



First Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS  
(HANSARD)**

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39 Elizabeth II

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*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan  
Speaker*



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**VOL. XXXIX No. 27A - 1:30 p.m., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1990**

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-Fifth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	Liberal
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	NDP
CARR, James	Crescentwood	Liberal
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	Liberal
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	NDP
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	Liberal
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	NDP
CONNERY, Edward, Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	NDP
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	Liberal
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Liberal
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	NDP
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Liberal
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	NDP
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANNESSE, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	NDP
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	NDP
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	NDP
STEFANSON, Eric	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 19, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Mrs. Louise Dacquay (Chairman of Committees):** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh), that the report of the committee be received.

**Motion agreed to.**

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Departmental Expenditure Estimates for the Department of Energy and Mines for the year ended 1991.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the Members that on Wednesday, November 14, the chairman of Manitoba Hydro and the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) signed an agreement with the Chemawawin First Nation and the community of Easterville constituting full and final settlement for the outstanding responsibilities arising from the construction of the Grand Rapids Generating Station.

Friday morning, the chairman and the Minister participated in a similar signing ceremony with the Moose Lake Band of Indians in the community of Moose Lake. The settlements for \$13.7 million and \$7.355 million respectively were agreed to between Hydro and the communities after Manitoba Hydro had commissioned an independent consultant's report that did an evaluation of the physical, economic and social impacts of the flooding associated with the construction of the generating station.

In addition, discussions are also under way with the communities of Cormorant and Grand Rapids for compensation for outstanding obligations. The Grand Rapids Generating Station has been operating since 1965, generating electricity for the benefits of all Manitobans. Over the past 25 years much has been done to assist the people of the area where flooding took away some of their land and changed their way of life. When we formed the Government in 1988, however, there remained many grievances on the part of the people of the area.

In the interest of fairness and justice Premier Filmon sought and obtained the support of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board to conduct a retroactive review of the impact of the flooding. The evaluation formed the basis for the settlement with the people of Chemawawin/Easterville, and Moose Lake. The Government is pleased to report the successful conclusion of these negotiations with the recently signed settlements and hopes that the monies placed into trusts to ensure capital preservation will provide a basis for ongoing economic development for the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would at this time like to table the settlements with the two communities as well as the impact study that was done by the consultants.

**Mr. George Hickey (Point Douglas):** I would like to respond to that, and I am pleased that there has been some settlement made to northern communities which I, like all Manitobans, am pleased to see take place.

Also, on that same point, there are other communities that have negotiations underway and have not been settled yet. We are talking about The Pas, Cormorant and Grand Rapids. That still has to be settled, and the whole aspect of the Northern Flood Agreement. We have to make sure that is settled, and I see this as a first step, and I hope it will be continued to the advancement of all aboriginals and all Northerners, as we have many issues that still need to be addressed. They have received some cash settlements, but there are also to be continued ongoing issues and concerns, and I hope that this Government will deal with them and

give ongoing support to the communities. When we talk about the ongoing support, we are talking about the health, the educational needs of all Northerners.

\* (1335)

Like I mentioned, this is the first step, and I am glad to see that it has been taken. I hope this is a show of continuous support on behalf of the Government, because as aboriginals and Northerners we look forward to that, as long as it continues and the aboriginals and the Northerners can benefit from these. We also have Norway House, Cross Lake and York Landing still have to be settled. You know, the Metis communities have to be addressed. So I am really looking forward to that, and I hope this is the first positive step. Thank you.

**Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood):** Mr. Speaker, this announcement is both good news and bad news. The good news is that we do in fact have an announcement, and we congratulate the Government for it. The bad news is that it took 25 years. The Grand Rapids Generating Station was built in 1965. Manitoba Hydro has consistently shown, with all of its major dam projects, an underestimation of the mitigation and the contingent liability upon them. It took the urgings of a Government for Manitoba Hydro to begin serious negotiations with these bands. We have now seen that in the Northern Flood Committee arrangements we are now hundreds of millions of dollars into contingent liabilities, and even today as we embark upon a decision that could spend some \$6 billion of Manitoba money for the development of Conawapa and the export sale to Ontario, we have no idea what Manitoba Hydro's contingent liabilities will be.

Traditionally, Hydro has not factored in the cost of environmental damage, the cost of moving communities, uplifting people in the everyday costing of these megaprojects. At the same time that we applaud the Government for finally coming to terms with these people who have been affected by hydro generation and development, we also caution the Government to ensure that for all future major projects the interests of people are given top priority.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's Gallery, where we have with us today His

Excellency Girish Mehra, the High Commissioner of India, and his wife Kamla, accompanied by Mr. Jasrotia, who is the Consul General of India.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Also with us this afternoon in the loge to my left we have Mr. Rudy Pudluk, the MLA for the High Arctic, which includes the North Pole.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

I would like to draw Honourable Members' attention to the table, where we have with us this afternoon Mr. Craig James, who is a Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees for the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

\* (1340)

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### Shoal Lake Water Quality Premier's Meeting

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the First Minister, the Premier. He had a meeting last Friday with the Premier of Ontario dealing with bilateral and national issues, Mr. Speaker. All Manitobans of course are very concerned about the Shoal Lake water basin on both sides of the border, and preliminary reports from that meeting indicate that the meeting was positive and that the Premier of Ontario was receptive to the idea of dealing with the interbasin transfer of water and the Shoal Lake water quality in a way that could arrive at an agreement that would put people before gold mines.

My question to the Premier is: Can he report on his deliberations formally in this Chamber and the success of his deliberations with the new Premier, Premier Bob in Ontario?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. Yes, I did have a good meeting that gave me room for optimism with respect to the commitment of the new Government of Ontario.

I might say in all fairness that the previous administration of the Province of Ontario had been giving us equally great co-operation with respect to

the protection of the City of Winnipeg's water supply from Shoal Lake.

The commitment that I received from Premier Rae was that he would ensure that his administration carried on the co-operative work that is ongoing between the ministry of the Environment in Ontario and the ministry of the Environment in Manitoba to arrive at a long-term management approach to the watershed that will restrict development and restrict the fear and the risk of pollution of the city's water supply on a long-term basis. We were very pleased to receive that commitment personally from the Premier.

I know that our Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) will be following up on that meeting with the new Ontario Minister of Environment to ensure that they work out the details of the long-term approach that we want to take to that watershed.

### **Mining Permits**

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Premier for the answer to the question.

During the last election period and prior to that we were all solicited on our positions dealing with mining permits on our side of the watershed. It seems to us to be logical that if we are going to ask for a curtailment of mining activity on Ontario's side of the watershed, affecting 80 percent of the water that is in the intake area of Shoal Lake, we should also practise the same policies on our side of the watershed with the 20 percent of land but, more importantly, quite a bit of drainage into the watershed area of Shoal Lake affecting the intake valve.

So my question to the Premier is: Will he reverse the present Government's policy on not disallowing mining permits on the Shoal Lake side in Manitoba? Will he look at a review of all those mining permits with an idea to revoke the permits as part of our consistent negotiations with the position we want for the water quality for the Province of Manitoba?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I might say that as a Government we have followed the policy of not issuing any new mining permits on the Shoal Lake watershed. I might say that we currently have out for public discussion regulations to bring that watershed into the designation of a sensitive area environmentally for our province, which will

have severe restrictions as to what can be done within that watershed.

Third, I might say that I will give the same commitment to any Manitoban, as I stated face to face with Premier Rae, and that is that we will not ask Ontario to do anything that we are not prepared to do ourselves with respect to limiting any types of development but specifically ones that would be harmful to the environment on that watershed.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Premier for the answer to the question.

