suppose, Mr. Speaker, the comments were made in conjunction with the point that you yourself made, Your Honour, and that is that matters that are raised in committees ought not to be brought forward to the House. It was in that context that I make the comment I made about the Honourable Member. Everyone here knows the way that Honourable Member approaches his duties.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), the Honourable Member does not have a point of order. It is clearly a dispute over the facts.

Heaman Family Agriculture Minister's Awareness

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, regardless of some of the suggestions of the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), the facts are clear that the Heaman family has been at so many doors in the last years attempting to deal with their bankruptcy and the taking away of their land. It has intimately involved the Government. The committee this morning heard for over two hours the long and complicated trials of the Heaman family. The committee was not about those incidents but those incidents were brought to their attention.

My question this afternoon is to the Acting Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Downey). The Heamans complain of wrongdoing and persecution by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and many others in the chain of events that has put them into bankruptcy and off their land. Despite these very serious allegations, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), who is their MLA as well, has had no time for them.

* (1410)

My question is this: what can the Minister tell us about this case and what investigation has been done or is being done presently? Why has the Minister refused to meet?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Let me first of all say that there is no acceptance of the preamble. Let me as well say that this issue has been before the previous administration for some three years. I will take the further questions of the Member as notice.

Heaman Family Legal Aid Certificate

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): I have a supplementary to the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae). Given the long litany of very serious complaints which have come forward, which includes allegations about Crown attorneys and the RCMP, will the Minister support an application by the Heamans to have a legal aid certificate insofar as to study this issue and determine if there is any validity to any of the allegations made, which I might reiterate are very serious indeed?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the comments the Honourable Member has made about the difficulties with respect to agriculture in Manitoba these days and I guess gently ask the Honourable Member to keep that in mind when he and his caucus Members discuss issues related to decentralization of Government Services into rural Manitoba. I hope he remembers that support for rural Manitoba is more than just a question raised in the Legislature on one particular issue.

The difficult situation faced by the family in question is indeed something that Members of this Government are extremely aware of and appropriate attention has been paid to those issues as they have been brought to our attention. I have been very well briefed by the family in this regard with respect to the issues. I have had frequent contacts with that family and I have asked them to—at any time if there is any way that I can properly be of assistance, then I would be happy to do so.

Mr. Edwards: I gather the answer to that is no. Insensitivity seems to have become a way of life for this Government, Mr. Speaker.

Heaman Family Consumer Minister's Awareness

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Finally, for the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs, why has this Minister followed the lead of his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), and also refused repeatedly to meet with the Heamans despite repeated requests to do so?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, let me say that all of us are deeply concerned over the state of the Heamans and the potential loss of their property, because regardless of the circumstances this is a tragedy to that particular family and we feel for them.

The concerns raised by the Heamans to my department were fully reviewed. There was a review by the Consumer and Corporate Affairs. There was a review by the department for the director of the Credit Union Society to ensure that every avenue of justice open to the Heamans was accorded. It is before the courts and the courts will decide what will take place.

We would be quite pleased—if the Member thinks that there was wrongdoing, I would be quite open to have the Heamans apply to the Ombudsman to review the operation. They also have access to the courts.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Environmental Hearing Funding

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): My question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Last week the Government announced that there would be public hearings to be held with the Ducks Unlimited proposal to build a corporate headquarters in the Oak Hammock area. I applaud the Government for that move.

There are some concerns that the conservation and the environmental views will not have an opportunity to be heard, because both the federal and provincial Governments are proponents of this project. Will the Government allow for intervening funding to make sure that the environmental and conservation views are expressed on the concerns of this project?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated before that we have in place in Manitoba a process that allows for complete and open environmental assessments and reviews with public hearings, a process that was put in place by the former New Democratic Government, a legislation that passed this House with the support of both the New Democrats and our Party. We believe it is an excellent process, and we believe that it will indeed give a fair and open hearing to the views of all those who want to be heard on this particular subject. That is what we are committed to.

Environmental Impact Study

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, the Ducks Unlimited proposal is being opposed by environmentalist and naturalist groups right throughout the province. They are very concerned about this project.

I want to ask the Government if they will agree there will be no funding allowed for this project until the complete environmental assessment is carried out, so we are not faced with another Rafferty-Alameda proposal in this province.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, this will go out through the normal process. I am not aware of what the restrictions are on the funding that is being proposed from the Canada-Manitoba Tourism Agreement. My understanding is that any funding that would be made available to the project would be subject to them obtaining all of the approvals necessary, and that includes the full environmental hearing assessment process. Therefore, they could not proceed with any Government funding until those approvals had been obtained.

**Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade
Port of Churchill**

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Prime Minister Mulroney visited the Soviet Union and invited Premier Gorbachev to come to Canada. I wonder if the Minister would use his office to contact the External Affairs office, or the Prime Minister's office, to invite the Premier to visit northern Manitoba and the Port of Churchill to show the mutual benefits that are there for both the Soviets and for Canada. Also, what procurement enticement is his Government using to balance the trade surplus that exists now with the Soviet Union so it would be more beneficial for the Soviets to use that Port of Churchill?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough, on Friday evening when I was co-host of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet performance in Ottawa, and also at noon on Friday when I was very happy to officiate at the opening of the Manitoba office in Ottawa, in both cases we had representation from the Soviet Union, including the ambassador, who attended the ballet that evening. I engaged in discussion with him because he was very complimentary about the ballet and very interested in Manitoba, because of our cultural depth, because of the fact that we are the centre for the Canadian Wheat Board, and we collectively agreed that Manitoba has many common interests with the Soviet Union. There are many people of eastern European origin including the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) and myself. There are many people with backgrounds within the Soviet Union here in this province. We are a prime place for the Soviet Union to consider establishing relationships for trade and for many other patterns—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. Time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the Order Paper, in the Chamber today the Estimates of the Department of Education and Training would be before the House, followed, if they are completed, by those of the Department of Finance.

In Room 255 today, the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources would be before the committee, and if that should complete either today or Thursday, that would be followed by the Department of Justice.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources; and the Honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) in the Chair for the Department of Education and Training.

**CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY
SUPPLY—NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. Chairman (Harold Gilleshammer): I would like to call the Committee of Supply to order. Today we will be considering the Department of Natural Resources and we will begin with an opening statement from the Honourable Minister.

* (1420)

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Chairman, I have a very brief opening statement. I have some copies which I am pleased to distribute to Honourable Members of the committee.

It is a pleasure to return to a department that I have had the good fortune to lead on two previous occasions. This is a third opportunity on my part to return to this department and its fine staff. I would like to formally thank the staff of the department for their continued good service to Manitobans as well as their support to me as I once again become Minister responsible for Natural Resources. This is a rather different way of dealing with Estimates, given they are basically spent for the current fiscal year. However, I would like to identify a number of points that reflect examples of the direction of this Government and the efforts of our dedicated public servants.

The establishment of the sustainable development unit has led to the formation of a draft water strategy and soil strategy that is being put into final form following a successful round of public meetings and workshops that were carried out last year. Following the established pattern and commitment you will soon see the draft of the forest strategy that will be placed before the citizens of Manitoba for review, comment, and advice.

In 1988 we of course experienced the worst fire season known to the province. It is with some considerable pride that I wish to recognize the valiant efforts of the full-time and part-time staff in dealing successfully with some 1,141 fires, almost three times the average. Such factors as 79 new fires in one day and an area burned exceeding Lake Winnipeg or twice the size of Prince Edward Island offer a perspective on the effort that was required. With other departments we participated in evacuating some 23 communities, over 23,000 people without the loss of life or serious injury.

It is with considerable admiration that I would like to recognize the some 2,300 firefighters who provided us with outstanding fire suppression efforts last summer. I would also gratefully acknowledge the help of other Canadian provinces and friends south of the border.

In keeping with the need to protect communities I would note that work has commenced on the Carman diversion as well as the Gimli diversion. This Government recognizes the serious drought situation. As well as providing relief to farmers financially, we are committed to reviewing the long-term needs of rural communities to sustain their current industries and to

ensure future expansion. I have instructed the staff to review their programs to ensure that they are actively implementing the sustainable development direction of this Government.

Allow me to conclude by stating the pleasure it is to be back with Natural Resources, whose programs touch on so many lives within our province.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Now we will allow time for the critic of the official Opposition Party for an opening statement. The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Chairperson, I am very pleased to be here. At some points we were wondering in this Estimates process whether we would get to Natural Resources. Particularly in this year, with the forest fires and with the changeover in the forest industries in the province and the concerns of wildlife and water resources, it is a most important department.

I guess two factors on which I would like to express my disappointment, one in that the details of the Supplementary Estimates were not available until today, and I do not think that is the usual manner in proceeding. I would hope that the Minister can clear up why we were delayed in getting our detailed Estimates. That practice seems to have been that they be tabled sometime before Estimates. Second and more important is that in looking through the department I cannot help but note that in most areas the Minister has received a reduction in support, finances, for the department in a time when we should be increasing our support for Natural Resources and protection of.

I would like to submit to the committee that I suspect we are doing a lot of thinking and very little doing because of the monies having to be channeled into policy development but not carrying them through. We will be very interested in going through the departments of the various sections of this department in order to find out just how much hands-on information we can get and how much the strategy is being followed through to the workings of the resources themselves rather than just keeping the paperwork flowing through the department.

I have heard the expressions from members, both of the public and of Government, about the frustration they have in not being able to carry through what they know is possible and what they know is necessary for the province. It is indeed frustrating. I think the Minister's commitment is not reflected by the reduction in budget and hope that together we can show his Government why there should be more money next year in the budget to make sure that this department is giving adequate resources.

* (1430)

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. We will now hear from the critic of the second Opposition Party, the Honourable Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we are finally into the

Estimates process as well. I would welcome the new Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), the new-old Minister. I know that he brings a common-sense approach to this department, which I think is a very necessary asset to have, and he brings that to the department.

There are some areas of concern that we have, especially in the area of soils and water strategy. I think that there were good public relations efforts and I think there is some need for follow-up. I hope that the Government is serious with those strategies that they brought forward, because I think with the sustainable development initiative they have undertaken, I was hoping there would be a little more of a push to the federal Government to start their sustainable development headquarters here in Manitoba, which would have given Manitoba quite a bit of initiative in the development of some of those areas dealing with sustainable development.

I look forward to the forestry strategy, because I think that is one of the areas that is very crucial to Manitoba especially with Repap getting a good portion of the forest in Manitoba as assigned to them for harvesting. I think that there are some questions that need to be dealt with in that whole procedure.

The fire I guess is one of the areas that we will be addressing during the Estimates process. We want to deal with the procedure that was used during the emergency evacuation of communities, the lack of communications between the municipal level of Government and the Department of Natural Resources and Emergency Measures when after the evacuation had taken place there were communities that had difficulty in getting information back to their loved ones that were scattered throughout the province. I think there needs to be some improvement there.

The Minister I am sure promised that there would be a public inquiry into the procedure. That has not been coming forward, but I hope that the Minister will see the wisdom of having a public inquiry into that because I think we can learn from a disaster like we experienced last year and we can make some improvements in the procedure. I know there was a large—the Minister says 23,000 people were evacuated.

The firefighters need to be commended as well as the volunteers from other jurisdictions, but we cannot overlook the volunteers that also assisted in every community that those evacuees were brought into. There were many, many volunteers that worked many hours to make those few people feel comfortable and welcome in their community.

I was especially proud of the community of The Pas, which in many instances has received a black eye because of the Betty Osborne case. I think in this case the people of The Pas proved that they are not racist, and they do go out of their way to make their fellow Manitobans welcome in their community. They proved themselves what an asset they were during that time.

I look forward to some discussion on park fees as well. I had raised with the Minister, on previous occasions, about the park fees being charged to seniors

in this province who previously had not been subjected to a park fee. The Minister said that he would look into it. I hope that they see their way clear to eliminating the need for those seniors paying an entrance fee, and I would like to know what is being contemplated for park fees in the coming year.

There is some concern about accessibility, some of the areas that were dependent on VIA Rail to provide accessibility to the campers and the cottagers, so I am hoping that the Department of Natural Resources has taken some initiatives in that area and provided some alternatives, or are doing some lobbying with the federal Government to continue to provide some means of accessibility to that area.

I look forward to dealing with the whole issue of water. I think that is a very interesting strategy that the Government has. I know that when the strategy first came out, you did not address—I recognize that you were not the Minister at that time, but there was not the recognition of northern Manitoba. Eventually, there was a supplementary piece of information that came out which did address northern Manitoba's needs.

I know that The Ground Water Act is now under consideration at the Legislature, is another area that we are concerned about with the use of the water and some of the priority uses of water for the citizens of Manitoba. With that I will conclude my remarks and look forward to the line by line discussions of the department.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the Minister and the critics for their opening statements. At this time we will call the Minister's staff forward to the table, and in a few minutes we will have the Minister introduce his staff.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to proceed. I am accompanied by Mr. Richard Goulden, Associate Deputy Minister, who will introduce further staff when they are called upon to join us at the table.

Mr. Chairman: Under Manitoba practice, the debate of the Minister's Salary is traditionally the last item considered for the Estimates of a department. Accordingly, we shall now proceed with consideration of the next line under Item 1. Administration and Finance, (b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries \$229,700—the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that both the Liberal and New Democratic Party Critics would want to deal with substance in the time available to us, and I would simply draw it to their attention that as has already been drawn to my attention. I assure the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) that I am very much aware of the fact that Members of the committee will note virtually no change in any of these administrative costs that you see before you in the Estimates. Some small revisions here and there that are obviously accountable for some change in a staff or some small reflection of some inflationary increases but in the main, no significant changes have taken place of this nature in the department, and perhaps we can proceed onto those areas of the department that are of greater interest to committee members.

Mr. Chairman: No. (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$87,700—pass; (c) Resource Allocation and Economics: (1) Salaries \$813,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$193,400—pass; (d) Financial Services: (1) Salaries \$881,000—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$222,100—pass; (e) Human Resource Management: (1) Salaries \$830,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$170,800—pass.

Item (f) Computer Services: (1) Salaries \$300,500—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, just to ask on this, is this Computer Services strictly for the administration or is this including the Computer Services for Land Management—it is called EIS proposals.

* (1440)

Mr. Enns: These would be associated with the administration of the department.

Mr. Chairman: Item (f)(1) Salaries \$300,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$41,900—pass; (g) Administrative Services: (1) Salaries \$696,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$119,600—pass; (h) Internal Audit: (1) Salaries \$150,300—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$10,000—pass.

Item 1.(j) Venture Manitoba Tours Ltd. \$50,000—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: I will just ask the Minister to give an overview of the state of the Venture Manitoba Tours Program.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, under Venture Manitoba Tours Ltd., the operation at Hecla Island is partly funded, although Gull Harbour Resort reports as a Crown corporation on its own. The financial situation at Gull Harbour is considerably more encouraging than what has been experienced in the past.

In meeting with the board of directors, just prior to the holiday season, and subsequently responding to some additional requests for some additional funding for some capital improvement of the facility, it was pointed out to me that on a straight accounting basis we are now virtually at a break-even situation with the resort at Gull Harbour.

Unfortunately, Members, particularly the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), will be aware that the facility carries a considerable accumulated debt, the cost of which requires servicing. That is reflected in the annual report of Gull Harbour. I think that including the services, charges, against the corporation from previous years, the kind of net bottom line figure for the resort, we would be—excuse me for a moment. That is reflected in this line. I just had confirmation that we are looking at about a \$50,000 cost to the province, which is reflected in the line currently before you in the Estimates.

Mrs. Charles: If the Winnipeg Beach proposal goes through, does the Minister anticipate that it will be set up along the lines of the Venture Tour programming

and that Natural Resources will be supporting it through their bookwork?

Mr. Enns: I am not fully familiar with the project that the Member refers to—the Winnipeg Beach or the Gimli?

Mrs. Charles: I am sorry, I meant the Grand Beach proposal.

Mr. Enns: No, I am not perhaps the most appropriate Minister to be directing that question to, although it certainly involves my department in terms of the proposed development facility being located within the provincial park under my jurisdiction.

My understanding from my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, (Mr. Ernst) that what had been hoped for, or what is indeed sought, both in the Gimli development and at Grand Beach would be the role of a private development that would pursue those potential developments.

My further understanding is that—coming back to Grand Beach—Honourable Members will be aware that proposals were invited by the province through the Department of Tourism, and it is my understanding that at this time no satisfactory proposals were received. As such, none are being entertained at this time. Now I am aware that through the Department of Tourism there are ongoing discussions with prospective developers or developer but certainly nothing of the nature that can be described as firm.

Mrs. Charles: On the Grand Beach proposal, because it is on park land, would this department hold the land and would it be—has it been discussed how that land would be held through this department? Will it be separated from the parks resources? I suspect it would be and that there will be considerable development on that land. The worth of the land, because of the buildings and support services on it would definitely escalate. I was just wondering if there has been discussion of how that would be reflected in Estimates in the years where that program goes on.

Mr. Enns: The Member raises a question that is constantly in debate within the department and more specifically within the Parks Branch, and that is, the requirements that a private developer has to feel comfortable with the security of tenure or to meet requirements that enable him to raise necessary funding to finance the venture. In the normal commercial circumstances development of this kind very often would want ownership of the land base upon which then mortgages or monies or credit can be granted.

Discussions with the Department of Tourism in drawing up criteria and conditions of the guidelines for the proposals on this development were not conclusive. In other words, we would be prepared in parts to modify or to consider seriously the kind of land tenure that a prospective developer may require. What I mean by that is, perhaps a longer leasing arrangement than currently is in use, and this is done from time to time. It is not unique to the department.

The consideration of selling the land outright to a proposed developer was not seriously considered by the department. The present position of my department is that we would resist or we would not sell park land for this purpose. We are more than willing to sit down with a proposed developer to arrive at a satisfactory leasing arrangement that would accommodate their requirements.

Mrs. Charles: Would the land at Oak Hammock Marsh in a similar situation be held under something like the Venture Manitoba Tours Ltd. or is this a separate ownership procedure?

Mr. Enns: I think the situation would be similar. The land on which the Oak Hammock Marsh is located has been acquired by Government over the last number of years, commencing in the mid-'60s. We would likely do, particularly with that organization who are the proponents of a proposed development at Oak Hammock, carry on with a procedure that they are very familiar with and we are very familiar with.

Whenever Ducks Unlimited enters into an agreement with the province to undertake some wetland restoration works, usually in the form of channelling or diking or small dam construction, and if it happens to be on Crown land, they come to my department seeking a lease arrangement. This past year I can report to the Honourable Members and Members of the committee that we have entered into several such lease arrangements with Ducks Unlimited on lands that are Crown. If of course the project is undertaken on private property, then Ducks Unlimited makes arrangements with the private land owner.

Specifically to the question, we would be looking again because of the nature of the proposed development that is a substantial capital development that is being called for, the lease arrangement would be of perhaps some 50-year tenure to provide for that security of tenure that the proponent would feel necessary before proceeding with it.