The answer the Premier gave during the Eco-Network survey on the water table, the Shoal Lake watershed area, was that the Conservative Government did not feel it practical to remove all mining claims from the Shoal Lake watershed on the Manitoba side.

Mr. Speaker, if we deal with practicalities, considering what happened in the recent Rafferty-Alameda position where practicalities overcame environmental concerns, then we would not be able to go beyond practicalities and deal with the long-term downstream effect of the quality of water on the whole watershed.

So I would ask the Premier, would he today agree to reverse the Conservative position, the Government's position, on the mining permits on the Manitoba side of the watershed so we can go to the table with Ontario in a consistent way asking them to remove the mining permits on the Ontario side as part of an agreement while we are doing the same thing on the Manitoba side?

\* (1345)

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want the Leader of the Opposition to in any way mislead the public with respect to what is contained within the answer of removing exploration permits. The fact of the matter is that removal of exploration permits could be a situation that involves expropriation of pre-existing rights for exploration.

However, the sensitive area regulations would supersede that and not allow the development of any mines. It is the development of the mines which would indeed be the potential source of pollution. That is the stage at which Ontario is. There is an application for the development of a gold mining facility and a processing facility. Our sensitive area regulations would preclude that.

So the existence of exploration permits could not then lead to any mining taking place. That is the way to go at it, to supersede it all and prevent, through the designation of a sensitive area, any mining from taking place. That is exactly what would cause to happen what most environmentalists, indeed most Manitobans would want, the assurance that mining and mining processing will not take place.

That is the bottom line that we are aiming for, not dealing with an extraneous matter such as is the subject of the question that has just been raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

### **Goods and Services Tax Impact on Education**

**Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education.

The inflation rate in Winnipeg is now at 5 percent. By the Minister's own admissions, less than one-half of the school divisions in this province have received increases at or above the level of inflation.

Since property tax levels are now at the highest rates in history and since the GST is expected to impact by at least 2 percent on school board budgets, what relief if any is this Government going to provide to school boards to protect the taxpayers from the biggest whammy and hit on the tax base next year?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the Member for Kildonan in the preamble to his question once again. The amount of money that was allocated to Winnipeg School Division No. 1 was in fact well above the level of inflation, not what he is indicating.

It is true that we have supported education funding to all school divisions at or above the level of inflation in a general sense. As a matter of fact I could indicate to the House that this department, the Department of Education and Training, was allocated 25 percent of the total increases to all provincial budgets, Mr. Speaker. Indeed that is a generous kind of allocation of funding to our school divisions throughout this province.

It is also true that school divisions have to set their own priorities in terms of what they intend to do with their money. I could indicate also that in Manitoba we have one of the lowest pupil per teacher ratios in all of this country.

### **Winnipeg School Division No. 1 Special Education Costs**

**Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary—I should just remind the Minister, my question was directed to all school boards, and 33 school divisions did not receive an increase greater than the rate of inflation.

My question is: By the Minister's own figures released last week as a result of Estimates the increase in special education cost to the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 was \$5 million. Yet why did this Government decrease the percentage rate to Winnipeg School Division by 3 percent? They decreased it by 3 percent. What are they going to do to deal with the galloping costs of special education in Winnipeg School Division No. 1?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** Mr. Speaker, Winnipeg School Division No. 1 received 4.6 percent from the provincial Government last year. One of the other errors that seems to be made is that special needs education is always the one that has been targeted as an indication of where there have not been sufficient supports.

I can indicate to you that it was this Government that increased funding for special needs for the first time in a number of years. As a matter of fact the rates went from \$6,600 to \$7,100 in the level 2 area. In the level 3 area the amount went from \$13,000 to indeed over \$15,000 per student. That is over a 20 percent increase in one year for special needs funding.

There is indeed a commitment for us to hold education as a priority, and we have indicated it by the funding that we have demonstrated to the school divisions.

**Mr. Chomlak:** Perhaps the Minister would like if I would table the documents he provided me last week in this House, because they have the figures right here.

Will this Government cancel its \$8 million tax break to large corporations in order to provide funding to special education and the seriously underfunded education programs in this province to help our kids?

\* (1350)

**Mr. Derkach:** Once again, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Kildonan puts erroneous comments on

the record in his preamble. As a matter of fact, there are no such things as tax breaks.

In the Workforce 2000 we are ensuring that both industry, Government and the community get involved in partnerships in making sure that we have a trained work force for the 1990s and for the 21st century. We are able to do that simply by ensuring that indeed business and industry contribute to training as they should. This is a way in which we will do that.

I am not ashamed of the amount of money that we have allocated for training or for education or special needs. As a matter of fact, 20 percent increases in special needs funding in one year is indeed a generous amount.

### **Manitoba Learning Centre Meeting Request**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Since 1975, the Manitoba Learning Centre has been providing help to preschoolers, to school age children and to adults with learning disabilities. They have indicated that they have had to lay off four staff persons and that by the end of the year they are in danger of closing and therefore unable to provide this essential service to the learning disabled of the Province of Manitoba.

Can the Minister of Family Services tell the House today if he has agreed to meet with the Manitoba Learning Centre in order to ensure the continuation of its good programming?

**Hon. Harold Gillieshammer (Minister of Family Services):** The issue is before the department; we will be meeting on it and any recommendations or announcements will come forth in due course.

### **Service Cutbacks**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Can the Minister tell the House why the Career Orientation Program for learning disabled adults, which provided for a fund called the Social Assistance Agreement, has been discontinued and, therefore, the programs it was funding at the Manitoba Learning Centre are no longer available?

**Hon. Harold Gillieshammer (Minister of Family Services):** The department of course funds many programs to assist people across Manitoba. I will take that question as notice and bring back further information for you.

### **Funding**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** There is no question that there is a very serious crunch in providing for the special needs of youngsters in the Province of Manitoba. Can the Minister of Education tell the House whether he is prepared to fund the Manitoba Learning Centre in a similar fashion to the way the Laureate Academy is financed and that they are both providing aid and assistance to school-age children?

**Hon. Harold Gillieshammer (Minister of Family Services):** I will take that question as notice, and I will come back to the House with the response.

### **Minimum Wage Rate Increase**

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** My question is for the Premier. Given that inflation in Winnipeg is now 5 percent and given that the minimum wage has not been raised for three years and given that the purchasing power of working people is being eroded everyday, will his Government act on behalf of thousands of working Manitobans and announce an increase in the minimum wage and stop stalling and studying on the increase?

**Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Labour):** In answer to the question for the Member for Burrows, I repeat to the House today the information I have given to this House on occasions before. We are awaiting the report from the Minimum Wage Board, which is composed of representatives of both labour and management with an independent chair. I expect that report very shortly, at which time the Government will look at the recommendations that are contained in that report.

\* (1355)

### **Social Assistance Rate Increase**

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** I have a supplementary question for the Premier.

Given that inflation is now at 5 percent, will the Premier take action on behalf of the large number of Manitobans who subsist on social assistance and announce a January 1 rate increase of at least 5 percent, given that is the rate of inflation?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** This Government has consistently given increases in social

allowances in keeping with the increase in inflation in the previous two years. That is a matter that will be announced ultimately in anticipation of the changes on January 1 at an appropriate time by the Minister responsible.

### **Shelter Allowances Rate Increase**

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** My final supplementary is for the Minister of Family Services.

We know that 53 percent of seniors who are women live in poverty and 29 percent of single men over 65 live below the poverty line and many of the widows have no company pensions.

My question is: Why does the provincial Government decrease shelter allowances for elderly renters when the cost of living increase comes through from federal pension benefits? Will they raise the rent threshold and protect the income of seniors by raising it annually?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, in our announcement last year we raised it as of January 1 of '90. In our instructions we will be announcing it as of January 1 of '91. Unlike the previous administration, who made these poor groups come hat in hand every two or three years to ask for increases, we are going to be definite on our procedure of increases—January of each and every year.

### **VIA Rail Northern Route Protection**

**Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, for several weeks now I have been asking the Minister of Highways and Transportation what efforts he and his department have been making on behalf of the people of Manitoba to ensure that there is protection of the VIA Rail routes which service remote and northern communities of this province. When the NTA relinquished control over VIA routing, prices and service, I warned this Minister that the future of routes which serviced communities such as Dauphin and Swan River were threatened. Today we have learned that VIA Rail's position is that the remote services are not required, which means that the Winnipeg-Churchill, The Pas-Lynn Lake, Wabowden-Churchill routes are in serious jeopardy.

My question to the Minister of Highways and Transportation is: What commitment does he have that the VIA remote and northern routes in Manitoba

will be protected, and will he table any documentation to support this claim?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, when I last answered this question I gave the indication that I had the commitment from the previous federal Minister of Transportation that services to remote communities would be guaranteed for five years. I still adhere and believe that that is the case, but what I have been doing at the present time is making contact with the federal Minister of Transportation. I am going to try and meet with him along with my colleague from Rural Development. We will be going down there and discussing it with him to make sure that that is not a misunderstanding and that that is in place.

**Mr. Reid:** Over two weeks ago I asked this Minister whether the bay line routes were being sacrificed. Considering that Mr. Hanigan, Chairman of VIA Rail, stated that the Government is reviewing the remote services, is this Minister not working with his federal Conservative colleagues on the study of the remote services?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, the federal Government undertook to do a study on services to remote communities, and my department was contacted and was involved to some degree with this study.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is to the same Minister.

How does this Minister expect communities along the bay line to be serviced once his federal colleagues kill the rest of VIA routes in northern Manitoba?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether that question is in order or not, because it is very presumptuous, but it does not really matter. I want to indicate that this Government from Day One has been very promotive and very supportive of the Churchill line and all of the activities that take place in Churchill, which is more than just the rail line. There is a whole series of things. I think there are about six Ministers who play an active role in activities that take place in Churchill, and we will continue to do so.

\* (1400)



### Tourism Manitoba Statistics

**Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

We understand that the latest tourism statistics are available. We wonder if the Minister would share with us in the House how we are doing with particular reference to the number of Americans who came to Manitoba in August of this year and the amount of trans-Canada tourism that came our way both east and west.

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Speaker, the Member full well knows the answer to that question, because we did discuss it at some length in the Estimates of my department last week.

I do not have the specific numbers in front of me, so I cannot quote them at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker, to be fair tourism, rubber-tire tourism in particular, has dropped off this year in Manitoba as it has across most of the country for the second year running.

In 1989 of course we experienced a substantial increase in tourism in Manitoba. We led the country as a matter of fact during 1989. During 1990 we have had some drop off in that, which we regret and which we are presently analyzing to determine how best we can combat that particular condition.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Speaker, it seems as if the traffic from the United States is down as much as 15 percent and some of the cross-Canada tourism down as much as 7 percent into the Province of Manitoba.

Specifically, what plans does the Minister have to turn around this very disturbing trend?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Speaker, I just explained a moment ago exactly what we were going to do. It troubles us that we are in fact losing some market share as far as the rubber-tire traffic is concerned.

We are in fact going to be analyzing those statistics. We have a body of information which we are able to consider. We are going to analyze that and redirect our marketing strategies in an attempt to reverse that situation.

### Department of Tourism Spending

**Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood):** Mr. Speaker, how does the Minister intend to reverse the situation when spending in the Tourism Division and in the Tourist Marketing Division is not keeping pace with the rate of inflation?

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Speaker, in 1989 we doubled the marketing budget of the Department of Tourism. This Government has a very substantial commitment to tourism marketing in this province. In addition to that we have entered into private sector arrangements, co-op advertising programs and the like that see the beneficiaries of tourism in Manitoba, the private sector companies, participate in the marketing of tourism in this province.

So let the Member across the way not suggest for a minute that we have any less commitment to the marketing of tourism in this province. We have more commitment.

### Unemployment Insurance Changes Impact on Manitoba

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, there has been increasing attention focused in this province in recent weeks and months on the plight of the poor, hit by no minimum wage increase for two and half years, more and more people having to rely on food banks, more and more layoffs.

Now there is the latest blow from the federal Conservatives, cuts to the UIC program that will increase the waiting period by up to six weeks, decrease the benefit period by eight weeks and cut tens of millions of dollars out of UIC benefits for Manitobans.

My question is to the Premier. What action is this Government going to take to deal with the consequences of the federal Conservative policy that will lead to more people on social assistance, more people having to rely on food banks, that will lead more and more people into the poverty trap here in Manitoba?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, quite evidently the Member opposite does not know the fact that there are some very difficult times facing this country. Indeed we are in a recession, a recession that is affecting areas right across the country—very, very difficult times, I might say.

I know that unlike the straight partisan political approach that is taken by the New Democrats in this Chamber, their colleagues in Ontario are much more responsible.

I had some lengthy discussions with Premier Rae about the serious economic problems that face us because, Mr. Speaker, you have in the Toronto newspapers these days some tragic, tragic articles. Here is the Sunday Toronto Star: Hospitals blame shut beds on pay equity and tax. They talk about 2,000 hospital beds in metro Toronto alone being shut down because the administration there refuses to give them any funding to take care of pay equity costs and to take care of the payroll tax that was implemented in that province—2,000 in metro Toronto alone.

You find another one about NDP housing policies, Mr. Speaker. It is called the food bank dilemma, and it talks about 41,000 welfare recipients who are paying some 60 percent of their welfare on their shelter costs and they have no money left to pay for food, in contrast to this administration that for two straight years has given increases in social allowance rates at inflation.

**Mr. Ashton:** I did not ask the Premier about newspaper clippings in Ontario, I asked him about the plight of the poor. Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives laugh at the plight of the poor in Manitoba. That was my question, about the poor in Manitoba, if the Premier would care to go out and talk to people. Here in Manitoba you find increasing numbers of people who are being laid off and affected.

My question to the Premier—

### Point of Order

**Mr. Filmon:** On a point of order, I believe that the Member, who is the Opposition House Leader, ought to know better than anyone on that side of the House that there is no preamble required in a second question, especially when the preamble is erroneous and specious, Mr. Speaker. I believe that he has no right to be using—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable First Minister did have a point of order. I would ask the Honourable Member for Thompson to put his question now, please.

**Mr. Ashton:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**Mr. Ashton:** My question really is in regard to the plight of the poor in Manitoba. We have cuts to UIC.

What is the Premier going to do to deal with the impact on the people of Manitoba of this major, major cutback in the federal UIC program that will lead to increased numbers of people on social assistance, increased numbers of people who will be unemployed?

**Mr. Filmon:** Consistently since this Government has been in office, this Government has taken measures to assist the poor and the vulnerable in our society, Mr. Speaker. We have raised social allowance rates in the past two years at least at the rate of inflation each year.