* (1450)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: For accountability, in that the province will be putting money if this proposal goes forward in Oak Hammock Marsh into the project, where would we find accountability in Government of the proposal in bringing it to Estimates? Would it not be best to at least put that item under this heading in order that in further Estimates we could look into these items and have some accountability back from what is going on and the profits or lack of, the policy or lack of, and that therefore we would have one item where we can discuss it in Government if it is not put as a separate corporation itself to report to a committee?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I think it is important first here to separate the accountability of any public dollars that may or may not float toward this project into specific areas that are public dollars. The Department

of Tourism has been identified as a source and there has been indication by the Department of Tourism of their interest in being part of this project. I leave it to the appropriate Minister to respond as to the accountability of those dollars, but I imagine they would be very readily available in the general accounting of the Canada Tourism Agreement that no doubt are housed within his Estimates.

In the instance of the department that I am responsible for, Natural Resources, this would not come under this kind of an item. We have an ongoing presence at Oak Hammock since its inception. We have Natural Resources staff from the Wildlife Branch employed there. We currently and since inception operate a modest interpretive centre. Those costs are shown and accounted for in one line in the appropriations within these Estimates any added increase of those costs as a result of the proposed Ducks Unlimited project would be reflected in these Estimates from year to year.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, just to clarify, are we dealing with Venture Manitoba Tours?

Mr. Enns: Yes.

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate whether there is any other opportunity to, I just do not recall whether there is any other opportunity to discuss Venture Manitoba Tours as a Crown corporation in committee, or is this the only opportunity?

Mr. Enns: My chief administrative officer advises that when we table our financial statement before the Economic Development Committee that there will be an opportunity to discuss the financial statement of the Gull Harbour Resort proper on that occasion. I would seek some guidance as to when that occurs or when that happens, but to answer your question, that would be an opportunity where under the new, I believe it is under the Crown accountability amendments Act, or whatever you want to call it, that now will have operations like Gull Harbour. It is mandatory for them to table their year-end operating statements before that group which I understand will be called by the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, that will obviously mean that there will be other opportunities, although it may be some time before that committee would meet. It may not be when this House is sitting. The report would come I guess sometime after the fiscal year-end of March 31, which would give us the financial statements then as of the end of this fiscal year.

I would ask the Minister to indicate what the projections are for this coming fiscal year for Venture Manitoba Tours without going into too much detail at this time, because I recognize the limitations of time, but I would like to know what the projections are at the present time.

While the Minister is getting that information, I might mention that the board at the time that I was Minister responsible for Venture Manitoba Tours, made up of Chairman Mickey Levine and Vice-chair Alan

Finnbogason, I believe. I am not sure whether they are still the chair and vice-chair. They had indicated at the time that they were shooting for close to break even in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988. When I say close, it is all relative because it was losing a lot of money a few years before that. I believe it was about \$150,000 deficit they thought they might have—and certainly would break even by March 31, 1989.

Now we are coming up to March 31, 1990, and I would just ask the Minister, does this \$50,000 then represent what the department had to subsidize the operation for 1989, and then what is the projection for 1990, or is this for the year ending March 31, 1990. In light of that \$50,000, I am wondering what has happened that the projections have not borne out because they were projecting to break even or even make a small profit by this time.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, allow me just to take this opportunity to introduce Mr. Bill Podolsky, who is our Executive Director of Administration, known to some of you but perhaps not all of us, who by the way also is a director of Gull Harbour Resort, the operation under discussion.

Just prior to your coming to committee some answers were provided to the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) who was asking these questions.

The \$50,000 that is indicated here is the charge of a loss if you would like of the resort. That is after depreciation. The books and the more detailed financial administration report would indicate that the operation on year-to-year operating expenses for the year ending March 31, '90 shows a profit of very close to \$100,000.00.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin, (Mr. Plohman) has put on the record, the former Minister of this department, is well aware that one of the ongoing complaints if you like of the Board of Directors of Gull Harbour—which in the main has remained unchanged, Mr. Levine is still acting as chairman, along with Mr. Finnbogason and Mr. Podolsky, as I already mentioned. I believe there have been two additional members added. They have I think I am sure raised the issue with the Member for Dauphin as they keep raising it with me. The corporation carries a substantial debt load and is currently being asked to shoulder those costs. The position put forward quite frankly by the people at Gull Harbour is that they could now be not only more or less operating in the black, but they could be finding the necessary monies to pay for the kind of continual upgrading that a facility of that kind needs.

I would indicate to the Member of the committee that an additional \$200,000 was provided to Gull Harbour Resort for some badly needed repairs to the water, plumbing, pool area and general upgrading of the facility. I was going to say maintenance, but quite frankly some of the work that is being done is more than just maintenance; it is capital improvement to a plant that is aging.

The position of the board is that if they did not have to, if we would change the financial situations under which they operate under, then they are now in a position

that they could generate those funds from their own operations. That is a matter that I will have continuing discussions about with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), but for the time being that is where the matter sits.

* (1500)

Mr. Plohman: I was going to get to that and I appreciate the Minister raising that issue because that is maybe the key component insofar as whether it shows a profit or not. In operating it is showing a profit at the present time and that is good news.

What we are asking for is, through the Department of Finance, to write off some of the long-term debt in order to get that burden off their back so they could operate and see some rewards for their good operation too, insofar as using some of the profits to allow them to do the kind of things the Minister is talking about in terms of upgrading and maintenance and the heavy maintenance that is required. I urge the Minister to consider that. I know that we did do some of that a few years back.

There was some debt that was removed, but there is still a major portion of it there, and it is a question of whether they should be funding that or portions of it or all of it over the long period of time and what it does to the overall operation. It is a fact of life that it does cost to put such a facility in place but it is a question of whether they should be shouldering that full burden at the present time.

Is the Minister—can he indicate whether the golf course is being operated by the resort?

Mr. Enns: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The golf course has been taken over by the resort, formerly the responsibility of the Parks Branch. It is my understanding that they are doing reasonably well with the course. It is a major profit centre for the resort and I look forward to that continuing.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, was there any thought given to the employees being transferred to Venture Tours as was being planned at one time when—or are they still working for the Parks Branch?

Mr. Enns: Staff informs me that they are now employees with Venture.

Mr. Plohman: I would just ask the Minister whether there are any other major changes, very briefly, planned there. First of all, can the Minister indicate whether there are any plans by himself or his Government to divest of this facility? Also, whether he has any plans for major changes or investments, expenditures at the facility?

Mr. Enns: I had the pleasure of attending a board meeting on Hecla Island late November, early December. My role was to acquaint myself with the operation. The board is enthusiastic about turning Gull Harbour into a—placing the resort into a position to realize its full potential. It is without question one of the tools within our park system, the whole Hecla Park operation.

We still have some difficulties in providing the kind of population base to both the park and subsequent security of operation to a resort like Gull Harbour. Moves are afoot within the Parks Branch to help us in that direction. There are probably more initiatives being planned with respect to the park proper than any fundamental changes to the operation of the resort other than the current upgrading and the constant efforts to improve the occupancy rates, the utilization of the facility. There is optimism with respect to having quite a degree of control, of offering package units with their management of the golf course now being integral to the overall operation of the resort, that they are succeeding, and certainly the financial figures as they are coming in would seem to bear that out. To answer your question directly, the Government has no plans and I have not entertained any fundamental changes such as the Member suggests with respect to Gull Harbour.

Mr. Plohman: I want to make it clear on the record that I was not suggesting it. I am just raising it as a question to the Minister and am very pleased to hear that there is no plan at the present time and hopefully will not be one that would see a divestiture of this facility, particularly in light of the fact that it is under good management, I believe, and is making a profit in terms of their operations. It does not have to be a major profit; it just has to ensure that it is not a drain on the taxpayers and I think that is what has been achieved as far as what I would see as a priority.

Has the road been paved, completed right through now, all phases of the construction? The last time I was up there—I know we had undertaken an effort to ensure that that road was paved right to the facility and upgraded first, the grading, and it was being done in a number of phases. I know this is not strictly under the Minister's portfolio, it is under Highways, but it still deals with the overall health of the facility and the park itself, so it was one where I felt, as Minister of Highways at that time, it was important to not worry about whose jurisdiction it was, just get it done. We undertook to start that project and had actually completed a portion but I just wonder where it is at, at the present time.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that it is virtually complete, and as I recall, I have not driven it, that is the case. There is some remedial work that still has to be done right in front of the resort unfortunately, about a kilometre. I tried to have that done. We had some heightened activity at the park and at the resort this summer, the late summer, the visit of the President of Iceland joining us and spending a night on Hecla Island. I can recall pressing my parks officials to see whether we could not complete that bit of outstanding roadwork in time, but my honourable friend, the Member for Dauphin, will have great appreciation of how unbending highway engineers can be and how democratic they are. They would not be seen to be rushed in their schedule merely for the visit of such a distinguished personage.

Mr. Plohman: I would say that the Pope did carry more weight when he visited and that there was special work done in order to accommodate the visit of the Pope

in 1985 or 1984, I believe. So it is unfortunate that the Minister was not able to convince officials to have that completed in that period.

I will not take any more time on this, Mr. Chairman. This is a very interesting area and one that I personally feel a great deal of attachment to, having been involved for a short time and I just want to encourage the Minister to try to implement some of the ideas that come forward from the board to improve the marketing and to improve the opportunities for packaged tours there because of the tremendous potential that I think it has and an opportunity to show Manitoba off at its best.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—pass.

Item 2. Regional Services, provides for the delivery of services and programs at the community level. The Honourable Minister.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I will not be doing this on every occasion, but I do want to take this occasion to introduce Members of the committee to Mr. Harvey Boyle, who is our Director of Regional Services, and to again, as I did in my opening address—it was largely on Mr. Boyle's shoulders that the heavy responsibilities and extra workload throughout the long, hot, dry summer that our firefighting efforts centred on. His shop, located on 485 St. James Street was our fire headquarter centre.

Without any increase in staff, that is, in terms of administrative staff—we of course hired many, many additional firefighters as the fire season progressed, but the summer was a very busy one for Mr. Boyle's people. I want to acknowledge it in a very public way. It was a long summer, the Members will recall. We were faced with severe fire outbreaks in early May in the south Interlake region, and we really got no rest from it. It just carried right on until finally we found some moisture in the late fall of the year.

* (1510)

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(a) Administration: (1) Salaries \$890,500—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: Under this appropriation there certainly is a lot to discuss. But before we get into the fires of the summer, I would like to ask the Minister what his plans are in arming with fire arms the natural resource officers. Is that a plan for this coming year?

Mr. Enns: I am sorry, I apologize for—

Mrs. Charles: You make me feel unimportant here.

I was asking whether there were any plans under this appropriation, or in any other, as a policy of the department; whether you are going to be arming the natural resource officers. Could you give us an outline of where you are in discussions and our rules for this request that they are putting forward?

Mr. Enns: Madam Chairman, or Mr. Chairman—

An Honourable Member: It is easy to make those kinds of mistakes.

Mr. Enns: Well, actually, Mr. Chairman, it should not be. Those who are graduates of the gender school that we are now called upon to attend ought not to be making those kind of slip-ups.

Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Selkirk (Mr. Charles), just by way of a small explanation. Within the department, the natural resource officers are an association of their own, some 700-800 people. They have after some, I believe it is fair to say, fairly intense debate within their own organization—because while this request has come forward over the past period of time, it is an issue that is of concern to many of the officers themselves.

However, I was approached, shortly after becoming Minister, in a formal way by the association officers. They did formally request of myself and the senior administration to make the necessary arrangements or draw up the plans which we would have to give some careful consideration to allow natural resource officers, under prescribed conditions, to carry fire arms.

The position was given serious consideration by myself, together with senior management of the department, and we have responded to that request indicating that no change is contemplated by this administration, by this Minister. That was indicated to them some time ago in early fall. My position remains unchanged today.

Mrs. Charles: Could the Minister indicate to me, in that there has been some requests from the people interested in the Red River fishing industry, that the Natural Resource officers who are dealing with the public on the river are not in uniform and have not a vehicle or a boat that is well advertised as being of the Department of Natural Resources, is this a procedure? Do the Natural Resource officers regularly wear uniforms, and are they well identifiable to the public?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am advised by my director that there are occasions when the Resource officers are not addressed in recognizable departmental uniforms. I remind Honourable Members of the committee that one of the very serious responsibilities that the department has is to try to the best of our ability to restrict and to control the amount of illegal activity, poaching of any kind of variety, of contravention of the different regulations that are applicable in the province in respect to fishing and hunting. There are occasions when, from an enforcement point of view, it is the judgment of the management responsible to send out staff who are dressed in civilian clothes.

It also occurs, I think, and understandably so—and if the Honourable Member has specific complaints that she wishes to register, I am sure the department will be paying attention to them. I am advised that we hire a considerable number of student staff and support during the summer. My department is one of the major employers of student help, and it is entirely possible that on a hot summer day some of the student staff will be dressed in civilian clothes.

Mrs. Charles: The Minister mentioned 700 to 800 officers. Could the staff indicate how much of their time

would be spent in field work? Are these 700 to 800, 90 percent of their time on field work, or are they required to do other duties as well?

Mr. Enns: In actual fact there are what she refers to in the general classification of natural resource officers the larger number of 700 to 800. In many instances, they are in various administrative roles as well. There are, in fact, some 150 full-time field officers, the kind I think that she is asking about, who are on a full-time basis in the field carrying out the responsibilities of the department and checking for infractions on the part of citizens.

Mrs. Charles: All things being perfect, which they probably never will be, how many officers would be required to adequately cover the province?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I suppose that we have allowed our political process to some extent become too politicized or polarized that we have not always availed ourselves of the advantages that the system can bring. The Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) will understand when I say, and I say this without fear or favour publicly, that a department like mine—and my Estimates reflect it—is virtually in a no-growth pattern. That comes at a time when certainly I as a Minister had the privilege of having this department 10, indeed 20 years ago, at a time when in that same period of time the public awareness, public concern, indeed public demand for attention by this department has heightened considerably. There are many more people today in Manitoba who are keenly and actively aware and concerned about all things relative to this department, our natural resources, our wildlife and our water.

I have a problem within the department that the resources that the department is equipped with to respond to these are, understandably, as the former Ministers of the Crown will understand—there is always a competition for all departments to avail themselves of what they consider to be a fair share of the provincial resources available to Government. It is also recognition of the kinds of demands that are on Government.

The truth of the matter is that the demands on all governments—it is not unique to Manitoba—but all governments tend to favour the social services, whether it is health, education, family services, making it more and more difficult for departments such as this to receive the kind of resources that quite frankly in my judgment they occur. I welcome the Member for Selkirk's (Mrs. Charles) support when in her questions, she suggests that perhaps the department could use a bit more.

* (1520)

Mrs. Charles: I certainly did not expect the Minister to have to defend himself. I am sure he is working hard to get as much money into the area and I understand, with restricted budgets, that there are reasons why certain departments get more monies and some are appropriate reasons and some perhaps could be arguable. When you have fewer than 20 officers per

region, you just know that in this province we are not getting full and adequate coverage that we could have if there were more, and that is not in any way suggest that these officers are not working as hard and as diligently as possible.

With the new programs coming into place and the Acts that the Minister is passing, I highly doubt that there will be the staff available even though we are passing these wonderful Bills, hopefully in the near future, but if we do not have the staff out there to put them in place, then you can have all the programs, ideas, and policies you want, but it would be hard to make sure that they happen.

Further on, to speed along here. This summer we had the tragic occurrence where there was a drowning in the Whiteshell area. There was a beach patrol on, but were not available to be of any help in the given situation. Can the Minister update us on what training will be available for those students in most cases, or those employees taken on by the Parks Branch in beach safety patrol in that the training is covered under this department?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, the Member alludes to a regrettable and sad occurrence at one of our beaches. The Members will be aware that the matter was investigated at some length at a public inquest. The Members of my staff, senior Members of staff as well as the individual employees involved, were called upon to provide their testimony with respect to that unfortunate occurrence. Staff has always had a difficulty in this area in the sense that we do not provide what I think—in the appropriate or definitive understanding of the word "lifeguard"—lifeguarding services throughout our system, and even where we provide, we purposely refer to them not as lifeguards but as beach patrols to try to make that differentiation.

The circumstances that prevail in other swimming areas, such as some of our pools in the city where regulations are firm and clear with respect to lifeguarding services, the role of the lifeguard is clear; the duties are performed in accordance to what the physical features demand. A pool of a certain size has X number of lifeguards. We are asking, in our case, beach patrol to carry out some lifeguarding function in the natural setting which can be a body of water 10, 20, 40 times the size of Sherbrook Pool or something like that.

It has always been a concern to the department that the presence of beach patrols not create that sense of false security, that we are in a position with the resources we have and the job description of the individuals that we have to carry out that kind of full lifeguarding protection service that, I think, the public sometimes wants to associate with other swimming facilities.

It should be noted, for instance, that out of the some 50 beaches that we operate in the park system, we only have beach patrol on about 11 of them. By far the majority of our public beaches within the park system have no supervision, if you like, of any kind. The Honourable Member will recall that, at the time,

the inquest proceedings questioned the other duties that were assigned to beach patrol people in conjunction with their job descriptions within the department. I am not prepared to provide any hard and fast answers to that time but to indicate that as one would be expected, the department took very seriously the whole question of reviewing our approach in this area.

The specific recommendations of the inquest are being given active consideration by the department, and it is my understanding that we will not have those specific recommendations of the inquest before us for another week, is it, or—but individual Members, senior Members of the department who, I might say, were put under some extreme pressure in being called to testify at that inquest report are certainly mindful of the issues that were raised by the judge. We will be coming, in the coming year, with a program that hopefully takes into account a clearer role, a clearer job description if you like, of the beach patrol. While not in position to presume at this moment whether or not we will increase our numbers in resources in this area, those are at the moment in the policy development stage.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—(pass); 2. Other Expenditures, \$779,700—pass; 3. Problem Wildlife Control, \$141,700—pass.

(b) Northwest Region: (1) Salaries, \$1,085,500—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we get into areas of the department that overlap in responsibility because of the enforcement of regulations under other sections of the department, for example, fisheries and so on. I want to just ask at this time whether the Minister can shed some light on the issue of the small mesh fishery in Lake Winnipegosis and enforcement, and whether it has required additional staff to ensure that there is no abuse of this fishery. There is three-inch mesh which of course leaves open the possibility of a lot of small pickerel being caught. Therefore, in considering that we have had the lake closed for three years in an attempt to replenish the fish supplies there, the resource, so that over a long period of time it would continue to yield the valuable catch for the people in the area, through generations, on a sustainable basis. I guess it is sustainable development at its best if it would work.

In the past that always has not been the case, with the management of these lakes. Now the Minister has made the decision, or his predecessor, to go forward with a small mesh fishery on Lake Winnipegosis. If he could just briefly indicate to what extent that has been opened up with the period of time that it was for this year, or is. How many nets are being allowed, and what has been the experience with the catch of small pickerel in these nets? Has he in fact been able to quantify that with the staff that he does have, keeping in mind that he has not expanded the number of officers available. Perhaps he has reallocated some officers for that purpose? I would like to know more about that.

* (1530)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, firstly, just on the matter that the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) raises, that

particularly with a branch like this there is overlapping. This is the services end of the department that does work for Parks and does work for all branches of the Government. I have no problem with responding to reasonable inclusion of matters that Members may feel are not specifically under the item before us.

I can indicate to the Honourable Member that the small mesh fishing certainly does impose some additional workload on the department. We have not had to hire any additional people. I am advised that, what is a fairly common practice within the department, we allocate personnel from within to help us with the supervision of that fishery. I might say that my branch has a great deal of mobility within it, as the Member knows. Many southern employees of the department found themselves spending most of the summer in the North, for instance, in the fire situation.