We have increased the benefits under SAFER and SAFFR, benefits that had been frozen by the previous NDP administration. We have reduced personal taxes so that families get a greater tax benefit, families with dependants. Everything that we have done has been to try and ease the burden on low income families in this province. We have done that in contrast to other administrations that have been very, very insensitive to that. I talk about the plight in housing in Ontario under an NDP administration by way of contrast. I talk about the problem in hospitals by way of contrast, because our policies are policies that we can defend anyplace in this country, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Speaker, if the Premier wants to debate the situation in our hospitals here in the Province of Manitoba after two years of Tory rule, I will debate it any time.

\* (1410)

### Employment Standards Act Amendments

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** My final question to the Premier—well, Mr. Speaker, I must apologize, but the Premier's answer did lead to debate, which is also contrary to our rules.

My question to the Premier is as follows. It is in regard to the maternity leave provisions of the UIC Act, about the only positive change to the UIC Act. Will this Government be bringing in legislation to ensure that individuals in Manitoba who take advantage of the increased maternity and parental leave provisions of the UIC Bill will not be faced with the possible risk of the loss of their job, which will

take place unless the Government amends the current Employment Standards Act here in Manitoba?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, as the Member well knows, after sitting in the Senate for almost a year the Unemployment Insurance Act Bill finally received approval in the Upper Chamber, paving the way for Royal Assent and proclamation of the Bill into law. The changes to the Act officially took place November 18, which I believe was yesterday. No province in the country, with the exception of Quebec, is currently in a position to allow for the -(interjection)- Every other province will have to respond now to the changes in the Act, Mr. Speaker.

As a good Government, we will obviously look at ways in which we can ensure that we pass along those benefits, those needed benefits, those long awaited benefits to the people of the Province of Manitoba. The Member cannot walk in on a Monday, the Bill having been proclaimed into law taking effect on a Sunday, the next day and say—you know, how are you going to do something about it?

The fact is that as a good Government we will take action. We will take action to ensure that the people of Manitoba gain the benefits of these changes in federal legislation for the positive influence and for the positive effect of the people in Manitoba.

### **Winnipeg Police Force Shooting Inquest**

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to officially thank the High Commissioner of India for meeting with me yesterday. I would like to put it on the record as a member of the First Nations in this country.

I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Justice. This is regarding of course in relation to the shooting this past week. Another Native person was shot here in Winnipeg. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would consider an independent inquiry as the Manitoba Metis Federation has called for? Will he support such an inquiry?

**Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General):** I expect to be discussing the case the Honourable Member raises with me later today with officials of my department. The question of an inquiry is one that ought to be addressed very, very carefully considering the fact that there is the possibility of criminal charges in the case.

**Mr. Harper:** Yes, considering that there will be probably the charges being made, I was just wondering, because of the J. J. Harper inquiry, which raised a lot of questions, and because of the problems that we have had with the justice system in Canada or in the Province of Manitoba, to leave any doubt and concern amongst the aboriginal people in relation to the justice system in the Province of Manitoba, will he recommend that this be vigorously recommended by the Attorney General in light of the fact that an Aboriginal Justice Inquiry would not be put out in the next while?

**Mr. McCrae:** I think it is fair to say that no justice system is perfect when we take into account the fact that crime continues to be committed and the fact that we continue to have a high representation of aboriginal people in our corrections system and in our justice system.

I just want to assure the Honourable Member that I take quite an interest in matters like the kind he raises with me today. I will be vigilant about this particular case and other cases that do arise.

I will be letting the Honourable Member know the position that we take when we have arrived at a position after appropriate discussions with representatives of my department and after a better understanding of all of the facts surrounding the case.

### **Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Report Release**

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland):** There appear to be two justices in the Province of Manitoba: justice and "just us." I would like to ask the Attorney General whether he knows when the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry report will be made available or will be complete?

**Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General):** I expect, Mr. Speaker, that the report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry will come some time around the end of January of 1991. I cannot be more precise than to say that. It may be a little later. I do not expect it to be very much sooner.

### **Recycling Programs Government Initiatives**

**Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Environment. We have learned that even though this Government led the public to believe that the Resource Recovery

Institute was secure until 1991 that they are allowing Winnipeg's only curbside recycling program to lay off all of its staff and shut down by the end of this month.

The Minister said last Wednesday that he was waiting for accurate figures from the institute for running its program. However, the Minister received a letter and budget options on October 24.

Given that the Minister has the necessary information and that the resource recycling program is again about to shut down, does the Minister have alternative plans to show the commitment to resource recycling in Winnipeg?

**Hon. Glen Cummlings (Minister of Environment):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, first of all I received a letter today, dated Friday, from the Resource Recovery Institute indicating what the Member has just referred to, that they have decided to provide layoff notices to their employees.

Interestingly enough, this comes on the day that we were supposed to be meeting with them for further exploration of options that were available to them. Yes, there are a number of plans that involve depots. We have another curbside pilot that is operating reasonably well in Selkirk, in fact I understand quite successfully. So there are a number of areas of discussion that are open.

I can only indicate that we approached the RRI with the purpose of finding ways that they could provide a better business plan as to how they would intend to operate. We seem to have reached an impasse as of this date.

### **Resource Recovery Institute Funding Commitment**

**Ms. Marianne CerlIII (Radlsson):** Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate any plans being forwarded to me that the Minister has.

My first supplementary is for the same Minister. Given that the Minister knew on October 24 that the operating costs for a month were \$25,000 and that the institute also eliminated the bailer as they were requested, why were they only committed \$35,000.00?

**Hon. Glen Cummlings (Minister of Environment):** Mr. Speaker, one might very well ask that of almost any organization that comes forward to the Government for support, and that is, is there an unlimited amount of money available or does there

have to be a reasonable response to a reasonable request?

We received a request for \$100,000 subject to really further information. They were informed at that time that we did not have that much money available considering other demands that were there for the Innovations Fund. In terms of receiving information, they needed considerably more than \$35,000 to continue to operate till the end of the year.

I think there was some onus upon the RRI to provide some real alternatives as to how they saw this curbside proposal developing. It has expanded far beyond what was originally conceptualized as the pilot project in this area.

**Ms. CerlIII:** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister show some commitment to recycling in Winnipeg and finally visit the Resource Recovery Institute and ensure that they will have the operating budget to see them through to the end of the year?

**Mr. Cummlings:** Mr. Speaker, the Member says we must ensure their operation till the end of the year. We have been attempting to negotiate that with the RRI.

I am not going to negotiate in this room the terms and conditions of their process or their business until the end of the year.

We have attempted to work with them. We moved in to examine their books. Obviously they need to make some adjustments, and their response was this letter.

### **Bill C-22 Legal Challenge**

**Mr. Conrad Santos (Broadway):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Seniors.

When the federal Government, yielding to the lobbying effort of the drug companies, proposed Bill C-22, amending the Patent Act, perceiving that the establishment of the price control board will be dominated by the drug companies and will in effect give monopoly price control to the drug companies, the Manitoba Society of Seniors decided to challenge the constitutionality of the legislation.

Will the Honourable Minister restate the position of his Government, why they refuse to support the Society of Seniors?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Seniors):** Mr. Speaker, I am not here to explain as to why the federal Government did or did not do certain things. Our position as a Government is very clear. Every opportunity we had—unlike the previous administration, we have moved aggressively to make the lives of the seniors of this province just a lot better.

**Mr. Speaker:** Time for Oral Questions has expired.

### NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** Mr. Speaker, I seek leave to make a non-political statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have unanimous consent to make a non-political statement?

**Some Honourable Members:** Leave.

**Mr. Martindale:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you, as Speaker, the Clerk and the Clerk's staff and the Government for hosting the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian chapter whose annual conference you so capably hosted here in the Legislature on Saturday and Sunday.