We utilize the staff to their maximum to respond to extra workload areas. This of course is not an emergency or extra workload area; it is delivered policy that was entered into to expand the fisheries to include the perch fisheries. I am advised that with the addition of two new boats that help us with some additional patrolling and in general fishing, and the officers that we have in place, the fishery is proceeding and, I might say, in the main well received by the commercial fishermen in the province. There have been some reports just in the last little while of increased netting of pickerel in some cases. They have been reported to us, and the fisheries are being closely monitored.

Mr. Plohman: Well, that is a major concern, with Lake Manitoba also involved with small mesh fishery, that there just are not enough officers to go around to do the job. I remember, as Minister, when we were dealing with some experimental small mesh fisheries, I was emphasizing the importance that fishermen themselves had to be involved and take the responsibility to police this if it is going to work. There is no way that they could simply rely on officers and not report those that they know are doing things in violation of the regulations that have been set out. If they do not all work together to take a responsibility for the enforcement themselves, in fact they are going to end up losing that season, and perhaps losing the resource that is there, and depleting the lake. There are a lot of people out there now who still think that this will deplete the lake, and that there are too many small pickerels being taken in some areas. The fishermen that are doing it are not being caught.

I do not personally have knowledge of that or I would let the Minister know immediately, but I have been told in generalities of this concern. I just alert the Minister to the need, because I had some serious concerns about a small-mesh fishery myself, and its enforcement. I alert the Minister to give special attention to this if he has not already thought of that himself, or felt that was a priority to do that himself, because it could very well harm the fishery further, in particular in Lake Winnipegosis where the commercial fisherman have gone through a period of three years without having a season in order to try to replenish the fishery.

Then at the time when we are just getting through it we go in with a whole new concept, which I think

makes it very difficult to determine whether it was a success or not, the efforts that were put in and through the co-operative efforts of everyone, to close that fishery for three years. It was a very difficult decision for everyone, I am sure.

Mr. Enns: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable former Minister of Natural Resources points out philosophical differences between us. Representing as he does the philosophy of Big Brother is watching you, he feels uncomfortable unless the resource officer is peering over one of our citizens' shoulder at all times. I, on the other hand, take the more enlightened view; I appreciate the voluntary compliance with the regulations that have been properly thought out by competent staff, administered by a progressive Minister that they in the main will be adhered to, and need the occasional tap on the shoulder, the polite suggestion that, could we measure your net or could we check you catch, that in the main compliance will be achieved.

I have to report to the Honourable Member that is the case. We have had instances where individual fishermen—in this case, in one instance that I can actually report has been drawn to my attention from the Lake Winnipegosis Fisheries, the very fisheries that he mentioned, and he is right that we are extremely concerned about the re-entry of the Lake Winnipegosis Fisheries into our commercial fishery business after the three-year closure—where a fisherman reported to our resource officer the fact that there was in his judgment, the fisherman's judgment, an unacceptably high number of pickerel being caught with a small mesh.

He was able to, because he was checking daily, to release a large number of them and to release them alive back into the lake. But the fact that he took the time to report to our officer that that was occurring at least in that part of the lake I felt was an encouraging sign of the kind of self-realization. The Member is quite correct, it would be a policy that would certainly have to be re-examined very quickly if it can be proven that we are damaging the prime fisheries, walleye, whitefish in these lakes where small-mesh net fishing is being allowed.

Mr. Plohman: Well, I do not think we are looking at different philosophies. In the case, as the Minister has facetiously pointed out, I was the one who was saying that I felt it was important, that voluntary compliance was really the only way it would be truly successful over the long term, so there would not be depletion of the resource and it would not impact on the long-term health of the lake. But I do believe it is a very sensitive issue. There is the value of the catch, which is so important, particularly when there is not a very healthy fishery there for the pickerel, so there is a need for additional resources for the people involved. They just are not getting enough income from their traditional sources of income.

So this gave them another opportunity, but I do want to say to the Minister that the onus of proof should not be on the side that has to demonstrate that it is harming the lake, the onus of proof should be on the other side that it should be proven and shown that it is not harming the lake. It takes much longer to prove

it is harmful. Maybe it is too late by then. So I urge the Minister to exercise caution to ensure that there are additional patrols from time to time, because he has an example of a case where an individual did report that. How many times has that not been reported? The Minister does not know. I do not know, but I will bet you, there were a lot of them.

Not because people are dishonest, because they just do not bother getting into the trouble of doing it. The Minister would be the same way if he came across a situation, perhaps people just do not like to get involved and report to authorities and so on. They would just rather keep quiet. That is just human nature in many cases. There is the odd one who will come forward. I would just say to the Minister that he may have to look more closely at this and ensure that it is monitored in such a way, in an efficient way, so that he is not missing the boat on this, and then he finds out too late that it has done irreparable harm to the resource.

* (1540)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I accept the good advice the Honourable Member is giving the committee. I think it is one of the benefits that accrue when we go through this procedure in the presence of staff, that staff also is a recipient of that advice directly, as being expressed by individual members of the committee from time to time and it will be accepted as such.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—the Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, I just had one question on the northwest region. There has been a letter written to the Minister from the LGD of Consol, requesting that there be some additional staff put in. I recognize it was the previous administration that cut it down to a half-time position in The Pas, but now with additional work that the Department of Natural Resources is doing in The Pas region, Polder III, there are many complaints that they are unable to get hold of people in dealing with construction. Is there any thought being given to increasing that to a full-time position in The Pas?

Mr. Enns: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, to the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) that situation is currently being reviewed within the branch. I would say in a more general vein that it is probable that in the relatively foreseeable future, with heightened activity in and around The Pas, particularly with respect to forestry, but all the adjacent and ancillary concerns that heightened forestry activity will bring to the attention of my department, whether it is in wildlife matters or water related matters, that it is fair to hold out to the Honourable Member to The Pas office that there may well be some additional staff required in that area in the coming future.

The specific position that you refer to is in the engineering construction division and that, I am advised, is currently being reviewed.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—pass, (2) Other Expenditures \$360,000—pass; (c) Northeast Region:

(1) Salaries \$1,268,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$700,300—pass; (d) Interlake Region: (1) Salaries \$1,376,000—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$499,600—pass; (e) Southwest Region: (1) Salaries \$868,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$291,100—pass; (f) Western Region: (1) Salaries \$1,268,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$419,000—pass; (g) Southeast Region: (1) Salaries \$1,052,200—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$326,700—pass; (h) Eastern Region: (1) Salaries \$1,089,300—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$337,900—pass.

(j) Whiteshell Region: (1) Salaries \$747,500—Member for The Pas.

Mr. Harapiak: There was a report that was being worked on by a consultant. We were wondering if the committee Members can have a copy of this report, assuming that the report has been concluded, dealing with the Whiteshell area.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, we have undertaken, through the Parks Branch, a look in a limited way with respect to the Whiteshell and specifically on a question of commercial activity in the Falcon Lake, West Hawk area. That is some additional consulting work that is being undertaken by the department, which has yet to report to the department.

I am not sure what specific report the Honourable Member is referring to, other than if it is that consulting work that is currently going on. I am not aware of any other report.

Mr. Harapiak: There is a report dealing with casual park use by cottagers and the general public. I am wondering if there are any public hearings planned to deal with the report once it is completed, and what guidelines and specific areas are being addressed. That is dealing with the park itself, not with any private development. Maybe there is one also with private development in the West Hawk area. I am aware that there is some study going on as well with the West Hawk-Falcon Lake area for private development.

On the one dealing with just casual park users, I am wondering if there are public meetings being planned to deal with the results of that consultant's report.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, I am still at a loss to properly identify the report that the Honourable Member refers to. Let me explain this. It is part of Parks' ongoing policy that they carry on a fairly extensive survey with questionnaires, et cetera, that asks parks users' opinions and invites comments with respect to a host of park-related issues. That has taken place during the course of this past year.

In addition to that, the only other study or report—and I do not call it a report—is a consultant's look at that portion of the management plan that is currently in effect in the Whiteshell. The entire park is being administered according to a Whiteshell management plan that was adopted some years ago after extensive investigation, reports and the public hearings of the kind that the Member refers to.

To answer the Member directly, there are no further actions contemplated at this particular time with respect

to any of the kind of surveying activity that Parks has undertaken. This is information that Parks personnel require from time to time to help them formulate regulatory procedures as they apply to the park.

Mr. Harapiak: Are there any specific guidelines that are being looked at at this time by that process you just referred to?

Mr. Enns: Yes, the one specific question—and the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) raised this in another way at an earlier point this afternoon. The department continues to have requests or complaints from the private commercial sector, who feel that our leasing arrangements in parks, where we are not in a position to or not anxious to, as a matter of policy, to provide or to sell outright park land to a prospective developer or commercial operator, but who then feel that our regulations are either too restrictive, too short-term or do not take into consideration the requirements that a private developer faces when he needs to raise capital for the project. It is made more difficult, as Members will appreciate, to raise the necessary financing for a project if such a base, elements as land on which the development is, is not going to be titled to that developer.

The question of extending the length of the lease, the question of considering the value of good will, our present leases read that at year 21 of a lessee the Parks Branch or the Minister, the Government of the Day, is empowered not to renew the lease. I think we can assume that would only be done under circumstances of justifiable cause, but that always is not necessarily good enough to satisfy the concerns of a creditor who is considering granting a developer a hundred, two hundred, a million dollars to provide a first-class facility when he sees that, and reads through the terms of the lease and realizes that a politician or civil servant, parks director, can cancel the lease upon which this hundred or two hundred or million dollar facility sits.

* (1550)

It is these kinds of questions that are not new to the Parks Branch. We have a situation, particularly in the Whiteshell, where we have a deteriorating commercial facility at Falcon in the shopping mall that requires attention either by us as Parks Branch or we invite private development to help us with that facility. We really do not have first-class lodging facilities at Falcon.

The saga of the El-Nor Motel keeps winding its way through park lore in different forms, in different stages, but from time to time we have interest shown in it by Winnipeggers, by Manitobans, who say, under the right circumstances we would be prepared to invest the necessary money to provide Falcon Lake with a first-class facility that would not only service Manitobans who visit the park but tourists who come to Manitoba. It is ideally located, situated on the Trans-Canada Highway.

The Whiteshell we consider is the jewel within the many beautiful parks that we have in Manitoba. I do not think we can be satisfied with what we have in

place in terms of service facilities, both in lodgings and otherwise, in our commercial sector of Falcon Lake. That is the specific area that the master plan of the Whiteshell is being lifted a bit and looked at, and it is restricted to that question. We are not at this time suggesting reopening the entire Whiteshell management plan for review, although there are other questions that are before us. The question of private ownership within the Whiteshell is one that surfaces from time to time as to what to do with some of these situations. I hope I have tried to answer the Honourable Member's questions.

Mr. Harapiak: The Minister has many conservation groups to advise him on policy development. I am wondering, have these groups been consulted with in dealing with this particular area. Will there be an opportunity for public participation before your final policy changes or decisions are made?

Mr. Enns: I think the Member can be assured that in an area such as the Whiteshell, which has a considerable history and tradition by the Parks Branch of realizing that there are: (a) a large number of users within the park who continue to show very active interest as to what goes on within the park. We have an active association of cottage owners in the park that keep an active contact with the department and the Minister and it would be ill-advised on the part of any Minister or Government to proceed with any fundamental changes to the management of the park without full consideration of the public's interest.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass—pass. 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures \$265,600—pass.

2.(k) Northern Development Agreement - Provincial - Fire Program Development and Evaluation, (1) Salaries \$283,600—the Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Charles: I can well imagine that with this year's experience with forest fires that this whole section we are entering into now has had the budget expenditures revised. Before going into asking questions, I would just like to state my support for all the work, effort and emotion that I know was put into the firefighting program by so many volunteers, staff members and I am sure the Minister himself.

At the very worst of it, I had just left the province and thought that perhaps it was something I had done that I got down to visit my parents in Ontario and found out the province was in flame and was in an emergency state and my heart was back with all the people and staff. I would like to, regardless of what may come out in discussions here, offer my firm congratulations to all those involved, especially for those affected by the fires and their own homes and their habitat areas.

But to go on with that, could the Minister update us on the cost of the fire and perhaps table the revised budget or the effects of the fires on the budgeting process?

Mr. Enns: I can now inform Members of the committee that the 1989 Fire Program expenditures as occurred

by this department will amount to some \$68.1 million; of this amount \$62.2 million is the Fire Extra-Suppression costs, in other words the (r) account, and the remaining \$6.9 million was spent on other program costs, the ongoing Helitac, Fire Tac detection pre-suppression costs, the amount that we refer to as our basic fire department that is in place and is budgeted for on an annual basis.

I might say, to take this occasion, that I have received considerable mail and concern on behalf of concerned citizens, particularly those who are either associated or more aware than others about the value of our forestry resources and have some connection with the forestry interests, so that the department is being heavily lobbied or pressured to increase that capability of what I call for better terms "the standing fire department," that we have in place more crews, professionally trained fire crews. These are usually five-men crews supported by a helicopter that can in the first instance access and fight the fire before it gets into unmanageable proportions. The figure of \$6.9 million now represents that fire department's capacity.

The question before the department, before myself, in the formulation of the Estimates in the coming year after the result of this year is to increase that. The argument being that if we increased that amount, then we could likely reduce what we call the extra fire suppression costs which in this last year mounted up to \$61 million in the extraordinary situation that we had.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, the Minister mentions in his department alone it was \$68 million. Can he indicate what percentage of the overall cost it would be or, if possible, if he has the added cost to the departments that the fires have caused this Government to have to spend? Basically, I just would like to know the full cost of the actual fires and that is not to go on and speak about the costs that will be ongoing for several years now, first the immediate clean up, but as ongoing as the forestry lost, the industry lost, the wildlife lost, the cost of replanting, and all those that extend on and beyond.

* (1600)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, during the course of the summer and as the season progressed I was certainly aware of the additional costs over and above these costs that I have just put on the record, incurred principally by the department and through the Department of Government Services in their role as the agency charged with the responsibility of evacuating the 23 communities that I referred to, in total, some 23,000 people.

I do not have those figures available to me. They will certainly be readily available from the Minister of Government Services whose Estimates, I understand, are coming up next in the Chamber right after Finance, so perhaps the Member for Selkirk will avail herself of that opportunity.

There were a large number of additional costs that were, I suppose you could say, chargeable to the public

one way, either whether it is incurred by Manitoba Telephone System, by Hydro who lost substantial property and extra work crews were involved, certainly the forestry and wildlife. Losses are of primary and paramount concern to my Native brothers who have, on several occasions, availed themselves at meetings to make this point with myself and departmental officials; very difficult as it will be for members of the committee to quantify, I think we can accept, in general terms, the recognition of serious dislocation, of disruption of the work and life of many of our northern trappers.

(Mr. Darren Praznik, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

The Minister of Government Services, again, has reacted and responded in a responsible manner by providing assistance both in the replacement of burned property—that is actual physical property, cabins, mechanical equipment, but also in recognition of the disruption of the trappers' opportunity to trap and just the physical difficulties that he faces in the bush with downed trees and through the burnt-out areas—a fairly extensive program of trapline or rehabilitation or trapline clearing has been announced by the Minister of Government Services that, in effect, will provide sums of money to each individual trapper over the next two-year period to re-establish some of the trapline trails necessary to carrying on their activity.

I know of these things because of my association in committee, my close association with the Ministers responsible in the overall firefighting response, but it would be unwise of me to attempt to put accurate figures or numbers on the record. I would ask Honourable Members to avail themselves of the benevolent nature of my friend and colleague, great fellow Manitoban, great Canadian, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) who, on appropriate occasion, will respond to these questions.

Mrs. Charles: Can the Minister tell me if any of these expenses are cost-recoverable from the federal Government? If so, in what amount?

Mr. Enns: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, there are cost recoveries. I again, together with the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) and the Director of Emergency Measures, have participated in putting together a package that currently is in the hands of the Prime Minister, I believe. Because of the extraordinary situations of the fire, we have, early on in the fire season and at the invitation of the federal Government, felt to approach the federal Government directly.

There are other more normal procedures in place, both with the Emergency Measures Organizations, that respond to specific formulas. If a disaster is of the order of a certain dollar value, then the federal Government starts participating at a preset and agreed-to level. It became obvious to us early in the fire season that we were in a highly unusual, unprecedented situation. It was decided to take this approach.

Now I again cannot answer in any definitive way what the response is, other than to say that it has not been

concluded. It may be a fairer question to ask directly of the Premier (Mr. Filmon), as a matter of fact, when his Estimates are before the House. I understand that it is a matter the Premier has brought to the attention of the Prime Minister, has written directly to the Prime Minister and is under negotiation at this present time.

The Members will appreciate that many of the costs incurred by Government Services in the movement of Treaty Indian people, their housing and lodging costs, we expect to have fully recovered from Ottawa.

Mrs. Charles: Being ready for fires that might occur, I wonder what state we were in in preparedness for the last season and understanding it. It certainly was out of line, but I could not help but realize myself, in driving throughout the province in the early part of the year, how extremely dry it was even before the fires began, realizing that one little spark would just set this whole area on fire. Yet it still seemed to take us by surprise that particularly in the Ashern area in the early stages there did not seem to be communications available. Perhaps there were not state of the art programs in place.

I was wondering if the Minister has, in lieu of the fact of the extreme conditions we went through and the fact that hopefully this will be the one and only time that such an occurrence will take place, but that they can happen, has the Minister done a review of the department. Has that review been completed and any recommendations come forward?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mr. Charles) that perhaps if there was one person more keenly aware of the dangers that we faced, as we moved into spring of last summer, it was our Director of Regional Services responsible for firefighting in the province. Our people were prepared. We had made special arrangements as the season progressed, and we realized that the situation was very serious and subject to, quite frankly, precisely what happened.

It was not a surprise to officials within the department. The information we had gathered through the winter, in terms of where the moisture, where the water patterns flowed—I can recall being briefed very early and being shown how directly related last year's fall and winter moisture patterns and the lack of them, pretty well mapped out our troubled area.

One of the bright spots of last summer's fire activity was that, in the main, in our southeastern region which contains some of our fine parklands, the Whiteshell, we were relatively free of fires. That was also one of the few regions in the province that the kind of map and weather information that we keep at our fire headquarters indicated sufficient and above normal moisture patterns. These are all taken into account and monitored as the season progresses.

* (1610)

I have to also, with some considerable caution, indicate that the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) raises specifically the fire at Ashern which started off

our fire season. There is regrettably the factor of wilful human behaviour involved and if that occurs under the circumstances that we faced—the general nature, the dryness of the terrain, and as I recall on a Thursday or Friday when we were looking at hot 50, 60 kilometre winds while it burst on the attention of the media—it was a concern that we were aware could happen, in fact did happen, to those of us who were watching it, not made any easier, as I indicated, by the wilful interference on the part of some person or persons unknown who we believe in that instance were in fact responsible for aiding and abetting the very damaging situation in those early spring fires.

The question was asked, what have we done to learn, what we are doing to review the fire season just past. It has always been part of the department's policy to conduct, after every fire season, an internal review of our major fires. That is part of department procedure. That has been done. We have, because of the severity of this fire, gone beyond that. We have asked for people from outside of the province, but expert in the area of firefighting from Alberta, from Saskatchewan and Ontario, to come in and take a look at what we are doing, how well equipped we are, what we are doing differently from what they are doing. We share a great deal in common with respect to the kind of fires that we fight, the kind of forest that we protect, the kind of isolated communities that we protect. So that review was undertaken at my request by these external people.