It was a pleasure for me and I am sure was a pleasure for the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) and the Honourable Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) to represent our caucuses and to attend this conference.

The topic under discussion was the role of the private Member. The discussions were interesting. The decorum was absolutely amazing. I do not think I heard the word "order" once all weekend. You could speak without being heckled. There were no private conversations going on. It is unfortunate that none of the media were here to observe the unusual decorum in the House.

\* (1420)

We all learned from the non-political discussions. I hope that we all brought back ideas that can be used in the Manitoba Legislature, for example, ideas about free votes, about improving our credibility with the public, changing the rules of the House and adopting customs of other Legislatures, for example, in at least one other Legislature, rather than referring to those of us in this row as backbenchers they call them Members of the upper benches. It sounds like a good precedent for Manitoba.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your hard work and organization, the Clerk, the Clerk's staff and the Government.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### House Business

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, before I move the motion to move into Committee of Supply, notwithstanding the tabled line-up of Estimates agreed to by all Parties of the Legislature, I would ask whether you could determine whether there might be unanimous consent around a number of points.

Firstly, that we review the Estimates of Family Services this afternoon in the House, followed by the Department of Labour at this evening's sitting. In other words, there would be a recess from the Department of Family Services going into Labour this evening.

The second point I would ask, that there be unanimous consent around the review of Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, followed by Lotteries in committee room 255, subsequently followed by the Department of Urban Affairs.

Thirdly, that private Members' hour be waived today.

Fourthly, that this evening's sitting last until twelve o'clock midnight.

Fifthly and lastly, that Rule 65.(9)(c) be waived to allow introduction of the next department's Estimates after 10 p.m., if so required.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will there be unanimous consent to waive private Members' hour? Agreed.

Is there unanimous consent to do Labour after Family Services at this evening's sitting? Agreed.

Is there unanimous consent to do Urban Affairs after Culture, Heritage and Recreation, and Lotteries? Agreed.

Is it the will of the House to sit till midnight tonight? Agreed.

Is there unanimous consent to waive 65.(9) to allow a new department to be introduced after 10 this evening? Agreed.

**Mr. Manness:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House

resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

### Committee Changes

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to putting the question, the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer) with a committee change, I believe.

**Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Niakwa (Mr. Reimer), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Orchard for Laurendeau, and Enns for Rose.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please. This has happened on a couple of other occasions, and I would ask the Honourable Whips to bring forward the names as the Honourable Member for whichever constituency. (Agreed) -(interjection)- Order, please. We have always done it that way. That is the way it was always done, I believe.

**Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster):** Mr. Speaker, if I can have leave in order to make a committee change while we are in committees, I need unanimous consent to do that. I do not have it before me right now.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member will be wanting to make a committee change in committee. Will the Honourable Member have unanimous consent to make a committee change in the committee? Agreed.

\* (1430)

**Motion agreed to,** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation; and the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) in the Chair for the Department of Family Services.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY—CULTURE, HERITAGE AND RECREATION

**Mr. Deputy Chairman (Marcel Laurendeau):** Order, please. Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. This afternoon this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 will resume consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

When the committee last sat, we had been considering item 2.(e) Historic Resources: (1) Salaries. Shall this item pass?

The Honourable Minister, I believe you have some questions you would like to table?

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if I am right—is this on?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** It is on.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I had taken some requests from the Opposition Critics for some information to be tabled. At this time I would like to table for the critics, copies of the Arts Policy Review Committee Report, the Public Libraries Advisory Board Discussion Paper. I also wanted to further put information on the record with regard to the Northern Recreation Directors Program. I would like to table a copy of the Norman regional bulletin, TANSI, which includes on its first page a copy of a photograph of the 29 recreation directors. The Opposition Critic should be pleased to note that over 90 percent are Native, and as we noted during Estimates they were hired by their local communities.

The Liberal Critic requested information with regard to what types of projects have been funded through the Major Capital Program. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this program has financed the replacement of the steam heating plant in the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation because the city's steam heating system was closed down. It also replaced stage rigging, sound and light equipment for the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation and Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Carpet was replaced at the Manitoba Centennial Centre. Repairs to the outside cladding, outside wall surfaces of the Museum and Concert Hall were undertaken. Further renovations to the hall and improvements to disabled accessibility to the CCFM were undertaken. These were structural and mechanical repairs for safety and worn-out equipment.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the NDP Critic requested a list of heritage committees. On the basis of her comments, I believe she may have understood our output information to mean that there were 45 heritage committees that work in the province at this date. I would like to clarify that there are 14 committees, and that the number 45 referred to the number of workshops presented by Historic Resources branch to its wider client group.

Questions were asked with regard to the hospitality grants provided by the department. I have here a copy of the report to be tabled for the critics.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, a question was asked related to the salary of the ADM of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. I would like to indicate at this time that the Civil Service Commission reviewed the classification of all senior ADMs within the Government of Manitoba, and that as a result of that review a reclassification was approved for this particular position prior to her being hired in August of 1989.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would like to indicate in response to a question raised by the Member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr) that on the basis of this year's Estimates the provinces commitment to the arts as a proportion of total provincial budget will be marginally increased from .37 to .372 percent.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** We thank the Honourable Minister for those answers.

**Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley):** I think on Friday we had ended up with the provincial burials policy and I wanted to follow that up. The Minister said that she had been consulting with aboriginal groups, and I wonder if she could tell us which aboriginal groups she has been consulting with.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes, in March of this year a policy was presented in a meeting of elders and representatives of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. As well, a draft resolution has been prepared for consideration by the Assembly of Chiefs. We would prefer to consult with, and come forward with a policy in consultation with the Native community prior to going to the general public. This, I guess, has not been brought forward on their agenda at their meetings. We are awaiting for them to deal with this resolution and come back to us indicating whether they are prepared to move ahead.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wanted to ask for an update on the land management plan for the Churchill West Peninsula, particularly some feedback perhaps on the position of residents of that area. Then I wanted to ask you about the World Heritage Site prospects in that area.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have a regional bulletin that was sent out by the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation on

the Churchill West Peninsula that I shall table for the critic's purview.

Just for an update on what is happening at the peninsula, the LGD has requested temporary postponement of the land management planning process until a final report on the creation of a national park in the region is complete.

**Ms. Friesen:** Do you have any idea from Parks Canada, Environment Canada what the time of that is going to be? Are we looking at a year, two years?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we do not have a time frame.

\* (1440)

**Ms. Friesen:** Could I follow up then with the plans for the World Heritage side? What has the department done so far and what stage is that at?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The Historic Resources branch has prepared a draft nomination document which has been reviewed by the Canadian Parks Service staff. It will be reviewed with the residents of Churchill, Tadoule Lake and Eskimo Point during the management planning process. We will only proceed if they concur.

**Ms. Friesen:** Again, what is the time frame on that? Are you looking at consultation in this fiscal year or in next fiscal year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** This fiscal year.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wonder if the Minister could give me an estimate of what proportion of the total finances of this department or—I am not using the right terminology, am I—this branch is going to archeology, history and architecture in this fiscal year.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we can try to compile that information and get it.

**Ms. Friesen:** I was interested in the "Explore Manitoba" 300th anniversary handout, Henry Kelsey's, which I saw when I was at The Pas. I would like to congratulate the department on that. I thought it was a very good handout. I wonder what life span it is going to have. How many have you printed? How long is it going to be available? What kind of distribution has there been on that?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, 2,500 copies were made. They were distributed to all schools. There still are 1,000 of those copies left. We saw it as a one-time project, but we will assess when the copies are gone what the future should be.