In addition to that, to answer directly to the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), we did indicate to the public and to the community that we would be holding hearings and reviewing the situation after the fire. I can report to him that is taking place as we speak, at this time. A former, capable public servant by the name of Mr. William Newton, who used to be associated with the Water Resource Department, has been retained as a consultant on a consultant's contract along with a Mr. Bob Clarkson, who is still an active member of the department.

Essentially, Mr. Newton has been appointed as a commissioner, if you like, and has currently scheduled meetings in some 60 communities. There was a specific request that northern remote and isolated communities, Indian reserves be visited by this fire review to listen directly to their complaints, where they felt there were shortcomings and how they were handled, or how they were asked to respond to the situation. That is taking place at this very time.

The reviews are open to the public, they are by invitation in some instances, where we have letters on file from various Indian Chiefs or community leaders, councils, reeves that have during the course of the season or particularly at the time have written us or myself directly, expressing a specific concern. I hope that exercise will further assist us in coping with any future fires that we face in Manitoba.

On the more optimistic note, we welcome every inch of snow that falls, particularly in the North and, of course, throughout the province, both for our southern agricultural requirements. But dealing with the issue of fire suppression, right here it was the lack of adequate snow cover and moisture that set up the situation for

this to occur. If those northern forests can be covered with a heavy blanket of snow that then keeps the underbrush damp and moist until we get some greener growth going—that was missing in the last two years. We hope current moisture conditions will be such that we will look forward to a better year next year.

Mrs. Charles: The Minister speaks of hearings that are going on. I would suggest that he should invite by letter people who were asked to fight fires, who were either volunteers or were asked for their expertise to come and help fight the fires. I have heard of a couple of instances where they were asked to bring certain pieces of equipment quite many miles away and then found out that they were not asked to bring the right ones.

Those mistakes are obviously going to occur in an emergency situation, but if in any way we can avoid making the same mistakes—and hopefully we will not have the opportunity to have such an emergency again—if they can be avoided, those are the people that we need to hear from as well as those affected by the fire, the ones that had the time and the availability to watch what was going on by the organizers and the people involved in the fire. I would encourage the Government to send letters out to those. I understand they had some pay going to them, so they must have the addresses of those people. Either by inviting them by letter or to appear to put their information forward. If we do not learn from this, then indeed it will have been a sad, even a sadder occurrence than it was before.

The Minister though as well has received a copy of a letter from the Canadian Institute of Forestry which speaks of many ideas that were put forward at a meeting the Minister was at on November 17 of last year. They emphasize in many cases that there need to be more up-front funding for pre-suppression and initial attack activities. Is this going to be a recommendation the Minister will put forward to Treasury Board? Does he feel that perhaps at the present time we are lacking in adequate support for these activities?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, my experience tells me to be very cautious in predetermining what Treasury Board may or may not do. I say that even of that current Treasury Board that is operating in terms of the decisions that are made with respect to the funding. I can report to the Members of the Committee that we are winning in the sense that certainly Treasury Board, the Government, is cognizant of the reality of the dollars that are going to have to be dedicated to this area of Government activity.

I think the department is putting forward in a most forceful manner that in accordance with the kind of recommendation suggestions that we are getting from outside groups concerned, such as the forestry association group that the Member refers to. I know that our Chairman is living in that part of Manitoba, that he has been made forcibly aware by means of literally a large number of letters of individual citizens and others interested that are encouraging the department to reorganize their fire suppression monies, to put more of the dollars up front so that, as I said

earlier, we have an expanded fire department, expanded number of fire tech crews that can, hopefully, respond in that critical time when often the fire can be controlled if we can get that 5-man, professionally trained group supported by helicopter on the spot within the first hours of a fire being spotted by our surveillance people.

I certainly accept the committee Member's advice as being sound and one that I have every intention of trying to follow. Hopefully, it will be reflected in my '90-'91 Estimates.

* (1620)

Mrs. Charles: The report goes on to mention that there is a need for an implementation of an integrated fire management policy by the Department of Natural Resources. This statement surprises me because I would hope that the Department of Natural Resources would have an integrated fire management policy, and I guess I am leaving this open for the Minister to make comments on whether that is a fair statement of need. If it is, what is he doing about it? If it is not, then I will accept that as well.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, we certainly have an integrated fire policy that has been operational before I came to the department and, as the Member quite rightly suspects, for some time now. That kind of a policy is always subject to review. It probably gets scrutinized more closely after the fire of the proportions that we have just gone through. Then, when the maximum resources of the department and those of our friends in neighbouring jurisdictions are being applied to the emergency situation, it is not difficult to point out to shortcomings of a policy or to where additional emphasis should be placed.

We are more than prepared and certainly are, I think, in this whole process, as a result of our experience, making some fundamental changes to the current integrated fire policy that is in place so that these kinds of decisions do not have to be made when a fire breaks out, that the department and those responsible for that immediate response do not go around seeking director or ministerial approval for it—what do we do when a fire breaks out? There are procedures tested and proven in place that call for the kind of response that is appropriate in a given set of circumstances. Now we are being—"challenged"—would not be the appropriate word—certainly questioned as to some of the policies in place. Very fundamentally, and acceptably on the part of most Manitobans, the very basic policy is that we prioritize the saving of life and property in the first instance and then into more commercial, valuable timber stands, and then more general areas of the fires.

● Our Native citizens are asking us to take a harder look at some of the interests that are of particular importance to them in terms of their trap line economy, their hunting and fishing aspects of their economic life, and that is being done. That is likely going to result in a modified position to this integrated fire plan that the Member refers to.

To answer her question directly, there is, let me assure you, a plan in place. I would invite the Member on some

occasion to avail herself of a visit to our fire headquarters at 1495 St. James. If she has not done so, one of the instruments that she would find fascinating, as would other Members of the committee, the former Minister would be aware of it of course, is that we have a little instrument there that instantly records every lightning strike where and when it occurs at the time of the lightning strike on a printout on a piece of paper.

As you are standing there, you can literally hear the tic, tic, tic, tic, as the lightning bolts are falling. That has been an extremely space age technology that is doing that. People sometimes ask about our program of watchtower observations. This kind of technology of course, as you would expect, is rapidly replacing the need for that kind of involvement, although we still carry on a certain amount of that.

Coming back to my original point, the Member would be assured of the preparedness of the fire department under the direction of Mr. Harvey Boyle if she were to see that operation. Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mrs. Charles: Yes, of course, we all know that knowing that a fire has started is not of much use if you have no one there to deal with it, if it is one that has to be controlled immediately. This report goes on to say that we should be getting at them as soon as possible and not allowing any burns to take place that may have the opportunity of leaping and progressing.

Furthermore, they go on to say that one necessity is having certified training of permanently employed firefighters. Can the Minister tell me whether that is the case now? Do we have certified training and do we have permanently employed firefighters, or at least ones who are available with that training on an immediate response basis?

Mr. Enns: We have a growing number of what we refer to are full-time, professional firefighters. They are Fire Tac and Helitac crews. I am pleased to indicate that a substantial majority of these are people of Native ancestry and are doing an excellent job.

The specific question of certification is beginning this year. We want to raise the level of professionalism and acknowledge that in this area of Government service, and I am advised by my staff that certification of our 60 Helitac crews, and the kind of prerequisite training that leads to that certification, is being budgeted for and will occur in the year 1990, this coming active year.

Mrs. Charles: Just two brief questions until I turn it over to the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) who, I am sure, has his own concerns about this issue. What amount of money is left in supplies from the fire in that you obviously would need extra equipment brought in. Were they purchased outright, and are they being housed in Government Services somewhere, or have they been dispersed amongst the areas in the province?

Mr. Enns: We could be corrected by my staff, but I would think that in the main we have purchased, leased or taken what was required and then went to Treasury Board to find the money. I think it has been the practice

in the past to set relatively nominal monies into our Estimates for fire suppression generally. With the level of fires that we have had this year, that money was of course quickly spent, and then we received extra authorization to cover the costs that we incurred. We were informed by the Director of Administration that a Special Warrant of some \$51.1 million was passed just for these purposes alone.

So in effect we acquire what is required and then pay the bills. There is not a pool of money set aside into an appropriation or voted into a particular place that we draw from.

* (1630)

Mrs. Charles: I was asking more of how he disposed of any extra equipment, but on to another question. I understand that in the northern Interlake area in particular there is possibilities of harvesting, if you will, the burnt timber, and that Palliser Furniture has a demand for that burnt timber. Yet the areas that are offered to take this product from seem to be very small and perhaps hindering people who could take larger amounts out of the area. It seems to me if this wood is of no use after this year is over with—and the quality of timber is such that it is then exactly what we would see to it now, is dead wood. Why not open up, so as much of that dead timber as possible could be taken out if it can be used for any good use whatsoever immediately?

Mr. Enns: I am going to ask Mr. Lamont, who is with us in the back there from our Forestry Division, to take account of the question that you raise, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles). He will provide you, either directly or through my office, with a specific response to that question. I want to assure you that it is the policy of the department to harvest, to salvage as much as possible of the damaged or partially burnt timber. It is part of our regular program to invite people involved in the timber industry to do that. We issue special licensing and permits for that.

In fact, we try, sometimes not always with the willing co-operation of those involved, to direct by holding back other perhaps more desirable areas to encourage the salvage operation. But I would be surprised—my information is that is being done. Now it may well be that an individual quota holder is not totally satisfied with the allocation that he has been provided with by the department, but certainly I will undertake to see that you have a response to that question.

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland): Mr. Acting Chairman, we are on item (k), I believe, right now. I would like to ask the Minister: this Fire Program Development and Evaluation that is under Northern Development Agreement, is that cost-shared with the feds, or is that 100 percent federal funding, or 100 percent provincial funding?

Mr. Enns: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am advised that is not a cost-shared program. That is the full responsibility of the province.

Mr. Harper: Mr. Acting Chairman, the other question that I have is in respect to—the Minister had made an

announcement in regard to the fire. I believe there is to be an inquiry to be done. I was just wondering what the status of that is, whether that is an internal review, or would that be a public enquiry. What kind of mechanisms are in place for participation by people, organizations, individuals? Could the Minister report on that? When do you expect that to start? Has the Minister announced the starting date? When can that be expected?

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair)

Mr. Enns: Mr. Chairman, we have opted for a kind of three-pronged approach to this commitment that was made by myself, the Member is correct, earlier on in the fire season. I have partially covered this ground just prior to your coming to join us, Mr. Harper, the Member for Rupertsland. That is what we normally do after any fire season. An internal review which is an in-House departmental staff matter. That has been done.

We have gone one step further in this area because of the seriousness of the fire situation, where we have invited outside experts from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, our neighbouring provinces, that we depend on a lot and work co-operatively with in the overall fire suppression field.

We have asked their senior firefighting specialists and people to come into Manitoba and look at our operation, and give us an analysis of what they think is right, or what is failing, or what their opinion about our whole firefighting structure is. That has been done, and I think a review pending, which should be again, more or less an internal document, what is going on right now, and I will undertake to see that my office supplies the Member with a list.

We have in addition to that taken on as a fire commissioner, if you like, an outside consultant, Mr. William Newton, who used to be a director within the Water Services Branch along with Mr. Bob Clarkson who is still a member of the department. These two gentlemen are conducting public inquiries and meetings in numerous communities throughout the North as well as in the South.

Meetings will be held, for instance, in your constituency, Mr. Harper, at Island Lake, Oxford House, and Gods Narrows. Now those meetings are being scheduled right now, some of them are taking place right now. I do not know specifically if in your area, but I will certainly invite you to contact my office either later on today or in the morning for the dates that have been scheduled for these hearings.

The commitment that I made and the requests that I had received during the course of the summer and during the course of the fire, was that there was concern expressed, particularly by Northerners, that the review or the public hearing, if you like, would take place here in Winnipeg or maybe in one other area, and it would be difficult for a band of councillors and chiefs and other other northern community members to access and be able to make their thoughts known about what they felt went wrong or what went right about the fire.

I particularly instructed the department that we attempt to respond to as many, if not all, of the

communities that had made a request during the course of the fires. We did receive direct requests once it became known that this would take place. They wanted to make sure that the fire commissioner would be making appearances in their community. That is taking place right now.

Mr. Harper: I thank the Minister for that information.

Mr. Enns: I must also say just before—pardon me for interrupting the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, but further information that I neglected to indicate to the Honourable Member is that apparently arrangements have been made to fly some people from Red Sucker Lake to these meetings that I mentioned to you that are being held at Island Lake, Oxford House, or Gods Narrows.

Mr. Harper: As I mentioned earlier, I would like to thank the Minister for making that statement and also the concern he has for the communities. I think one of the expectations that people have is that for all the communities that were affected, they would like to see the people who are reviewing or doing the inquiry to come to their communities. I think you would find a lot of people are interested and want to voice their concerns in a setting that will—in a town meeting I think he would get a lot of response from the community.

A lot of times I know there was some work that was done by the Native organizations in collecting of information in regard to the compensation for a lot of the trappers and individuals. I know there were some calls made to me expressing concerns there was lack of consultation. Now I do not know whether the Native organization did not have enough money. I asked in Red Sucker Lake, my home town, whether anybody came, and actually nobody came to the community. The information was that this request had been sent out, so there is sort of an inadequate consultation that I feel that needs to be done.

What we have here is a serious emergency situation that occurred over the summer causing the Government to expend some, you mentioned I guess, \$68.1 million, and I believe the Minister responsible for the Disasters Board announced billions of dollars to compensate a lot of the trappers and fishermen, and some other people. So I think we are ranging well over close to \$100 million, maybe \$150 million, if I may say that, but I think what we need to do here is look at, because of the amount of dollars that are involved, I think we need to do an adequate review, investigation, inquiry into the whole situation.

* (1640)

Also, not only invite people with expertise from different provinces, but people at home, people in those communities, and also I am sure the federal Government would want to get involved. I would ask the Minister to extend that invitation to the Department of Indian Affairs. I had discussions over the summer, during that period of time, with the department of the Regional Director in terms of what role he had with the situation of the court, mainly reserves at that time. He indicated

there was not much in place. There was just an ad hoc decision that had to be made, and also the role of the Chief of Council as to what role that they had in terms of emergency situation, not only in fire, maybe in flooding, there might be disaster in regard to maybe a spill of PCB, or some disastrous incident like that.

I think we need to sit down with those communities, and I would suggest the Minister go much beyond just to make it appear, just to go visit the communities an hour, a couple of hours, and fly in people from different communities. I think we need to visit all the communities. I think that is a major undertaking. I think that is what is expected from the Government by the communities. I think when it affects our livelihood and the resources that we look toward for many of our, I guess, day-to-day activities, and also the forest resources for many of those other things.

So I would ask the Minister whether he would consider doing an extensive review and also extensive inquiry, and also at the same time, express whether some individuals or the Chief of Council will have the ability to be able to put technical information together that maybe they do not have for the resources, financial, to do it, because I know a lot of the bands are not in the financial position to do a lot of these things. I know that the department will be flying in people, but I think there need to be things done at the community level, so I would ask the Minister to consider those remarks that I have made.

Mr. Enns: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments made by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. They are particularly appropriate coming from the Member for Rupertsland. Certainly he represents a constituency that, for many of the people that he represents, felt the full bore of this summer's onslaught by fire and subsequent Government response to that emergency. We accept, with every intention, to take seriously any recommendations that he has made with respect to improving our methods in getting our department's equipped and structured to respond in the best possible way under these kind of emergency situations.

Mr. Chairman, having said that, I think it requires to be said and put on the record that the fact of the matter that in my experience certainly I have seldom seen the level of co-operation between all levels of public sector people, along with many, many private volunteers throughout this summer's activity. It is not by accident that, in the main, general watchers of Government or of this department generally have acknowledged the fact that both with the efforts of my colleague, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) and his staff, principally the Emergency Measures Organization staff, and myself, with the staff of our department, came through a very difficult period. We are extremely thankful that there was no serious injury or loss of life.

Allow me to, on behalf of the Government, on behalf of my colleagues, acknowledge at all times thankful for the kind of support and leadership we received at the community level, whether it was from elected councillors or bands or Indian chiefs or rural municipal councillors

in the southern part, and for the many hundreds of individual organizations, people of The Pas, for instance, people in Thompson, people in Flin Flon, that overnight received in their midst literally hundreds, indeed numbering into the thousands of people that had to be looked after, housed, and cared for.

I recall walking through the community facility in The Pas on one of these occasions which was filled with several hundred people from isolated communities. There must have been about 50 or 60 youngsters, age two and down, running around. I can remember the difference between worrying about trying to settle down your youngster at home when it is only one or two and here he had 30 or 40 under these circumstances. If you recall, it was extremely hot weather in the North as well, record-breaking weather. In some instances, facilities stacked to the full, not proper air conditioning in some of these facilities until these people could be moved to other facilities.

So, in the main, I think it can be stated, and ought to be stated, on occasions such as this where the words that we place on the record are indeed recorded for posterity, that those involved can all be congratulated for the job well done. Of course we can do it better, but I have to accept with some mild retort that we do not have—and maybe we will—and I understand that my colleague, through Emergency Measures, may well be exploring this and creating the kind of ongoing interdepartmental, intergovernmental local to provincial Government relationships in their Emergency Measures plans that will help co-ordinate this in the future.

My department is well set up and accustomed to fighting fires in the North where essentially we are the only jurisdiction. I think that is precisely one of the reasons why we are taking this review. We had on this occasion, in this season, to interface and interact more directly with other jurisdictions because of the severity of the fire and also even geographically. We normally do not fight fires in southern regions of the province where you have municipal structures, where you have volunteer municipal fire forces of their own that have to be co-ordinated. That is sometimes easier said than done, even though they may have radio frequencies but not operate under our band.

The municipality itself, or the LGD, is structured in a way that they are accustomed to doing certain things their way, not necessarily the department's way. When you are placed in a fire situation there is not always time to sit down at the table and argue out and discuss which way it will be done. I am the first one to acknowledge that, under those circumstances, my department may well have on occasion felt, or have been perceived to have acted in an arbitrary way or made arbitrary decisions, that for the benefit of hindsight may have been done differently.

I am hoping that with Mr. Newton and his commission and our own looking at the department that these are some of the issues that we can deal with. I know there are individual leaders of the Native community that came directly to me at the time of the fire and felt that their position, as a leader within their community, was in some way not fully respected as being part of the decision-making process that involved their community

as to how and when an evacuation ought to occur, that they sometimes were not among the first, or in fact indeed involved in making that decision, and I think those are the kinds of things that we can agree to in a future fire plan and build right into the system that it does not happen again.

* (1650)

But I really do have to speak in defence of the overall action with respect to how it pertains to my department, and in my judgment other departments of Government. I do remind the Honourable Member that some of the issues that he raises that are I know of ongoing concern, particularly the questions of compensation with respect to trappers and so forth, are not under the purview of this department and, as I indicated earlier, my good friend and colleague, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) Estimates will be coming up very shortly, I understand, following the next department which is currently being considered in the Chamber. As I indicated to the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), I certainly indicate to the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) that he avail himself of that opportunity of getting more specific information on the compensation features of the program that he alluded to from the Minister of Government Services.

Mr. Harper: Just a final comment. I was not really criticizing the department in terms of its role in this summer's activities. I think they did an excellent job. I would like to commend the department. But what I would like to see happen, because I get complaints from the elected people within the community and the people elected at the local level put a lot of pressure on the Chief and Council in what role they play and they are frustrated as to what they can do. I approached the Department of Indian Affairs at that time what role they could play in, but they did not seem to have any kind of authority within the jurisdiction to deal with the forest fire, at least outside their reserve, and I think those questions need to be raised and also need to be addressed by the Government, particularly in the remote and reserve areas and how it is going to affect them.

So I look forward to the review and the recommendations that will be coming forward and I know there will be some debate from the local leadership in terms of how the Natural Resources officers deal with the forest fires. There are a lot of issues that need to be dealt with and I look forward to the Minister tabling the information to the Members in the House and the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Enns: I thank you. I receive that as information well received.

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, the Minister makes a comment that the Department of Government Services Estimates are coming up shortly and we can debate this subject further in that area, but I would remind the Minister he already knows that we are limited in the hours we have got, so I think it is unfortunate that a department of this size gets left to a time when—and I know that the Members of the Opposition decide

when the departments will come forward so I am not blaming the Minister because I know he would have liked to have had his department up first. We are limited in the number of hours we have got and this area here is extremely important and there are many other areas that I would like to raise dealing with fire, but there is not time.

I would just like to make a few comments—

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services): Take your time.

Mr. Harapiak: The Minister of Government Services says, take your time, because he would like to have no hours left for his department.

I think when you use the figure of \$68.1 million for fire suppression I think that there should be a report, but I am not sure if it should come from your department or from the Environment Minister (Mr. Cummings). There should be a report coming down with a complete breakdown. That is more than some departments have got in this Government who have complete reporting to the Legislature.

So I think there should be a report come down with a breakdown and some of the areas that should be covered is the cost benefit, \$62 million spent on fire suppression. What is the cost benefit? How much forest was saved? Some of the other areas are, what is the value of the forest that was lost? What is the value of the wildlife that was lost? I think some of the areas that you may be able to come up with information is how much the trappers have been affected because there are claims coming in through the Emergency Measures Organization to deal with that.

One of the areas that I would like see addressed by William Newton, who I do not know, but I know Bob Clarkson, and any task he takes under is done properly. I know that the job will be well done.

One of the areas that I would like to see tackled is the whole area of communications. When we came up with the emergency measures procedure, I thought it was pretty clear procedures on whose authority when it came to a disaster in that area. The municipal level of Government is, but in many cases, as you mentioned earlier, it appeared that the Department of Natural Resources took over because they were the ones that were supplying the service and in many cases there was a lack of communication with the local elected authority.

I noted in The Pas alone, a bigger area of that size, that there was a committee set up where the mayor was in consultation every day with the people who are involved in fighting fire. In some of the smaller communities and some of the Native communities there was a lack of information flowing back. The mayors and chiefs were being called and they did not know what progress was being made in suppressing the fire. People were concerned about their homes. There was a lack of information flowing back to people who were evacuated.

I guess in one of the areas I think that the RCMP should also be involved in this because I was personally

present at the fire at Ashern, the fire at Cowan, as well as the fires in northern Manitoba. I was allowed to proceed to Cowan before I was stopped by the RCMP and they said, you cannot go through to Swan River, No. 10 Highway is blocked. Fortunately for me, that was as far as I was going. There should have been something at the No. 10 Highway warning people at that stage that you cannot go through, that No. 10 Highway is blocked, and it had been blocked all day. It should have been diverted via 83. So I think there needs to be a greater communications strategy built out so that the RCMP are involved in that as well.

I guess one other area that I would like to see addressed is the use of equipment from adjacent provinces. When there was equipment that was idle in Manitoba there was equipment being brought in from Saskatchewan and Ontario. I think that there were quite a few complaints raised about that. There were tree farmers being used for hauling water and there was those saddle bags available for him which could be purchased quite readily and the people could use the tree farmers for hauling water to the fire sites but there were not given an opportunity. There was equipment brought in from Ontario, so in many cases the local equipment was left idle, so I think there needs to be greater communications built up so there is a better utilization of local equipment and local firefighters as well.

Mr. Enns: I listened to what the Honourable Member has to say as I have indicated previously, certainly senior members of the department listened to what he had to say. I think under these circumstances, again there will always be room for second guessing certain actions or certain decisions made with the benefit of hindsight. Certainly I take, and I know my staff takes into account the Honourable Member's concerns seriously. As I say, in other cases, if there are some very specific complaints, and the Honourable Member raises a few, I will be asking the department to formulate a response that I can either hand to him on some other occasions privately.

I regret, as he also indicated, that we find ourselves at this stage of the consideration of the Estimates of the Government planned expenditures with limited time available to this department. We are in many ways a department that impacts very substantially on the affairs of Manitoba. The Honourable Member suggests or asks that a full accounting of the millions of dollars of firefighting suppressing monies ought to be made. I have absolutely no difficulty in doing that.

I think at that particular period of time, all costs, all figures, all contributions, federal and otherwise would be asked for and sometimes that takes some time in doing that, but the appropriate form, normally it would be done at the review of this department of Estimates next year, for instance, or at some time where a Minister would be respondent. I might also invite that the Honourable Member could avail himself to such traditional measures as an Order for Return, Address for Papers, that could, in due course, provide him with a full accounting of those monies.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, I think in consideration of the shortage of time, I think we would be willing to pass up to the end of Regional Services.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass all items under Regional Services? (Pass)

Resolution No. 106: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$30,621,400 for Natural Resources, Regional Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' hour.

Committee rise.

* (1440)

SUPPLY—EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gilles Roch): Would the Committee of Supply come to order, please. This section of the Committee of Supply has been dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Education.

We are on item 4. Program Development Support Services (f) Instructional Resources, 4.(f)(1)—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): The Manitoba School Library Audio Visual Association submitted a brief some time ago, recommendations to the Minister. Can the Minister tell me what responses there have been regarding the recommendations that the MSLAVA proposed, September '89 I think it was?

Hon. Len Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Acting Chairman, first of all, we have received the report. The report has gone to staff for consideration. We have also met with the Manitoba Library Association and all of these recommendations that have been made to us are being considered by staff now and will be considered in the context of the '90-'91 Estimates in terms of funding and in terms of implementing some of the recommendations.

While I am up on my feet I would like to table some information that was requested by the Member for Sturgeon Creek yesterday and this is the miscellaneous grants listings that were requested. I would like to table them now. Also there was information requested on the small schools and the numbers of small schools and the student counts and also the numbers of high schools and elementary schools and I would like to table that information as well.

Yesterday during questioning the Member for Sturgeon Creek raised the issue of the revisions to high school English in the Correspondence and Curriculum Branch, and I would like to indicate that there were three revisions, March '89 had the English 200, and in September '89 we had the English 300, and November of '89 we had the revision to the English 301.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me what recommendations are in place for new school facilities

that will be built with regard to libraries? Are libraries included in the drawings for any proposed schools that might be built within the province?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, the library facility within any school is part of the formula that is used to determine the size of the school, the number of classrooms, the number of resource areas. The library facility, if you like, within a school or the resource centre within a school is based on the student count in that area and there is a formula which is applied which determines the space that is required for that school.

Mrs. Yeo: In June of this year, I believe, The Manitoba Libraries Resource-Sharing Group also shared a list of recommendations in the way of a package and I am wondering if the Minister's department is looking at this libraries resource's sharing group brief as well.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, we know that there are indeed some areas that must be looked at in terms of the library resources, the numbers of materials that we have throughout our school system. All of these recommendations that are being made to us as a department are being considered now by staff. Certainly any recommendations that have been made are being looked at very seriously. We have to determine what it is we can afford, how soon we can implement these changes, and which changes in fact we are able to implement.

Staff are looking at the entire area. I guess I can indicate that with the advent of computers, certainly this is all an important part of it. Automation will be a key factor in terms of identifying the materials that we have, in terms of being able to process materials and information, and being able to keep current the information that is available.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I met just this morning with a couple of members of parent councils from a community in the north part of the city. One of the people there said that she had a parent's handbook that had been available a couple of years ago in the school, a parent's handbook—I am not sure—she did not know what the title was. She did not have a copy with her, but she indicated that this was available in different languages and that it was no longer available to the school system.

If the Minister knows what I am talking about, has a parent's handbook that once was available been removed from the shelves of the schools or from the availability for parent's councils? If so, why was it removed, and is there a plan to renovate and create a new parent's handbook that might be available in some of the different languages for the benefit of the parents in the school division?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am not familiar with any handbook that the department puts out which is available in different languages. This may have indeed been one that was put out by a particular school division. In that case, it would be the responsibility of the school division to replace it or, if they deemed that it was not necessary anymore, I guess, to cancel it.

But before I could answer in any specific way, I would have to have the name of the parent's guide, and then perhaps we could determine who had responsibility for it.

Mrs. Yeo: Are the purchases of resource materials, video tapes, et cetera, that the Government may wish to buy purchased through tender process? What is the process for buying the various resources that are found in the resource centre?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, many of the library materials that schools have are purchased by the schools themselves. Those that the department has are purchased by the department through a selection process. There is no such thing as tendering for specific materials, because there usually are fairly specialized and fairly specific materials that have been selected and probably are only supplied by a particular publisher or supplier.

* (1450)

Mrs. Yeo: One last question. The teachers who have been teaching, and I have mentioned this before, the AIDS Program—because of the nature of the concern, the ever changing, the almost daily new information that is found on this particular topic, some of the teachers have told me that in fact they are having difficulty obtaining some current, some new, some instructional materials, that will motivate the students. Some of the students, they are saying, are seeing the same video tapes year after year, because there are not new tapes available.

Yet when I attended a conference at the University of Manitoba just a few months ago I was, of course, talking with a lot of different individuals there, and they say that there is a wealth of material that is available. One woman talked about video tapes that are available through New York because of the high incidence of HIV in New York. What action is this Government doing to try and keep new, interesting materials on the shelves so that the teachers can in fact access them quite readily?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, we have, as recently as November, sent a copy of the bibliography of resources available from the Library of Instructional Resource Branch listing the available materials that teachers can access, and certainly there are quite a list here. I will table it for the Member.

(Mr. Gaudry, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

The Member has to understand that there is also the need to translate some of these materials and have available French complementary copies of this material available for the Francophone society, material in the French language. So sometimes we run into the difficulty of having enough material that is translated in both languages. As a matter of fact, we ran into that problem with the new video that was for the Grade 5 program, where we could not get dubbing rights to have it translated into French, so therefore we had to use other means. So there are those challenges before us as well.

But basically I think we have a fairly good list of resource material here that is available to teachers and I would be happy to share that with the Member.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Just one question in this area. My colleague from Sturgeon Creek referenced the MSLAVA Report, the report on library and audio visual materials. The Minister indicated that he had met with the group. Can the Minister indicate whether he has met recently with the group, or was this prior to the publishing of the report?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I met with MSLAVA after the report was written and staff have met with MSLAVA staff or people, the chair at least, as recently as two weeks ago.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I think that this group has an important message for the Minister and for education in Manitoba, and I am hopeful that we will see some result from those meetings in the upcoming Education budget, that in fact we will see some additional support. Given the rather dismal showing in terms of materials that are available to northern students, rural students, I hope that this Minister will act to implement some of the recommendations.

I had one other request of the Minister. I apologize for not being here yesterday and missing an important section with respect to the financial support to schools. There was one area where I wanted some additional information. I realize the staff may not be here today to respond directly, but I would like from the Minister a list of those private schools that are receiving funding from the provincial Government, the amounts of funding that they receive, and the total amount of money that is provided to private schools.

I would like that to include the areas of shared services that are also supported by the province as well as the materials grant that is going to private schools. What I am asking for is a total accounting of the aid to private schools for the last three years, just for information. The Minister is shaking his head. I am assuming that information will be made available?

(Mr. Gilles Roch, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think that section was passed yesterday, but because we are so co-operative and so willing to share information, I would be pleased to provide the Member with that information, which is not that different from information he had when he was Minister. I have no difficulty in having staff put that information together and provide it in as best a form as we can for the information of the Member for Flin Flon.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Item 4.(f)(1)—pass; item 4.(f)(2)—pass.

4.(g)(1)—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: The discussion on Distance Education and Technology is something that we hear about quite frequently, and in here it talks about kindergarten to

post-secondary level. Is there an actual list of the programs that are provided through Distance Education? If so, could we have a copy of those?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, this may take a little while. There are several categories of programs that are delivered through Distance Education. First of all, there are the field-based courses from kindergarten to Grade 12, and the first category would be the courses under development. These are courses that are currently under development so that they may be tested in the future.

* (1500)

The first course is Science naturelles 100 to 101, the Sciences humaines, or the French Humane Sciences, I guess, 300, Biology 300, Marketing 202, Physical Science 201 and Family Life Education.

Under Projects Under Development, Mr. Acting Chairman, we have a project in Evergreen School Division and specifically Riverton Collegiate; one at Gimli Composite High School and one at Arborg Collegiate. This is the Interdivisional Distance Education Pilot Program.

Under the Interactive Television Pilot Program, the host being Midland School Division, we have three projects at three schools, Miami Collegiate, Elm Creek Collegiate and Carman Collegiate. We also have a rural depopulation video which is being run from the Souris Valley School Division.

We have some courses on pilot. We have Economics 301; the host school division is the Souris Valley division. The schools involved are Souris, Hartney and Wawanesa.

We have the Mathematics 301, again the host is Souris Valley School Division. The schools involved are Souris, Hartney, Wawanesa and Cartwright. We have Physics 300, the host school being Frontier School Division. The schools involved are Pilot Mound, Somerset, Glenella and Rosssburn.

We have Geography 200. The host school division is Souris Valley. The schools involved are Souris, Hartney, Wawanesa and Rivers. We have Art 100 and 101 in the Swan Valley School Division. The schools involved are Cartwright and Gimli Composite High School.

We have Advanced Math 305, the host school division being Souris Valley School Division. The schools involved are Riverton, Gimli, Arthur Meighen and Rosenort. We have Biology 200 which is being run in Turtle River School Division. The schools involved are Souris, Rivers, Strathclair and Elton. We have Data Processing 302 run in Souris Valley School Division. The schools involved are Souris and Hartney.

Courses that are in delivery are, first of all, Introduction to Calculus 305, the French version, in Mountain School Division—and I will not list the schools; I can provide those if the Member needs them—Introduction to Calculus 305, the English version, run in Souris Valley School Division; Computer Science 205, the host division being the Souris Valley School Division;

Computer Science 305, the host division again being Souris Valley School Division; Physics 200, the host division being Frontier School Division.

We have Community Based University Entrance Program, the host being the Post-Secondary Adult and Continuing Education Branch of the Department of Education and Training. We have Hospitality Management, and the host school division there is Evergreen School Division; Business Education 305, the host division being Rolling River School Division. We have Small Motor Repair, the host division being Birdtail River School Division; Infomatics 305, the host division being St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

Then we have some teacher in-service programs that are being run through Distance Education as well: one being the Children's Literature In-service, and the host division being Frontier School Division; the Gifted Education In-service Program, the host division being again, Frontier School Division; Training for Teachers of French, the host division being Swan Valley School Division.

Then we have projects that are currently in progress. We have the Computer Generated Video Graphic Supplied Research, the host school division being St. Vital Division. Distance Education Needs Assessment, this project is designed to pull key members of education communities, such as the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, and The Manitoba Teachers' Society, to determine the direction Distance Education should proceed in the future.

Also, Mr. Acting Chairman, we have a list of correspondence program units that are delivered through Distance Education and the Technology Branch, and there is a whole host of them. We also have courses planned for '90-'91. I could read a list of them, but I think perhaps it would be more beneficial to the Member if we could provide this to her in the next few days.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I guess I should indicate that all of these programs that I just read out and those that are included here do not include anything in the post-secondary area as well. We can deal with Distance Education in the post-secondary area when we get to that appropriation.

Mrs. Yeo: I did ask for just a list. The Minister has the right to read them off, I suppose. The GED testing comes under this appropriation, and the testing of approximately 2,000 candidates per year is indicated. Can the Minister tell me if Red River Community College accepts those students who pass the GED test?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the GED program is recognized in the province, and therefore students are treated the same as they would be if they had a regular Grade 12. However, there are prerequisites for some programs. If the student cannot get into a program, it may be because the courses that he or she has taken do not meet the criteria to get into that particular program, but otherwise the equivalent is the same as a regular Grade 12.

Mrs. Yeo: It is my understanding, Mr. Acting Chairperson, that many of the students who obtained

their GED standing, at either 11 or 12, often are the ones who have the most difficulty in some of the more rigorous post-secondary educational courses. There are a lot of educators in the various communities who feel that there are false assurances given to students who obtain the GED. I wonder if there have been any studies, if there has been any communication with the educators out there, so that the young people or the more mature people who work to attain a GED standing are not led down the garden path but realize that this is a signal to them that, yes, you have acquired a certain level, and that we would recommend perhaps going on to something else that would enhance their level of learning to prepare them for perhaps going to a post-secondary setting.

Some of these students who are going into the post-secondary settings with the idea that now they have acquired this level. In fact, the post-secondary agencies are saying that it is not equivalent to a Grade 11 or 12 that a student may obtain at some of the high schools in the communities.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there is no question that certainly someone who passes the GED has perhaps missed out on a certain amount of work if he or she had taken the regular stream of education. However, there are a battery of tests, five tests, that are written in the areas of writing skills, mathematics, science, social studies, literature and these would determine whether or not that individual has the level of competency of someone who has gone through the regular program. This is a very narrow test, if you like, because there are many more things that are learned in a regular program that perhaps would be missed by simply taking the GED.

I think there is some concern, some apprehension, by some institutions about really accepting people with a GED at par. Nevertheless, it is one way that we have to measure whether or not a person has the skills to be able to cope with programs at the post-secondary institution. It is maybe not the most perfect way but certainly it is the best vehicle or the best means that we have at this present time.

The only other way, the only other route, is to say to that individual that you must go back and start from where you stopped. In other words, if you left school at Grade 9 you will have to take a complete Grade 9, 10, 11 and then 12. Only then might we be assured that this person has really covered all the areas of education that are involved in the Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12. This test is really meant for those students who have left school and wish to enter a post-secondary institution but need to have some upgrading, if you like, or some measure that they are capable of handling the post-secondary program.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Roch): Shall item—the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

* (1510)

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, a couple of questions in this area and they have to do—there is

going to be some overlap, I warn the Minister—with respect to continuing education, adult and continuing. I think there needs to be certainly some co-operation but I think there has to be some—I am searching for the word—co-ordination, whatever, of activities between the public school, particularly the high school, and adult and continuing education efforts.

One of the areas that the Minister has not touched on or has not talked about very much is the whole area of course development, particularly the course development in the area of a computer-assisted learning. I am wondering whether the province has currently any packages that could be utilized on the computers that are available in our high school system for sections of courses or entire courses.

I am thinking of a business math course that could be offered as easily in Wabowden or Thicket Portage providing that the students had access to computers as anywhere else. It is one of the ways that we can equalize access to education without requiring the building of new schools and without requiring education staff in our schools in remote communities, having all of the teaching skills. We have the technology to provide educational courses through computer-assisted learning and are we doing that? Can the Minister tell us where we are at with respect to courses that might be available right now within the Department of Education approved course lists?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there are really two areas here: one that involves students who are in the school now and the other one I think that involves professionals or teachers who are out there who perhaps would like to access programs through the computer-assisted learning method. For the areas of science, mathematics, vocational educational, we have this now available for computer-assisted learning resources that are available. The department is working continually on developing new approaches and new programs for this very kind of education that can be delivered not only in Winnipeg but throughout rural Manitoba.