**Ms. Frlesen:** If I could comment on it, I thought that there were a number of imaginative approaches to the uses of history in there. If you could find a more permanent format, I think that would be very helpful. Newspapers just by their very nature tend to get either into blue bags or into the green bags, so a more permanent format would be helpful I think.

I wanted to follow up on the relationships between this branch and the Communications branch. What services does the Communications branch provide to Historic Resources, or am I asking that the wrong way?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Communications branch would have some input into design, format, whether we are getting the right target group with our publications, that kind of thing.

**Ms. Frlesen:** So the financing of it has come out of the Communication budget here?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, a good portion of that would come out of this budget.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I see. So that in this case, Communication is not internally fixed, that the communications of this branch are largely external of this \$75,000.00.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I asked a question earlier about Communication and you suggested it was internal.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister then indicate what else is coming into this Communication budget of \$75,000.00?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, Communication here includes designation advertising, publication of popular and technical media, plus telephone, postal services and courier, and the increase, if there is question about the increase, reflects that \$1.8 thousand in postage for general increase in branch mailing costs.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I am wondering if that is enough for the external communications of this branch. What are the needs, and what are the provisions?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Order, please. If you are going to place a question, keep it in the format. Otherwise, it will be Hansard that is going to have the problem with trying to decide who is speaking.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is my first time in this room too, and it is a much more relaxed atmosphere.

I guess the question that was posed is, in fact, the Communication budget, and I suppose we have to recognize and set our priorities and then accordingly provide communications strategy.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I am not quite sure where to go with that answer. What I asked was, is \$75,000 enough for a branch whose communications have to communicate with all of the province? This is a Communication budget, it seems to me, which is unlike other Communication budgets in that it is not internal, that it is dealing with the public and the community. So the increase is very small and the total amount seems quite small to me for a branch which has to send material to a very wide-ranging population.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, along with the \$75,000 that is under the Communication budget, under supplies and services, there is also the provision for printing and printed forms, photocopying, photographic costs, and in capital also. There is a \$23,500 allotment to manufacture and install provincial commemorative plaques. So there is other money for communication.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, could we look at the archeological field surveys? I notice that there are eight this fiscal year. Can you indicate whether that is an increase, or is that average, and what is the cost of them?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There have been some 30 or so archeological surveys done throughout the province this year and that includes preimpact assessments to determine whether an impact assessment need be done.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I was asking specifically about the eight that are listed on page 42 of the booklet that we are looking at, and these are the departmental research projects, rather than impact assessment archeology, I assume.

I was asking whether eight research projects is an increase or is that average, and what is the cost of them?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Eight is about an average per year, and the final costs are not yet available, but we can provide that once we get the final costs at the end of the fiscal year.

\* (1450)

**Ms. Frlesen:** I would like to look at the grants program of this particular branch, and I know there are various kinds of grants here from museum to



individual grants to plaque programs to museum grants.

I wonder if the Minister could give us some idea of the monitoring and evaluation and selection of these grants. Perhaps we will start with selection.

How are the projects selected, and is there any kind of peer evaluation at the time of the selection of projects?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We will go through all four of these. The Community Museums Grants are an application process where museums apply and they are based on the criteria of the application; the Community Heritage Grants are also an application process; the Community Heritage Plaques Program are an application process; and the Regional Museums Program is a peer selection program.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister indicate why peer evaluation is used for regional museums and not for community museums, for example?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** In the Community Museums Grants, every museum that does apply is eligible for a grant. In the Regional Museums Program, it was a pilot program where we chose three museums that were of a higher quality level of excellence, I suppose, for a three-year pilot program. There was peer evaluation from several applications as to which museums they should be.

**Ms. Frlesen:** To go back to the community museums, is the Minister implying that every museum that applies is awarded something?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, and meets the criteria.

**Ms. Frlesen:** It is just departmental staff, then, who are deciding on whether the criteria have been met.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The criteria have been reviewed with the museum community on a regular basis, and those are the criteria that are used.

**Ms. Frlesen:** The Heritage Plaques Program has a large increase here, and I assume this is the success of the program.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this is again actual Lotteries dollars versus year-end estimates of what might be expended, so there is a carry-over into this year.

**Ms. Frlesen:** So that, as in the other cases then, is it reasonable to assume that \$8,900 is in fact closer to the estimated amount for this year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There is a carry-over because the funds did not flow in the year that the grants were approved.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the commitments were made but the money did not flow in the fiscal year, and therefore it is carried over to the next year.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I just wanted to clarify that. So there has not been a large increase in the number of applications for this program?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There has been no change.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I know it is not necessarily the appropriate line, but because of Thursday evening we dealt with multiculturalism, and I guess we just kind of passed over it yesterday in Estimates, so the Minister does not have to feel that she has to answer the question, of course.

I was wanting to ask her, in regard to Folklorama, last year she made a commitment to providing the pavilions a capital grant for their displays. I wanted to know what her intentions were this coming year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, last year was the 20th anniversary of Folklorama. We felt it would be a very positive initiative to provide each pavilion with a grant to enhance their cultural displays. It was a one-time only, \$1,000 per pavilion, and \$10,000 to the Folk Arts Council to work with the pavilions.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** From what I understand, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that money was used just for the displays. Was there anything done in terms of how that money was allocated? Was it the Folk Arts Council that did the allocation and the follow-up to see the displays? Was there any follow-up on the displays?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just might want to say that, given an election was called right in the middle of Folklorama last year, I did not have the opportunity to get to every pavilion to see their cultural displays. I do know that enhancement was made, but there was a formula or criteria set down. It was reviewed by the Folk Arts Council, and each pavilion did meet the criteria that allowed them to get the \$1,000.00.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just wanted to get that part clarified, and no doubt we will probably see something on their 25th anniversary that is a special one-time thing.

The Minister, as soon as we got reconvened this afternoon, made reference to the culture and

heritage and the percentage of the budget. Just so I can get this clarified, she mentioned that it was an increase from .37 percent to .372 percent. On behalf of the Member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr), I am sure he would be interested in knowing what percentage of an increase from the Lotteries was it.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we will get that information.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, now getting back to what I should be on, and that of course is the line itself that we are currently at. In the expected results it makes reference to complete a research on schools that were built prior to 1940. I ask the Minister how they have managed with that.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The field survey has been completed, and there have been 500 schools that have been identified. The documentary research will be done this winter.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Ultimately it is the taxpayer who owns the schools, but in questioning the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), it was a bit delusive in terms of—is it the province or is it the school board that in fact owns the schools or have the right to the schools? Can the Minister comment in terms of ownership of these schools. Is it the provincial Government or is it the school board?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** My first sense would be that the taxpayers of Manitoba own the schools, but I do not know what more clarification—

\* (1500)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** What I am referring to is the schools that were built previously to 1940. As schools are declared surplus, if you will, school boards have no use for them. The Government is the one that of course invests the capital dollars to build the schools, and I would imagine that was so even back then. The question is if the school board is finished with the school and declares it surplus, and it is a heritage or an identified building from your department, I am interested in knowing what plan of action or attack this particular ministry would take.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I guess the first thing is to determine how significant they are historically, and then there would have to be some consultation with the community to see whether in fact they would be prepared to purchase that building from the school board for a dollar or something like that.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** The interested group would then approach the school board instead of the province?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Maybe I can kind of start off with an example that I am relatively close with because it was an area that I previously represented, and that was in Weston. They have the old Cecil Rhodes School. Some of you might be familiar with the school, which was built in the early '20s or late teens of the century. There is a community group out there that would have liked to have seen that building converted into housing for the seniors in the area. I believe that there are many schools that are worthy of saving. I am interested in knowing what the limitations are of this Government approaching some of these interested people and seeing what type of conversion is necessary to ensure that these structures are here for years to come.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** This appears to be a fairly common problem throughout, and these community groups do have to negotiate with the school boards to come to a satisfactory conclusion.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would suggest to the Minister that for these heritage buildings you do have a role that you can play in ensuring that they are around.