In addition, I have several lists here of workshop titles, if you like, that are available on the two different types of computers that are present in most schools and that is the Apple II and the MMS DOS. So therefore I will not bother reading them because I do not think the Member wants to sit there and listen to reams of material that is going to be read into the record, but I am certainly prepared to table that information for the Member.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate that, I recognize that for many years as a matter of fact there have been individual modules available on a computer-assisted learning basis. My question was: does the province now have a series of those modules which would make up an entire course? Is it now possible for a student in the Province of Manitoba to achieve a high school credit in some subject area completely through the process of computer-assisted learning?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there are courses that are available that students can take through the

computer-assisted learning method but you cannot take the whole grade, if you like, equivalent through computer-assisted learning. We do not have that developed to that stage yet, but certainly a student can enter high school or at the 200 level and take physics, for example, through that method or take Physics 300 through that method. There are other courses that are listed here. Maths 300 and Social Studies 300 can also be done through the computer-assisted learning method, but you cannot take an entire Grade 11 or Grade 12 program through the computer-assisted learning technique at this point in time.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I understood that we do not currently have a full program available on a computer-assisted learning basis. My question was: can they take Chemistry 200 or 201 or Business Math 202 in its entirety as an individual credit through a computer-assisted learning mode?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, no, we do not have the courses developed in that way at this point in time. However, that is something that can and will happen in the future but we are not in a position yet with the development of the department and the courses that have been developed so far to be able to do that at this point in time. That is something that will come in the future.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am a little disappointed at the Minister's confusion in this area. It is quite obvious that he in my opinion has not spent enough time looking at how Distance Education may work to the real advantage of people in rural and northern Manitoba, because there are programs available in Manitoba that offer computer-assisted learning for a complete series of skills, and the Minister has probably had an opportunity to visit the Manitoba Technical Training Centre, which—he has not had an opportunity.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, what I am talking about is an opportunity for students who may only have access to computers in a school system and teachers who only have passing familiarity with a course may be able to take that course if computer-assisted learning-based material is available. We have the technology. The Minister may recall that the Manitoba Computer-Assisted Learning Consortium, which was headquartered at the University of Manitoba, was allowed to die. Their mandate was exactly that, to assist the Department of Education and the province in developing courseware that would be suitable for our curriculum and obviously with the intention of marketing that technology and those resources to other jurisdictions.

They had some hope of doing that. I was, needless to say, disappointed as was former Dean McPherson and others at the university in the Minister's lack of response to their difficulties, particularly given their estimation and I think many people's estimation of the potential that this area held for equal access for our communities. The Minister might want to reflect on the list that he just gave us with respect to the number of high schools in the Province of Manitoba. There are

some 82 high schools. I assume that is an up-to-date figure.

The high schools in rural Manitoba, and many of these will be in rural Manitoba, simply do not have the resources, nor are they of sufficient size to warrant teachers to deliver courses in every subject area. The only way we are practically going to be able to deliver courses on a more wide-ranging basis to these people is if we use the technology that we have.

It is not good enough for the Department of Education to ignore what is going on in the rest of the world and to continue to deliver programs using old technology and the old methodologies when these opportunities are available.

I have two questions to the Minister of Education. Can he tell us what has happened to MCALC? There was some talk, perhaps Pollyanna talk by the Minister of Education, that somehow this was going to be absorbed, MCALC was going to be absorbed by some other private corporation and the technology and the development that have been ongoing at the university would be saved for Manitoba. Did that actually happen? Is there any development work going on with respect to computer-assisted or computer-managed learning in the province? Has the Minister or his staff been involved in that development if it is going on at all?

Mr. Derkach: Let me say, Mr. Acting Chairman, first of all the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) confuses two issues. He talks about my visit to the Manitoba Technical Training Centre. I have been there.

Mr. Storie: You have?

Mr. Derkach: I have seen the programs that they deliver there. Indeed it has nothing to do with these programs that are being delivered in the high schools of our province.

Nevertheless, he asked the question about MCALC as well. I would have to say that, yes, it is true that MCALC was designed to be a self-sufficient, if you like organization. That was established under his administration. MCALC, I might add, has been sold to the private sector and is still operating under the same consortium or in the same method that it was previously, but it has been sold.

* (1520)

With regard to small schools, Mr. Acting Chairman, I know the importance of delivering education through Distance Education, through computer-assisted learning in small schools. Indeed, I represent an area that has many small schools. I do not live in the City of Winnipeg, so therefore I understand what kinds of difficulties small schools in northern and rural Manitoba are facing, and the need for this kind of technology in order to be able to assist students who cannot get the teacher contact time, where there are multigrades, where courses are not available because of the size of the school.

It is indeed important to be able to develop this technology as soon as we possibly can. For that reason, we have given Distance Education a much higher profile

than was ever given to it in the former administration. He says that he created the department, that may be fine and yes, he was only about five years behind time when he did that. If he had been thinking he should have done that when he first came into that portfolio.

Nevertheless, we cannot do everything overnight. The amount of funding that was provided under the former administration was certainly not sufficient enough to develop the kind of programs that he is talking about right now.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I might indicate that year over year our increase to Distance Education has been \$500,000.00. Indeed, this is an increase in order for them to be able to deliver programming where it is needed. We have at the present time methods in this province where students can take a program based on Distance Education, based on computer-assisted learning, and the contact with the instructor. As we proceed, we will be able to deliver Distance Education programs even in more sophisticated ways.

As he knows the University of Manitoba, and the University of Brandon, and the University of Winnipeg, right now are working co-operatively in establishing a Distance Education method of delivering first-year university programs in rural Manitoba. I might add that one of those areas that we were talking about is right in his own backyard, or one where he used to come from and that is Flin Flon.

We are also working on a satellite uplink that will provide a video interactive kind of Distance Education method, which is going to be even more practical and more appropriate for delivering some of the courses that have to be delivered in many of our rural and remote areas. We are hoping that all of that will be in place by September of 1990. The department is working very hard. We have a new director of the department. As the Member knows, the former director left the department and we have a new director in the name of Dominique Bloy, who has taken her responsibility very seriously and is working very hard at making sure that her branch meets the current needs of the people in rural Manitoba, and that is very difficult to do because the needs are many.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I think that although I can list a series of examples of what is being done through Distance Education, that would take a lot of time. I note that we are running out of time for Estimates because we are down to less than 25 hours. I will not try and take up more time, but I would like to address the questions in as specific a way as I can. Thank you.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Minister did not answer the question posed with respect to current involvement of the department with MCALC. It is still operating. Are there any courses being prepared at the present time for the Department of Education to provide Distance Ed opportunities on a course basis?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the programs that were supposed to have been delivered through MCALC under the former contract were delivered and are being used. There are presently two programs that are being

developed right now through MCALC. MCALC is still operating and, yes, whenever we can, I can get that for you. I could provide the answer for the Member, but I would have to get staff to research that. We do not have the information at our finger tips in terms of what is being developed, but there are two French programs that are being developed. The ones that were delivered were biology, geology and math.

Mr. Storie: Given the importance that this area holds for access to education for a lot of rural and northern Manitoba, I am surprised that information is not at the Minister's finger tips, quite frankly. It seems to me that this is one of the most important things that the department and MCALC and the province are doing at the present time.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister referenced the Manitoba Technical Training Centre and suggested that I was confusing the two issues. The fact of the matter is that the Technical Training Centre is taking a block of training that is required for an individual, offering it to that individual virtually without assistance other than his supervisor, but offering it to that individual so that the individual can develop the necessary skills to receive certification in a certain area or the necessary skills to do a particular job. It is being done through computer-managed learning. The same principle can be applied to high schools. The same principle can also be applied -(interjection)- pardon me.

(Mr. Neil Gaudry, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Well, the Minister is saying I was confusing the two issues. The issue is, you can take a full credit course and turn that into a computer-managed, or a computer-assisted learning course, and deliver it virtually anywhere where the individual, the student, has access to a computer system.

My further question is to the Minister. The company, Control Data, which is involved in MTTTC, also prepared a proposal for the province to develop some adult basic education programs in seven communities in northern Manitoba. In one of the most critical areas, the Minister has launched a major offensive against illiteracy or has launched a number of initiatives designed to improve our standings with respect to literacy in the Province of Manitoba.

One of the areas which has been found to be very successfully managed by computer learning is the area of adult basic education. The Kirkness Adult Learning Centre, which is again a computer-managed adult basic education program, has been very successful in particularly supporting Native peoples in their effort to upgrade their skills. The director of that program, I think, has been extremely positive about the outcomes they have experienced at the Kirkness Learning Centre. It is one of the areas that I think needs to be expanded to more centres in Manitoba.

I am wondering whether the Minister has had any recent discussions with Control Data or any other company or any other agency, perhaps Frontier School Division, about the possibility of setting up such adult basic education upgrading centres in communities like Norway House, Cross Lake, the Island Lake

communities, some of the more remote and larger northern communities. Have there been any discussions along that line? Is the Minister acting along that line?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the reason I said the Member was confusing the MTTC with the question he had asked previously was because MTTC does deliver post-secondary programs. The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) was asking specifically about high school programs in his first question. That is why I indicated to him that we were talking about two different areas.

* (1530)

With regard to the Kirkness Learning Centre, yes, they do provide a service that is excellent. There is no denying that, but we have to take a look at cost. We have to take a look at whether or not the individuals can afford the kind of costs that are associated with programs from the Kirkness Learning Centre, or whether or not we as a department can deliver those programs by a different way or by a similar method at a far more effective and efficient cost.

Through our satellite up-links, if and when that is achieved, we will be able to indeed offer those very same kinds of programs through our northern schools and to our northern communities in a community-based way, in a more effective, more efficient and a more, I might say, cost-effective way.

The answer to that question is yes. Kirkness does provide a good service. It is costly. We feel that we can do that through Distance Education in a more practical way.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—pass. Item 4.(g)(2) Other Expenditures, \$3,875,400—(pass); 4.(h) Regional Services: (1) Salaries, \$495,100—(pass).

4.(h)(2) Other Expenditures, \$335,400—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: The Minister, in a response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition regarding a need for student involvement and whatnot, indicated that students are important and that he involves students. Can the Minister give me some example of how, in the aspects of his department, he has involved the reason why we all exist in education, the student in committees, et cetera, how are students involved, as far as the Minister is concerned?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think what the Member for Sturgeon Creek is talking about is my response to a question regarding the importance of involving the community in making decisions about matters within school divisions, and certainly there has to be a partnership developed between the school, the parent, the school board and indeed the Department of Education and Training.

So when I talk about that I am talking about the fact that students have a responsibility to the school but they also have a right to know what is in their records,

to have information regarding the kinds of programs they are taking. So do parents. If we take a look at what is happening in our education system, I would have to say that there is a crying need for a closer liaison between the school, the individual classroom teacher, and parents. I think if we had that closer liaison, that closer link and that closer tie, we would not see the kinds of articles that we saw in the paper as an example yesterday morning, or was it the day before, where we talk about teachers being afraid to now approach a student, a small child perhaps in a school, when a child is hurt to give that child a hug and that sort of thing.

I think that is an indication of how schools have become removed from the parents. I think that we need to have a closer tie, a closer liaison, so that parents could indeed support the school. When I talk about involvement of parents, when I talk about involvement of students, I am talking involvement at the local school level. Certainly wherever we can we would not reject student participation. When I taught at the university level, I underwent some criticism because I did not appoint a student to the University Board of Governors. I said that was an oversight on my part and that indeed when the next opening came up we would fill it. I am a believer that there is a need for student participation. There was student participation in the High School Review. Indeed I am a proponent and a supporter of that and would encourage school divisions to include perhaps some forum for students to be able to express their views on education, their views on how the school process is going within their local community.

Mrs. Yeo: The response was to the question posed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) regarding mandatory drug and alcohol education in the schools. When the Leader of the Opposition requested some consultation with the students, the Minister indicated that students are important and he has just reiterated that in a long, roundabout way I suppose. He also indicated the commitment to place a student on the board at the university level. I would ask if he has done that.

I would also like to ask him if he does feel there is a commitment to the students in Manitoba why he pulled the two advisers from the department from the Intercollegiate Examiner, a newspaper that is struggling to continue to exist and believes that they are perhaps a student voice that is placed on the stands in the various high schools throughout the province?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I can indicate to the Member for Sturgeon Creek that the ADM of the PDSS Branch is the adviser to the High School Students' Association Council and is giving them advice as requested. When the Member raises the issue about the drug and alcohol program, yes, I did indicate that students have something to say about that and I think the survey that was done in River East shows that very specifically because there, through that survey, we found that students did have something important to say about how they get their information, about the lack of information, about the need for more programming, and that is why I maintain that we sometimes have to

stop and listen to students, and that is the level that we listen to them at. I think that the kinds of surveys, the kinds of forms that can be developed right within school divisions and at school levels where students can indeed express their concerns, their views, on the type of programming that is being developed. That is really what I was talking about when I talked about student involvement.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister indicate then, for the individuals involved with the ICE, the Intercollegiate Examiner, if Mr. Ed Buller and Mr. Tom Prins are still the advisers for this particular group that is trying to put together this paper on a monthly-bimonthly basis?

Mr. Derkach: I do not think I would want to say that we are not prepared to give students advice and indeed, once the paper got going, it was perceived by the department that perhaps there was no longer a need to be directly connected with that, because then it would be perceived that there is an influence by the department, but certainly the ADM is prepared to advise the students whenever they need that. The door is always open.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there any departmental funds set aside to assist these students in producing this newspaper?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—pass. Item 4.(h)(3) Grants \$57,400—pass; Item 4.(j) Inner-City Education Initiative: (1) Salaries \$214,600—pass.

4.(j)(2) Other Expenditures \$74,600—the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: Is any of this the money that is targeted to the Inner-City Education Initiative coming from other than the province? Is there money through this area that is from the Core Area Initiative, for example?

* (1540)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the money in this particular appropriation is all provincial money.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Could the Minister indicate how many dollars are set aside to assist school divisions with their meal programs, their breakfast programs, their lunch supplemental programs, et cetera?

Mr. Derkach: There is no specific fund for the meal program, but the special grant that was provided to the Winnipeg School Division and has been provided to them for a number of years now is the funding that they would draw from for the meal program because it was designed for the special problems that exist in the inner city.

Mrs. Yeo: Are any of the funds that are provided—you are saying they are provincial funds—are any of

them recoverable in any way from the federal Government?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Storie: The grants, the level of grants, perhaps the Minister would provide us with a list of the grants. The Minister does not have to read them, that is for sure, a list of the grants, and a question of whether this would be the area that would be used in the upcoming budget should the Government decide to provide some additional support to the parent-child centres.

The Minister knows that it is now on his desk to decide whether to provide some provincial support to these centres. The Minister instructed the groups originally to go to the Winnipeg School Division Board to get interim funding, and the parent-child centres, the five of them, were successful in convincing the school board that these programs were warranted and were important and useful programs for the parents and the children in those communities. Can the Minister indicate whether he has made a decision or will be making a decision in a positive way with respect to that funding?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Member was not here yesterday, I know, and I should not make reference to that, but his colleague, the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill), did ask these very questions and they were answered, so perhaps he could get that information from the Member for Logan with regard to the parent-child centres. But I have to indicate to the Member, he asks another hypothetical question and that is, are we going to be funding this from this area? We are debating the 1989-90 Estimates and therefore it is quite inappropriate to be asking whether or not we might be doing something in the future.

With regard to Compensatory Grants, Mr. Acting Chairman, I could read them by project or I can read them by school division. I will just read them by school division.

Winnipeg School Division No. 1 in 1989-90 received \$1,475,635; St. James-Assiniboia School Division received \$138,089; St. Boniface School Division received \$133,600; Fort Garry School Division received \$71,730; St. Vital School Division received \$47,900; River East School Division received \$125,660; and Seven Oaks School Division received \$60,840, for a total of \$2,053,454.00.

This was the total Compensatory Grants program, Mr. Chairman, and we have, as I indicated yesterday, a council that does adjudicate these projects, and school divisions submit them and there is a priority listing and a criteria that is used to establish whether or not these projects will be funded. If the parent-child centres wish to be funded, then I would suggest that they have to have that project submitted through their school division. If they are attached to the school, then we would treat them like we do any other project that falls within the bounds of the compensatory program.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—pass. Item 4.(k) Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core

Area Renewed Agreement - Education Development: (1) Grants \$560,000—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Just one question, I think. When does this agreement actually end? How long is it to be in place from now?

Mr. Derkach: The agreement ends at the end of 1991.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there any plans being put into place now for what happens after 1991?

Mr. Derkach: This is a tripartite agreement that was established between the city, the province, and the federal Government and indeed that is something that officials from these three levels of Governments will have to enter into discussion about. Certainly it is a very worthwhile program, has served a useful purpose, and we are not in favour of it closing down, but indeed there have to be discussions to see whether there are different needs or whether the needs have changed. We have to ensure that both the city, the municipal Government, and the federal Government are going to want to participate. That is an important aspect before we can indicate whether or not we can participate as well. So I cannot give you the answer right now, but certainly there will be discussions in that regard.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—pass.

Resolution No. 31: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$21,108,800 for Education and Training, Program Development Support Services, \$21,108,800, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1990—pass.

Item 5., Post Secondary, Adult, and Continuing Education and Training \$88,588,200.00. Undertakes various activities aimed at providing educational, training, and community services opportunities for individuals to develop competencies and skills for self-development and satisfying and rewarding careers. Specifically: assistance to students to overcome financial barriers to their educational goals; delivery of innovative programs designed to broaden educational opportunities to respond to community needs and to increase equality of educational opportunity at a post-secondary level; administration of The Private Trade Schools Act; co-ordination of relevant inter-governmental programming including the administration of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Training and several interprovincial training agreements; development, coordination and monitoring of provincial employment and job creation activities; coordination of immigrant language services; and provision of direct employment related training. (a) Executive Support and Skills Development: (1) Executive Administration, \$385,100—(pass).

Item 5.(2) Labour Market Policy and Skills Development, \$529,900—the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: Just one question, Mr. Acting Chairperson. There is a substantial reduction year over year. Could the Minister advise how that has occurred?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, there is a reduction because of the Manitoba Training Advisory Council, which has caused a reduction of three staff years and the corresponding amount of money.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—pass. Item 3. Northern Development Agreement - Canada-Manitoba - New Careers—the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

* (1550)

Mr. Storie: Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister might have had other opportunities to discuss the Northern Development Agreement and its importance to particularly the availability of post-secondary education opportunities in the North. I am wondering, first of all, if the Minister can tell us today whether he has had any indication from the federal Government whether there will be a new Northern Development Agreement.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, as everybody knows, the Northern Development Agreement is ending on March 31. The Department of Northern Affairs has had responsibility for ensuring that Manitoba's interests are heard and that there is a new accord or a new approach, if you like, developed. I am told the negotiations are proceeding quite well, and that the Government will be in a position to make announcements in the future. I do have to indicate that we do have some access programs that are important to us, which we feel must continue.

We have made a commitment that these programs are not going to be cut off, that students who are now in the programs are going to have an opportunity to complete those programs. There is perhaps a time when we have to take a look at a new approach, at a new way to address some of the needs of the province, some of the educational requirements. We are prepared to do that. We are not stuck in a rut, if you like. If there are better ways to do things, we will ensure that we do everything possible to ensure that northern Native people of this province have an opportunity to access the best possible quality of education that we can afford.

Mr. Storie: I urge the Minister not to go about inventing a better mousetrap, when the best mousetrap is already at hand, because quite often new inventions like that tend not to work as well as one might hope. I can tell the Minister that his assurance that students currently involved in the social work program and the nurses program and education program, that those students will have their support continue until they complete the program is welcome news.

Of course, that begs the question of whether there will be new opportunities for the literally thousands of students who are going to be graduating out of northern colleges over the next few years. That is the important question. The Minister can talk philosophically about, well, is there a better way to do it. I can tell the Minister that Manitoba is looked on with a great deal of admiration and respect when it comes to the programs that we have available for people of northern Manitoba, and particularly Native people, they have been very successful.

The Minister earlier today tabled the consultant's report on the Winnipeg Education Centre. I think the conclusions of this report are quite instructive, and I would certainly be willing to bet that the same kind of analysis could be done of the BUNTEP program, of the ACCESS programs that are bringing Native people in particular, people from remote communities into the mainstream of professional life in the province. We have had a hundred years of universities failing Native people. These programs are working and I do not accept for a minute that the Minister's cavalier suggestion that, well, we have to be careful and maybe can rationalize this a little bit better.

The fact of the matter is that the federal Government, his Tory cousins, and maybe this Minister are plotting ways to eliminate these programs. That is the fear that is out there in rural and northern Manitoba. The fact of the matter is while the Minister has not been able to give us any assurance that in 1990 -(interjection)- Well, the Minister for Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), who maybe has an accomplice in this whole charade, has failed miserably when it comes to renewing the Northern Development Agreement, failed miserably. The fact of the matter is that the Minister's assurance that existing students are going to be supported is cold comfort.

Those students obviously anticipated—in fact, I believe there is a contractual agreement between the federal Government and the provincial Government and the Parties to continue their educational process. What concerns me is the Minister's reluctance, his refusal, to say that these programs will continue for a new generation of students who want to get into the BUNTEP program or the ACCESS programs, who want to become nurses, to stay in their communities to train and to operate in their communities.

That is what the people of northern Manitoba are looking for. They are looking for some further commitment from this Minister and this Government that those programs are going to continue because certainly they are shown that there is a model working somewhere else in this country, in some other province or some other jurisdiction, that has been more successful than the model that currently exists for delivering that training, they want these programs left alone. They want these programs funded.

Certainly, they would be arguing if they were here to speak on their own behalf for the enhancement of those programs. We could double the size of those programs and still not meet the need that is out there. It is not good enough to say, well, maybe times are changed, we do not want to get stuck in a rut. If we are stuck in a rut that is working and working for those people, then maybe we do want to stay in that rut. The nice words of the Minister notwithstanding, these people want those opportunities. They want to be convinced that this Government and this Minister are going to make sure they do continue, not for the next two years or three years will the current students graduate, but so that their brothers and sisters and their sons and daughters who are in those communities still working for it, that they will be available to them, those opportunities.- (interjection)-

The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is yelling, well, you did not sign an agreement. We got an extension of agreement of 60 cents out of every dollar coming from the federal Government. This Minister is going to fail. I predict now that he will not have an agreement that is anywhere near as good. The reason is because they do not believe in the programs. They do not believe in the programs. The Minister is going to fly around and cry crocodile tears on behalf of northern people that he supposedly is there to protect. He has done nothing in two years to make sure those programs continue.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, I ask the Minister to state for the record: is the province going to see another intake of students in education, nursing and social work in the ACCESS programs for new careers? Are we going to see another intake?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, that verbal diatribe we have just heard from the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is certainly rejected by all of us on this side of the House. Knowing the source it is coming from, it is expected.

Mr. Acting Chairman, when he was Minister of Education, when his Government was in power, he was not able to negotiate a new agreement through the Northern Development Agreement. He was not able to do anything. He got an extension but not a new five-year agreement. Therefore it became the responsibility of this Government to negotiate successfully with the federal Government a new arrangement.

* (1600)

Mr. Acting Chairman, he talks about successful programs. I want to remind him of the program that we changed that he was so opposed to changing. That was the Limestone Training Agency. He stood up in his place and he said, you are killing it; it is gone, there is going to be nothing there. Today we have a very successful northern training employment agency, a training agency that is working, a training agency that is being supported by northern Manitobans, a training agency that people are saying in northern Manitoba should have been developed in that way in the first place, not run out of the corner of Portage and Main, not run out of the City of Winnipeg, but indeed run from northern Manitoba for northern Manitobans, where it should be.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to tell the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) as well about some of the new initiatives that have been undertaken by the Keewatin Community College, a college that Government just about killed. They almost destroyed it because they did not really want to see it exist. This Government gave that college new life.

We have promoted the programs that are delivered through Keewatin Community College. Today that college is being looked by people of northern Manitoba, by the industries in northern Manitoba, as an example of what an educational institution, a post-secondary institution, should be. We have supported that. We have supported it for good reason, because we believe that

indeed northern Manitobans deserve good training opportunities.

With respect to the Northern Development Agreement, Mr. Acting Chairman, we have stood in the House and have indicated that we will ensure that students that are in those programs will have the opportunity to complete their programs, that there are presently discussions going on with new approaches. That only should be expected, because you do not stay with the same kind of program regardless of the need.

There were many training opportunities that were entered into by the former administration. But I ask: where did they lead? Some of them led to jobs; yes, it is true. Some of them were very successful, but there were others, Mr. Acting Chairman, that led nowhere. I have to tell you about a visit that I had to northern Manitoba, where I talked to some northern Native people about some of the training programs that were going on in their community, and one of those programs was carpentry for women, an 18-day course or something like that.

One of the women who had been enrolled in the program said to me, what does this give me? She said, why do you not provide some meaningful training for us? This does not give me anything. So I take this program, and what am I left with at the end? Can I get a job anywhere? And the answer is no. Can I take that certificate that I get to an employer and say, here, I have completed a program, now I want to go to work? The answer was no.

Now the Member was just about to say that was not the purpose of the program. Exactly. They did not know what the purpose of some of the programs were that they implemented. Mr. Acting Chairman -(interjection)- and yes, it was not funded under the Northern Development Agreement. But it does not matter. It is an example of the kind of programs that they entered into that went nowhere.

It is time that we take a look at the training purposes of this province and we ask ourselves, why are we training people in this province? Are we training them just for the purpose of training them, or are we training them so that there are jobs, so that they can enter into jobs, so there are job opportunities at the end of the training? That is what we have to establish, Mr. Acting Chairman, and not the approach that the former Government used. It is true that some of the ACCESS programs have worked well—and I speak of the engineering ACCESS program and the program where we have developed several northern doctors.

I have to also indicate to the Member that they tried for years, since 1985 I believe, to negotiate with the federal Government an agreement where they could deliver a Bachelor of Nursing program in northern Manitoba. Did they do it? No, they did not. They were not able to. Swampy Cree came to us when we formed the Government and said, could we have an arrangement whereby we could deliver the Bachelor of Nursing program in northern Manitoba so that we could have trained nurses for northern Manitoba, trained northern nurses? Mr. Acting Chairman, that was achieved, and I am proud of that program.

I do not need to be lectured by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) about what this Government has done with regard to training in northern Manitoba, because our record is good, and it is going to get better. It is going to get much better. So when he asks us about the Northern Development Agreement, I can tell him that Manitobans have faith in this Government that we will deliver training programs for the people of northern Manitoba who need them.

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): I would like to follow up along the same line of questioning for a while. We have heard the Minister say that the students who are presently involved in the ACCESS programs, the BUNTEP programs, will be supported to the end of their training years. For this information I have to thank the Minister.

I was waiting for some sort of a response to a letter which went to him via the circuitous route of the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) to his desk. I was hopeful it would eventually come back without having to go through the Minister of Northern Affairs' department again. Thankfully, sitting here now, I have an answer. I am quite pleased.

However, there is a concern that I do have, as the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) has indicated. There is at present no firm program, or no firm agreement on the renewal of some program like the Northern Development Agreement which will pick up where it left off.

I notice that in the absence of knowing what the provincial contribution will be, no dollars have been put down in the Estimates indicating what we may be expected to pick up. As it stands right now, or as it stood, the federal Government contributed 60 percent of the dollars and the province, 40 percent. Could the Minister indicate right now whether or not the province of Manitoba will be expected to pick up a larger percentage of the cost-sharing?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, that is again a hypothetical question. It deals with the future, the '90-91 Estimates, and certainly that is not what we are debating here. At this present time I cannot venture to disclose what that figure might be because as I indicated, discussions as far as I know are still continuing between the Department of Northern Affairs and the federal Government. Until such time that they have been concluded, I would not want to make any kind of a statement with regard to the amounts of funding and the percentages in the breakdown.

Mr. Herold Driedger: While that is instructive, I realize the agreement was extended to end in 1990 and so yes, you are saying the '90-91 Estimates, you cannot put any numbers in for Estimate purposes. However, on the Estimates line we have here, and if we just take a look at page 73 of the Supplementary Estimates, you are looking at the agreements for New Careers North, for Post-Secondary Career Development and programs like that, you list no dollars at all for contribution.

I am just wondering whether or not this is already indicative of the kind of uncertainty you are facing

because of these programs that we have presently ongoing. If we accept the programs at face value as being an improvement over what was and will continue to be an improvement, because I read into the answer of the Minister that he previously gave that there is a commitment to this training and that this is going to be good training, if there is a significant, if I may use the term, federal off-loading, what is this going to do to your planning for, not necessarily only the Estimates in this particular program, but also into the year forward? I realize it is a hypothetical question, but in a situation like this you are looking at ongoing things.

You cannot anticipate stopping. You are going to have to start making some kind of commitment to the future and whether we are dealing right now specifically dollars and cents with 1989-90, your programs that you are talking about do go forward, and I would like to get a sense from the Minister with what he can anticipate. I realize he cannot give me exact numbers, but obviously we are going to have to look at increased funding from Manitoba to provide these services if the federal Government continues on its present path, which it is indicating simply by the refusal, or just the past off-loadings and things of that nature.

* (1610)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think there were several questions in that; one was with regard to a line that the Member mentioned. I would have to indicate that I think the line that he is referring to is the amount that is recoverable for the programs under the Northern Development Agreement.

With respect to projections in the future, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate that staff at the present time are taking a look at priorities for 1990 and '91. The staff in my department have been discussing this issue and our priorities with the Department of Northern Affairs. We have several players involved in this, and I have to indicate that we are not at the stage where we can announce what is happening with regard to training agreements for northern Manitobans. I have indicated before that we support the programs that are ongoing right now in terms of ensuring that students have the ability to complete those programs. I think that is basically all we can say at this point in time. There may be a new arrangement whereby those programs will continue to be funded at the level that they are now or maybe at enhanced levels, but that is all speculation.

Mr. Acting Chairman, perhaps our actions speak louder than our words because if we have established a centre for BUNTEP in Thompson, a free-standing, if you like, small institution as it is, that must mean that we believe in the training that is going on with regard to future development in northern Manitoba. So clearly that is sending a message to northern Manitobans and we will work very hard at ensuring that we have our fair share from the federal Government. It may be through a different means, it may be a different structure but, indeed, we anticipate that we will be successful and that the federal Government will live up to its share and its responsibility in training northern Manitobans.

Mr. Herold Driedger: I do not quite share the Minister's confidence in the federal Government that it will live

up to its fair share. We only have to look at the Bill C-31 example in the past few years, where a determination to change something by the federal Government ended up creating a financial strain on northern communities and on many reserve communities because the funding to accommodate the increased populations that were created did not come through.

If we take a look at where these people live, they do not live in other jurisdictions in Manitoba, we are then going to have to, in one way or another, start supporting the Manitoba citizens which they are. For this reason, I am looking to the Minister to see what kind of—I mean, I am sorry that he is going to come back and say “hypothetical” but I think we need to have a commitment here that indicates which direction we want to go because should the federal Government be successful in stonewalling, although I hear the Minister saying this is not the case and I know that there is going to be some sort of an agreement, but it may end up still costing Manitoba more.

I would like to know what kind of programs he is envisaging in the expansion. He has talked about BUNTEP now being in Thompson. Is there, in the planning of the Department of Education, a plan to increase, say, the ACCESS programs to include something other than engineering and social courses, such as teaching or social work or health? Is there a plan to increase this perhaps to the scientific area to try and create a different kind of pedagogical outlook in the graduates that are coming out of these programs?

Mr. Derkach: It is a fairly broad question, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Herold Driedger: Yes, it is.

Mr. Derkach: I will have to indicate that we are committed as a Government to ensure that Manitobans, regardless of where they live, have an opportunity to education. We cannot achieve everything overnight. Indeed, the Northern Development Agreement is coming to an end, March 31st. There have to be, perhaps, new ways of looking at things. We have lived under this agreement for five years. Things have changed over five years. There is no question. Needs have changed; the outlook has changed. I think the needs by Native people themselves have changed, and their view on the importance of education and how they would like to see it delivered has changed.

So we have to be cognizant of all of those things. I think that all of those things are taken into consideration in the negotiations between the Department of Northern Affairs and the federal Government. Now, as the Member knows, when you are negotiating, you never achieve everything you want, but there has to be give-and-take on both sides. I am confident that the Minister responsible for Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) has lived up to his responsibility, and I am not at a point right now where I can disclose any of the arrangements or any of the discussions or agreements that have been reached.

As I indicated, the agreement is still not finalized, to my knowledge, but it is very close. We are anxious,

just as anxious, I guess, as Members opposite, to see the conclusions so that we can then go ahead and make our plans for the coming year. Indeed, I am hopeful that within the next few weeks we will be in that position.

Mr. Herold Driedger: Some of the things that you have actually done right now—you have indicated that there are some community-based, literacy initiatives that you have undertaken. I may not perhaps be on the right line in the Estimates book, but, forgive me, if I am very off the topic because I do want to come back to this precise discussion. You have announced some community-based literacy initiatives which are to improve literacy in northern communities. Are these initiatives only off-reserve or are these on-reserve as well?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the community-based programs that have been established have largely been off reserves, if you like, but there have been a couple of projects where we have embarked on community-based training literacy programs on reserves as well. There was one project to the Southwest Indian Training Committee, one to the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, and there was one to the Island Lake Tribal Council. But others were off-reserve.

Mr. Herold Driedger: A short question: were these programs provided on-reserve then cost-recovered from the federal Government?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, each year the Department of Education and Training negotiates with the Secretary of State for funding for literacy programming. Last year, I believe, we received some \$492,000 from the federal Government. That was complemented by an equal amount from the provincial Government. This year, although the announcement has not been made, we are led to believe that the amount of funding will be in that same neighbourhood area. But, as I indicated, that funding has not been announced.

We have announced significant funding from provincial sources for literacy. I think the total amount is about—I can get you that figure. The total amount of provincial funding that has gone into community-based literacy programming is about \$580,000.00.

* (1620)

Mr. Herold Driedger: So the Minister is saying approximately 50-50 cost-shared between province and the federal Government, on reserve—oh, that is total, okay. Has the same kind of cost-sharing been going on, because I noticed you did reference earlier the Swampy Cree Bachelor of Nursing program. We know that is a fairly costly program. The cost-sharing was again, there—memory does not serve me quite well—but I think it was approximately 50-50 as well.

The Minister indicates yes. I just want to carry on to see whether or not we have something going here. There are other programs you are engaged in. Would you be able to give some figures on cost-sharing, say, between the band management program of the

Southeast Resource Development Council or perhaps the business administration program of the Manitoba Educators of Native Descent program or the Bachelor of Education and Native language teachers courses?

Are these approximately cost-shared on a 50-50 basis, or is there a different ratio?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not have the specific breakdown of the programs the Member just mentioned. We can get that information for him. In a general sense, many of these programs were funded on a joint basis, on a 60-40 basis. More recently, it has been pulled back to about a 50-50 basis. With regard to the Bachelor of Nursing program, the breakdown there is about \$300,000 from the federal Government for five years, I believe. That represents about 45 percent of the cost when we take a look at the cost of our facilities and the cost of our resources that we have in the program.

I can get the specific details on those particular programs that the Member asked about and give him that information tomorrow.

Mr. Herold Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, I put it to you then—it seems to me that even here the indication is more toward a pullback by the provincial Government. I am going to be very interested in the actual numbers or the percentages that I see when we finally have the negotiations that are going to be concluded on the cost-sharing agreements, and see whether or not there is not a substantial increase that will have to be put up by the provincial Government to try and maintain the level of service and increase the level of service that the Minister has referenced, that we have talked about as being a worthwhile goal.

I imagine the costs to the province are going to be considerably higher. Whether or not this can be put to the negotiating skills of the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) or whether simply the stonewalling of the federal Government, I think still remains to be seen. I have no more questions.

Mr. Derkach: I guess I can just conclude by saying that I have a lot of faith in the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) to come up with an agreement that is indeed going to reflect our wishes and our needs. As I indicated, a negotiated position is one where we do not always get exactly what we want, or, we are not going to get the moon, but certainly I think we will do well.

Might I add that, with regard to the pullback on many of these programs, yes, we have borne a greater responsibility in some of these programs, but by and large, Manitoba, with a large northern Native population, has done fairly well in terms of being able to deliver many of these programs. I think the latest example is the literacy programming that has been agreed to between the federal Government and the provincial Government, where we have a substantial amount of funding coming to our province vis-a-vis other provinces in Canada. I think that is a sample of the kind of proactive and the kind of co-operative effort that can be entered into between the federal Government and the provincial Government.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass—(pass). Item 5.(a)(4), New Careers-South, \$1,726,600—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me what areas are involved, what sorts of things are involved with New Careers-South?

Mr. Derkach: Could the Member repeat the question, please?

Mrs. Yeo: I merely asked what is involved with New Careers-South, what programs are offered, and from what part of our province?

Mr. Storie: Can I ask the Minister to give us a list of the courses that are being offered through the New Careers programs, both North and South, a list of them, just a list?

Mr. Derkach: I have a fairly extensive list here of programs that are offered under New Careers, North and South. I would table them for the benefit of the Members, but I will indicate the kinds of programming that are available, just as examples. There is the truck drivers program, the family violence workers program, the human resource development workers program, the community development workers program, and the retail management program, the elder care workers program. Programs of that nature are being delivered under the portfolio of New Careers-North and New Careers-South. I would certainly be pleased to table these for the benefit of the Members.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Item (5), Stevenson Aviation and Technical Training Centre, \$160,500—pass.

5.(a)(6), Job Training for Tomorrow, \$2,740,100—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: There is a substantial difference in what was allocated for last year. Can the Minister indicate why the difference?

Mr. Derkach: If we were to take a look at the history of Job Training for Tomorrow, we would see that the phase-out started the year before this Government took office and indeed there was some intended reduction in the budget that was defeated, and then we took over. The reason for the lesser amount here is that we have a Skills Training Advisory Committee now in place that is looking at how we could possibly better deliver the kind of job training program that is in place right now.