I never had the privilege of seeing or recalling or remembering our old City Hall. I have been told, and I have seen pictures of it, but it is somewhat of a tragedy that many generations of Manitobans will never have the privilege to be able to walk down the hallways of this, what used to be fine building. The reason why I believe it was taken down is because no one was out there looking after our heritage buildings.

I would encourage this department to be at the forefront ensuring that future generations are not denied the privilege of being able to see some of the heritage buildings that we currently have. On that note, I would ask the Minister when she made reference to the Capital Grants—and I believe it was Manitoba Centennial Hall that she said in terms of the steam plant it had to be replaced. There are other buildings in Winnipeg, heritage buildings that also were affected by the steam plant being shut down; I ask the Minister what her intentions or what role she sees her department in playing.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the reason we put capital dollars into replacing the heating system for the Centennial Concert Hall was that we own that building as a province. It was our responsibility and we accepted that responsibility

and replaced to the tune of at least \$1.2 million. It was a major undertaking but it was our building, and it was our responsibility so we replaced the heating system.

We also have a Capital Grants Program for heritage buildings where we match dollars, 50-50 percent up to I guess it is \$75,000 for provincially designated and \$35,000 for municipally designated buildings.

Our history and our heritage is important. If there is a community desire to preserve heritage buildings, we do have a grant program that will assist.

The Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) talks about the old City Hall. I never had the opportunity to walk in through their halls either, but I will say that since we have been Government we have designated this building here as a heritage building, so that it will be preserved for future Manitobans and future people to be able to walk through the halls.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, does the Minister, and hopefully she might have it with her at this time, have a listing of the heritage buildings that have been registered, whether it is through the province or the City of Winnipeg that will be affected by the closing of the steam plant?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I believe we do have that here

We have the Metropolitan Theatre and the Capital Theatre, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, I am sorry the Imperial Bank, the Rex Theatre, Mitchell-Copp, the Birks building, Union Tower, Victor Fox Foods, Anne Building, the Ryan Block, 104 Princess Street, 315 William Avenue and 112 to 114 Market Avenue.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Can the Minister—does she know offhand in terms of what type of cost would be involved or an idea of costs that would be involved in replacing some of the heating or alternative heating for these buildings?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it would vary from building to building and you would have to meet with the owners to determine what the needs would be.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, my concern is—especially the buildings that are vacated, that are empty, that are not being used—what is going to happen over the wintertime? The longer we leave these buildings empty, what is

going to happen to them structurally? Are we going to be losing buildings that we should be ensuring are going to be around here for many years to come?

The Minister has made reference to a program—the Capital Program—which matches dollar for dollar up to \$75,000.00. I do not know the actual cost. I do not necessarily want to speculate, but I would imagine that it would be fairly immense, given the one replacement of the Centennial Centre which she has pointed out that we own. I am wondering if it is realistic for the Government, and particularly this Minister, to believe that the beauty of these buildings are going to be protected by the current owners.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I cannot give the exact number. We could probably find out how many owners of heritage buildings—I suppose that you might want to say—acted responsibly. If there was a use for those buildings, they have replaced the heating in their buildings at their own cost, and that has been done. I do not have the exact number of how many buildings have had their heating systems replaced, but there are -(interjection)- 12 heritage buildings already in the City of Winnipeg.

So you have the dilemma whereby those owners took full responsibility for their buildings. They had a use for those buildings and replaced the heating system. These other 19—which five of them really do belong to the City of Winnipeg? I am not sure which five; the city owns five of them. The city has not replaced the heating system themselves in their own buildings.

We did the Centennial Concert Hall. It was ours. There were 12 owners of heritage buildings that replaced the heating systems. The city has not done five of theirs, and there are another 14, I suppose, that are outstanding including the Capital and the Metropolitan theatres and others.

We are not in the habit of forcing owners to maintain unused buildings. What we really need to do is sit down with them and talk to them about what the options might be and what the cost might be to moth-ball them, to work with them to try to find a way for a use of those buildings.

\* (1510)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** The Minister brings up the Metropolitan and the Capital theatres. Has the Government consulted with the owners of these buildings or the department? Has anyone from the

department consulted, in any fashion, with the owners?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we are in the process of doing that right now. What we want to do is, jointly along with the City of Winnipeg, meet with the owners of the buildings and look at what their plans are for the future and try to determine if there is some way that we can work with them to try to find alternate uses for the grant to work.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that is a positive step in the sense of getting together and trying to organize something for the future. Hopefully, something fruitful will come out of those discussions. My concern is, in the short term, because of the costs—the cost factor—what are this Government's short-term plans to ensure that buildings that we want to be around are going to be around? Does she believe that there is a role for her to play in terms of the short term?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I believe that all we as a Government are prepared to do right now is sit down and talk about options with the owners. I know the City of Winnipeg came forward with the recommendation that they were willing to put half a million dollars, conditional of course upon the province putting money into a loan program. We are not sure whether a loan program is the right way to go, but nonetheless if the city was willing to spend half a million dollars, I think that half million dollars could go a long way. It shows that if they were prepared to commit that money, it would show responsibility on their part to look at what they can do to work with the owners to provide some sort of short-term safety, if you will, or maintenance of these buildings.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** There is an historic building that is located in The Forks, and I am wondering if the Minister might be able to give some type of an update on that particular building.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There are two buildings at The Forks. One is the Johnson Terminal and the other is the B & B Building. At one point in time, there was a call for proposals from The Forks Renewal Corporation and there was some consideration given to building a hotel and also incorporating the German Cultural Centre into the Johnson Terminal. I think that has fallen by the wayside right at this point. I do not believe there is anything moving ahead on that. We have had a proposal from the

Children's Museum to do something with the B & B Building, but that is not at its final stage either.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** One other, and basically we conclude. The Pantages Theatre, is that building being currently occupied?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the city owns and operates the Pantages Theatre.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I know at one time there was supposed to be a tunnel built to the Pantages Theatre, and I am wondering if the Minister can update me in terms of—was that supposed to be proceeding? I see it as something that potentially can ensure the long-term viability of that particular historical building.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have been in ongoing dialogue with the City of Winnipeg. They would like a tunnel to go through and they have requested some capital money from us as a province to put the tunnel underground connecting Pantages Theatre. At this point in time, I guess the request for commitment, I believe, the total cost would be over \$800,000 to put a tunnel through there and there has been no commitment made from our Government to date to assist with that.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Has the city government committed any money to the project?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I cannot really answer—I do not believe they have made a specific commitment yet.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I understand that the Government is at least contemplating on it, and if the city agrees to allow the tunnel to proceed and make a financial commitment, would this Government make a financial commitment, either through this department or others?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I have somewhat mixed feelings on this whole issue. I believe that we have spoken to the Centennial Centre Corporation. They have a lot of major capital requirements that they need for upgrading. We had asked them whether the tunnel would have been high on their priority list and it is not high on their priority list. We can go back to the issue of us, as a province, giving the City of Winnipeg block funding and, if a tunnel is a major priority for them from Pantages Playhouse to the Concert Hall and under Main Street, then they should make it that priority and put it in their budget.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Does the Minister have a priority listing herself?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we are working with the major arts institutions in the City of Winnipeg and in Brandon to determine what their priorities are and what their needs are. Based on needs and priorities, we are asking them to determine, and then we will be moving ahead on those projects that we, as Government, and the major institutions agree are priority.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Finally, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would appreciate if the Minister could get me a copy of the historic buildings that will be affected by the closure of the steam plant, and if possible—if it is not too much work—those that actually converted to alternative heating.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Sure.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, in Question Period, the Minister has been very clear that the responsibility for the planning of these buildings rests with the City of Winnipeg even though there are, I understand, some discussions going on between your department and the city.