I might indicate too that, prior to this year, a lot of the training component was designated to the public sector. This year, for the first time, we have a major component of it in the private sector, which has indeed led to at least an intention of more permanent jobs. We have also found this year that there were more rural areas using the program this year, areas which had never used the program before, and businesses which had never even heard of the program before.

We ran two major articles, if you like, or advertisements announcing the programs, the spring program and the fall program, which were very effective, and the staff have worked very hard at ensuring that people out in the field understand and know the program. I would have to say that this year we were quite pleased with the numbers of businesses which participated in the program.

* (1630)

We are reviewing the Job Training for Tomorrow program right now, and we will be awaiting the results of the Skills Training Advisory Committee with respect to what they have to say about job training in the future.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Shall the item pass? (Pass).

5.(b) Financial and Administrative Services Branch: (1) Salaries \$687,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$201,200—pass.

5.(c) Red River Community College: (1) Salaries \$28,387,800—the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: There are a couple of reviews that are going on now with relation to the community colleges. There is, I believe, an advisory committee that was established by this Minister to study the community colleges. I am not sure what date. I do not believe in the news release the Minister indicated a date when he thought this committee would complete its task. Is there a date for completion of the task, or is it this ongoing advisory role?

Mr. Derkach: I think the Member is referring to the Community College Governance Board that was struck. This board is not an ongoing one. It is one that was assigned the task of reviewing community colleges and recommending to Government the kind of model that perhaps we should pursue with regard to community college governance. That task has been completed. The board has presented their report to me, and it is an internal report, one that is designed specifically for the Government to give advice on the type of model that we should perhaps pursue with regard to community college governance. We intend to be pursuing the recommendations they have made.

There may be some alterations with regard to the recommendations that have been made, but Government will be looking at it very seriously in the hope that we can perhaps allow more flexibility to our community colleges so they can react to some of the job training requirements that are out there among the industries in Manitoba. We have heard from the Chamber of Commerce of Manitoba, the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Winnipeg, the Canadian Manufacturing Association with regard to some of the deficiencies that exist now because of the way that we have the college system structured. So there was a need for that. I am happy with the report that I have received. I have not gone through it completely, but I see some very interesting things in terms of community college governance for the future.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there plans on the books now for the reorganization of Post-Secondary Adult and Continuing Education and Training department of the Government, of Manitoba Education?

Mr. Derkach: The short answer to that, Mr. Acting Chairman, is yes. As we move toward a different approach to Education and to Training and community college education and because of the fact that we have now acquired the training component in the department, that means there needs to be some change with regard to the reorganization of our whole PACE division. That will happen over time, it is not something that we can do overnight. It will evolve slowly, but over the course of the next six months or a year, there will be some fairly significant changes with regard to PACE and the community colleges.

Mrs. Yeo: So we may well anticipate seeing a fairly dramatic shuffling of ADMs and different personnel at that level with PACE then as the changes are implemented?

Mr. Derkach: Well, Mr. Acting Chairman, when I said there will be changes, I am talking about the structure rather than personnel. Certainly personnel are ones that are up to the Minister and his department and to Government, but indeed when we talk about the restructuring of PACE or restructuring of any branch of the department, we are talking about the structural changes with regard to reporting. Because of the fact that we have acquired the whole training component, it is going to mean that we have to look at perhaps a different structure in order to be able to respond better and more quickly to the needs that we have in this province.

I guess I could use by example the Northern Training and Employment Agency. We did some restructuring there, in fact, the reporting mechanism was changed, and we feel that was the right move in terms of addressing the needs of northern and rural Manitobans. So I am just talking about structural changes rather than personnel changes.

Mrs. Yeo: I do not know whether that means there will not be personnel changes, a very roundabout way of giving a response. One of the business groups in the community, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, has along with many other people stated some concerns. They have talked about the need for more autonomy at Red River Community College.

I think, in my first round of Estimates, I indicated at the time that probably of all the concerns that I have had brought to my attention with regard to Education, community colleges still rank No.1. There are people who have tried to get into programs who are having difficulty. There are people who are in programs who are having difficulty. There are some instructors in the various colleges that are in trouble. There is still the concern on the part of a good number of people with the question of autonomy. I still hear people say that there is a potential out there that is not being met. I would suggest that probably, of all of the departments that come under Manitoba Education, the community colleges rank at the very bottom.

I think there should be some fairly dramatic reshuffling, fairly dramatic reorganization. I look forward to that in fact happening. Has the Minister been in contact with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce that struck a committee that would study whether the Red River Community College should become autonomous from the province? If he has, can he indicate if he will look at this report that is being done and when it should be completed?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I could indicate to the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) that, yes, we have recognized the need for a change with regard to how our community colleges operate in this province. Certainly there is a need for perhaps greater flexibility or autonomy, more community responsiveness, if you like, because they are supposed to be community colleges. Therefore we need some community input from the various community college areas.

We have recognized that. That is why the Community College Governance Committee was struck. The Member also asks about the involvement of people like the Canadian Manufacturers Association and the chambers of commerce, et cetera. I could indicate, the Chamber of Commerce of Manitoba, that we are represented in terms of being involved directly on that committee.

Mrs. Yeo: Perhaps on a more general and encompassing tone, I would guess the universities as well. I am wondering what funding has been received this year by the Department of Education from the federal Government for post-secondary education that is targeted for post-secondary education. How much cash from Michael Wilson's budget have we received? How does this compare to last year?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have to indicate to the Member opposite that this is a fairly complex matter to begin with. First of all, there is the Established Program Funding that is transferred. We could probably get a breakout of that. Then there is also the CEIC funding, the Canadian Jobs Strategy money that comes into the province. So there is a variety of sources that funding does come into the province with regard to post-secondary education.

We could get that, but certainly it would take some time and energy to be able to bring all of that together in order to be able to get that for the Member. If she would like it, I could probably get that over the next week or couple of weeks.

Mrs. Yeo: I have several concerns with the revelation that the feds are probably going to be funding less and less for health and post-secondary education. The amounts are decreasing; in fact I believe that in 1987-88 the provincial Government in Quebec did some projections. They showed that by the year 2004 there were going to be significant cutbacks in the federal grants that will be given to that particular province.

I would like to know if Manitoba has done any figuring, and if they can indicate to us when Manitoba may receive probably zero dollars from the federal Government for health and post-secondary education.

* (1640)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think it is still premature to say we are going to be getting less money. We have some concerns with regard to the federal Government's share of responsibility with regard to post-secondary education. There is no question. We have seen some indications there may be a need to change the way in which we receive money for post-secondary education. It does not necessarily mean that we are going to be getting less. It may mean that we get it in a different way. Certainly we have seen some changes over the past few years and some fairly positive changes in the way that training, for example, is done in this province for people in industry, for people out of various businesses. Indeed businesses have responded very positively to the kinds of indirect purchases and direct purchases that have existed in the post-secondary area. So yes, we do have concerns.

I cannot give any indication right at this time whether it will be less, how much less, or whether in fact it will be the same amount or even more. There is speculation all over the country that there is going to be less money. Certainly, if we try to speculate on it, I think it would be simply pulling figures out of the air at this point in time.

Mrs. Yeo: I think that Manitobans who have been subjected to two terms now of Tory rule in Ottawa and now the result of free trade negotiations, et cetera, should be informed as to what may be happening down the line.

Education is one of the most cherished services for all of Manitobans. I think it would be unfair to expect that Manitobans should have to shoulder the total responsibility. I would certainly like to believe that the Tory Government in Manitoba is going to the Tory Government in Ottawa and thumping the table just a little harder than they are currently doing. I think we have a bit of a supine Government here, and I would like to think that perhaps you would get upright and fight for Manitobans before the year 2000, and we find ourselves without any federal assistance.

I would like to ask about a program at Red River Community College, the Developmental Worker Program that was suggested in a news release—a two-year developmental services worker diploma program to be offered by Red River Community College. I wonder if perhaps the Minister would not read the course outline word for word, but if he could table the course outline and the names of the instructors that are providing this two-year program.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) likes to get up and make statements about what this Government is doing or not doing. Then she wants to just ask me to table things and not to read them into the record so that they are more convenient for her. Well, I would like to remind her that it is not this Government that has put them in the quandary that they are in right now where they are quickly running out of Estimates hours and there are still several departments to go. That is not

our responsibility, and therefore, although I have tried to have been as co-operative as I can in terms of tabling information, there are times when I have to read it into the record so that it does not appear as though questions were asked but no answers were provided. So yes, I have tried to table as much information as is possible, but I cannot continue to do that for every single question that the Member asks.

Yes, the developmental services worker program is a program that is being delivered by Red River Community College. I will table the course outline for her, as she has requested, and as of September 18, 1989, this program is being delivered as a regular college program and it has an enrollment of 24 students. It is a program that I think is fairly positive and, with 24 students in it, it has received the green light. Up until that time, or close to the time when we were able to deliver it, we did have some difficulty with having a sufficient number of students, but the college did go out and do some marketing, and in doing that they were able to attract a good quantity of students to be able to offer the program.

Mrs. Yeo: There is another program that I would like to ask the Minister about, the dental assisting program, that needs to have necessary funds made available to them in order to update the program or they are in danger of losing their accreditation. Can the Minister indicate what action is taking place to assist this particular program to be an ongoing program at Red River?

Mr. Derkach: This indeed is an important program for us and we see that there is always a waiting list for it. I have some concern about the fact that here yet is another program that we have been left with by the former administration that may lose its accreditation because they had not lived up to their responsibility in ensuring that facilities were adequate for the program.

The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) says, you have had two years to address it; yes, we had to address the dental program at the University of Manitoba, and that was a \$3.5 million touch that we had to come up with in order to ensure that the accreditation would be in place for that program. Now we find another program that is in the same kind of dilemma, and I have a letter, in fact, drafted to the accreditation board to ensure that we are supporting the program, and that yes, we have to address the facilities, and we intend to do that over time.

Mr. Storie: I was rather amused by the Minister's explanation for why he had to put this information on the record, and pretending that somehow, by providing the information, by tabling it for us, that somehow it would not be on the record that he had answered the question. That is rather a specious kind of argument to say the least. The fact is, the Minister has delighted in spending Estimates time rambling considerably, and the Minister cannot blame that simply on the Opposition Critics. However, we have not had nearly enough time for Education, and I guess we all have to share the blame for that.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, two questions -(interjection)- the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) continued to

speculate about the direction that might be taken for our community colleges, and he kept saying that yes, we recognize that changes—maybe changes and changes—do we know what we are changing to? Can the Minister outline for the Education Critics what role the Minister sees for community colleges? He says that there may be organizational changes, but he has not told us why, what the objectives of that change might be. Does the Minister have some vision of where he wants community colleges to end up five years from now?

Mr. Derkach: I recall being in Opposition at one time, and the only difference was that the New Democrats at that time had a majority Government, and therefore they did not have to tell us anything, and they did not. Mr. Acting Chairman, with regard to the dilemma that the Opposition Parties find themselves right now with regard to Estimates, that is their problem. We do not share any of that responsibility. They have squandered away the valuable Estimate time and now we are running toward the end of Estimate time, and they are saying, just keep tabling things.

Well, we can be co-operative and yes, we will table as much as we can to help the Opposition Parties along so they get the information, because Estimate time is very important, I believe, in ensuring that every department is held accountable. We are certainly not shirking our responsibility in this regard.

With regard to community colleges and governance, we have indicated from the very beginning that there needs to be a review of community college governance. Now, I did not stand up and say that I believe that community college governance should be this and this and this. That is why we put together the Community College Advisory Board that was headed by my Deputy Minister, Mr. John Carlyle, and they have taken a look at a variety of institutions across the country. They have put together a variety of models and they are recommending a particular model.

It is up to this Government now to examine that model, to see whether or not it meets with the approval of this Government, and then we will move in the direction that we think we should. At that point in time, I will be happy to sit down with the critics and advise them of the direction that we are moving. Certainly if they have some advice to give me now with regard to what they think our community colleges should be like, I would prepared to sit down with them on an individual basis or collectively with both of them and discuss this entire matter.

I do not think it is appropriate for us to say, this is what we think we are going to go ahead with at this time, because we know very well that the first opportunity that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) or the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) would have, they would run to the media and say, hey, look what those Conservatives are going to do with our community colleges, and we would conjure up a lot of discussion and a lot of perhaps misinformation for nothing. The way Government usually does things is that first of all they make a decision, and then they would share it with the public either through news

conferences or through information sessions and that is how we will proceed with regard to community college governance.

Mr. Storie: Well, the Minister on the one hand says they have not decided and they have been consulting, and on the other hand he says we have a model that has been presented as an option for us to consider. My request is simply, that the community colleges are not the Minister of Education's, they belong to the people of Manitoba, and they are there to serve the tens of thousands of students who use them. It would seem to me it would behoove the Government to have that information, the direction the Minister is intending on taking in community colleges, available to those people, that in fact Manitobans should have some input. It is fine for the Chamber of Commerce to feel they need some greater access to the decision making at the college, but the community colleges were not designed to serve just the Chamber of Commerce.

I am hoping that before the Minister makes any decision on behalf of the Government, there is some legitimate consultation. I do not know how broadly the task force consulted in the first instance, whether the students' groups were consulted, whether municipalities in those areas of the province that are generally underserved by community colleges were consulted, but certainly I know that before the Minister sets any new direction for the community colleges, they would want to be consulted as well. They would want to ensure that their views are part of any recommendations of the Government. So I am a little concerned about the direction the Minister may be taking us. I do not want to wake up one morning and have the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) announcing that this is what he is doing, before the thousands of people who are affected by it have had a chance to give him direct input on what he is proposing to do, not commenting after the fact that he has done it.

Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister also was acting as an apologist for the federal Government again and suggesting that somehow they could not calculate what the changes to equalization, the changes to established programs financing were on the Province of Manitoba. The fact of the matter is that those figures are knowable. There was a formula change that is well known, or should be well known, to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). It is going to cost the Province of Manitoba hundreds of millions of dollars over a five-year period.

Certainly it is our belief that it is the responsibility of the federal Government to maintain some sort of equitable funding for post-secondary education in the Province of Manitoba. The Minister should know that in 1985 the federal Government, his Tory cousins, unilaterally decided to take out 40 percent of the direct purchases from our community colleges—a unilateral decision. The Minister should know that the indirect funding method that was put in place, supposedly to compensate provinces, to compensate community colleges for that loss of direct funding, has been underutilized every year.

* (1650)

In fact, a total amount of money that is being spent on education and now training, the dollars that come

from the federal Government, has virtually been cut in half since 1985, cut in half, so that the dollars that used to be spent in the province training people in one vocation or another has been cut in half to the detriment of literally thousands of students.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), I understand, does not want to be critical of his buddies in Ottawa, but certainly I think it is going to leave the province on the hook for a task that should be a shared responsibility between the federal Government and the provincial Government.

One other question, more directly to the Minister, could he indicate—and this would cover not only Red River Community College but Assiniboine and KCC as well. Could the Minister indicate the average, or could he give me some information on the average length of waiting time for courses like diploma nursing, construction technology? Could the Minister give me some information on the four or five courses that have the longest waiting times? How long does a student now have to wait for some of the most popular courses?

Mr. Derkach: I have lots to say before we get to the final part of the question, so I guess I will start by saying, first of all, not that long ago this Member from Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) said to me, or said to the House, that we have established yet another committee to study something else. When we established the task force, he said, why are you establishing a task force on literacy? You already have the information from your department. When we established the High School Review Policy Advisory Committee, he criticized that as well.

Now he is saying that we should be going out to the province and asking the people for their input into community college governance. He wants it both ways. I remember another time when somebody said, yes, and I can have it both ways because I am in Opposition. But, Mr. Acting Chairman, I think that this Member should be more responsible in terms of his questioning.

I have to indicate that we have gone out to the community at large with regard to community college governance, because the committee did consist of representatives from throughout the province. I would like to read for the record the members who were on that committee.

As I indicated, the committee was headed by my Deputy Minister, Mr. John Carlyle. We had Ms. Holly Beard on the committee, a community representative from Thompson, from northern Manitoba. We had Mr. Ed Gallos on the committee, a representative from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. We had Mr. Bob James, a private consultant, on the committee. We had Mr. Amrat Jivan, an instructor from Red River Community College. We had Mr. Tony Lussier, President of Keewatin Community College; Mr. Dick Mackie, President of Assiniboine Community College; Mr. Herb Middlestead, President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Ray Newman, President of Red River Community College, who is with us here today. We had Mr. Don Penny, community representative from the Brandon-Westman area. We had my Assistant Deputy

Minister, Ms. Nancy Sullivan, on the committee; and we had Mr. Jim Wright, the representative of the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

So indeed, Mr. Acting Chairman, we had representatives from across the province, representatives of the community colleges, who represented the instructors and who represented the students. One of the shortfalls that we recognized later was that perhaps—and it was pointed out by the committee—we should have included the MGEA, a representative, on that committee. I said that is something in hindsight that I would have done if I had to do it again.

Indeed the committee did consult with the MGEA to ensure that any model that we come up with will have their input into it. They will be consulted if there is any kind of a transition program; MGEA will certainly be involved in that. What we are trying to do here is not simply an agenda that has been struck by a particular party or a particular Government. We are trying to accomplish something for the benefit of this province, for the benefit of Manitobans so that indeed our community colleges are going to be what they are intended to be, community colleges, so that our presidents can then take with pride what their colleges do in their community, so they can be more responsive and more responsible for the actions of the community colleges.

That is what we are trying to achieve, so indeed Manitobans in general are going to be able to get the kind of educational opportunities they need and they require at the community colleges.

Mr. Acting Chairman, the last part of the question had to deal with the wait lists for various programs. There are wait lists, of course, for several programs at the community college. If the applications were submitted in January of 1990, as an example, the individual would probably have to wait until September of 1990 to get into the program. Now I guess it varies with various programs, but if the Member would like a list of the programs where we have waiting lists, I could certainly give him that list as well. Would you like that as well—okay.

As an example, the nursing program—we have a two-year waiting list. For the construction and carpentry program, again, it would be a two-year waiting list. In engineering technologies, we have no waiting list. So it varies. Of course, some of the more popular programs would indeed have longer waiting lists. We were trying to address it. Last year we put in another section of the child care program in each of the colleges and a new program in Thompson. This was as a response to the waiting lists that we had. So that is really all that I can say with regard to the waiting list, but I can provide in written form some of the waiting lists for the Member.

Mrs. Yeo: Well, I just want to echo some of the things that my colleague for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) has said about the comments about the Government not taking any credit, if you will, for the length of amount of time that we have in Education to go through the Estimates. I think if you look in Hansard and you look at the number

of lines that are used by those asking the questions and the number of lines that are used by the Minister in rambling in his responses, I am darn sure that the number of lines that he uses are far greater than the number of questioning lines. Although we certainly can take some of the blame, I think it can be shared by all of us in this particular Chamber.

Mr. Derkach: A quick response, Mr. Acting Chairman, and I will make my responses as brief as I can. Indeed, if I did not provide the kind of lengthy answers I do, they would accuse me of not being thorough enough. So for that reason I try to be as accommodating as I can. The Government holds no responsibility for the lack of time that we have for Estimates for Education. It is really the responsibility—and the blame really rests with the opposition Party and the third Party.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

* (1700)

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Gaudry): Order, please; order, please. The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' hour.

Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Neil Gaudry (Acting Chairman of Committees): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? There seems to be an agreement to call it six o'clock. Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? Agreed.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).