Does the Minister want to modify that at all, or are you still clear that these buildings coming off the steam heat plant are the responsibility of the City of Winnipeg?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I believe they are a city responsibility. I have no problem sitting down with the City of Winnipeg and with the owners to see whether the owners are attempting to find another use—what their long-range plans are—for the empty buildings and to work co-operatively and provide some expertise, but I believe that the onus falls on the City of Winnipeg to work with them and to provide funding if they feel at this point funding is needed.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could I pursue it then from a planning perspective? Given that you believe that these buildings are the responsibility of the City of Winnipeg, what is the responsibility of this department for the long-term plan for heritage buildings in the province, which would include the City of Winnipeg? Do you have any plans to develop a long-range plan with the City of Winnipeg so that we are not going to face this kind of emergency situation every year?

\* (1520)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I know that we have, since The Historical Resources Act has been proclaimed, put a fair amount of money—I will get the exact number of dollars that have gone

into capital projects to restore heritage buildings throughout the province. It has been a fairly substantial amount. It is matched. I believe that there has to be a community desire and a community use for buildings in order for us to preserve them. We will work together co-operatively with any community organization or anyone within the community who does have a desire to preserve our heritage buildings.

We have given 39 grants, or approximately \$1.1 million, to the City of Winnipeg to restore heritage buildings, so I believe it has been a major step forward. The program has been well used, and we will continue with that program, working in conjunction with the City of Winnipeg or with the community organizations.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, what I was looking for was a commitment to a long-range plan, which would involve an inventory of the heritage stock of Winnipeg, some prioritization of that and some plans so that we do not have to face this kind of emergency or ad hoc situation each year.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the city through their Historic Buildings Committee already has that inventory and we are working to establish something with the municipalities outside the City of Winnipeg.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Is the Minister satisfied with the level of protection offered by the City of Winnipeg to those inventory buildings?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, obviously the City of Winnipeg knew two years ago when they were going to, and I believe it has been even longer than two years ago they have been talking about closing the steam heating plant. It is something like several years and it has been delayed, and been delayed, and been delayed. I would think the City of Winnipeg when they had the inventory, when they knew how many buildings were going to be affected, they should have taken a somewhat more active role in working with the owners of these buildings in developing a plan.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Again, I am really trying to get away at this stage from those specific buildings and to look at the role that the province and the city are taking in long-range planning for heritage buildings, particularly in view of the recession and the need to preserve the buildings so that we can at least plan for them 10 years down the line.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I guess we would like to see the City of Winnipeg adopt a by-law that would use our legislation. Obviously because of this crisis, none of us is happy about what has happened with these buildings, and I think there is a need for the province and the city to work a little more closely and have a few more communication links to determine and develop what direction we should take in future because there are a significant number of very worthwhile buildings that are in jeopardy. I do not think any of us are really pleased with that, but obviously there has not been much co-ordination, communication with the owners; the only thing, I believe when the City of Winnipeg came up with the loan program. I do not think there was much consultation with owners to see whether that was the kind of program that really would meet the needs. So obviously, there is work to be done, and we are willing to work co-operatively as a branch with the City of Winnipeg.

**Ms. Friesen:** Does the Minister have any plans for provincial initiative here in the sense that empty buildings can be used by expanding or new Government departments? Do you have any plans to use the existing heritage stock in that way, any long-term plan through Government services or in conjunction with?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we presently do occupy and lease space in heritage buildings. I believe the City of Winnipeg too should be taking—we can obviously assess that but rather than building new buildings where more space is required maybe we should be looking at the feasibility of using some of our heritage buildings in the instances where we can.

**Ms. Friesen:** So would the Minister then be in the next year consulting with the Minister for Government Services to look at some long-range plan for use of heritage buildings?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we already are in those discussions and we will continue.

**Ms. Friesen:** Does that include the City of Winnipeg or does it just look at places outside Winnipeg?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, to date it has just been for provincially-owned buildings, but we will expand that and we will work with the City of Winnipeg.

**Ms. Friesen:** In the current move of personnel outside the City of Winnipeg that the Government

has been pursuing, is there a policy to locate these new offices in heritage buildings in rural areas?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that is a consideration at this point. Not everything has been finalized and I know that Government Services is looking for space to lease and that is one consideration that will be given.

**Ms. Friesen:** Well, thank you very much. I wanted to move on to The Forks Renewal Corporation and I understand that this branch is the lead branch within the department for negotiations with or involvement with The Forks Renewal Corporation.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** That is in another department, is it not? It falls under Urban Affairs, under the Historic Resources? Okay. Go ahead then. It is under that category.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wonder if, given that the public archeological program, which has been very successful—I commend the department for that—I wonder what the future of that archeological program is, given that the funding for The Forks Renewal Corporation is coming to an end and that their borrowing money is also extended.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we are considering or contemplating working with Friends of The Forks in a corporation that has just been developed, but because it was a pilot project the first year and it was so very successful we got the ongoing commitment to funding for public archeology at The Forks.

**Ms. Friesen:** I assume that there will be money also coming from Environment Canada, but who is funding Friends of The Forks?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there has been no formal request. They are just a new organization.

**Ms. Friesen:** As far as your department is concerned, that public archeological program will continue for how long? Do you have a time limit on that?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think we would look at it a few years to see what the trends are, whether it remains to be as successful as it has been to date and evaluate it on an ongoing basis.

\* (1530)

**Ms. Friesen:** That would proceed even without the equivalent funding from The Forks Renewal Corporation that has been there in the past.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We would have to discuss that with the corporation and see what we could work out.

**Ms. Frlesen:** So it is not necessarily going to proceed without support of The Forks?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if I can indicate, our commitment is long term. If there is no Forks Renewal Corporation and if there is Friends of The Forks, I guess the type of project that we will be able to continue will depend on where else other resources can come from. Our commitment today, for what it is, is there. I guess I can say that we cannot pick up someone else's costs. If The Forks Renewal Corporation or some other such body has a new mandate and if there is a tripartite agreement, then we would see some commitment there. If it is a group like Friends of The Forks that can draw on other sponsorships, I suppose we would have to determine how much money would be there in fact for our commitment. If we can have some type of project with that or with the money that is generated elsewhere, then that will determine what size it will be.

**Ms. Frlesen:** The B & B Building and the Children's Museum. What is the commitment of the Department to the Children's Museum at The Forks in that building.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have received a proposal. We have been working with the Children's Museum, trying to determine. I think they have had to change their proposal as a result of some of the concerns that we have had. We have received just recently a second proposal and we are evaluating it right now. We do not have a final determination.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I think there is a general feeling in the community that from the provincial perspective, it is either the Children's Museum or the Tourist Centre at The Forks, from the point of view of the provincial commitment. Would you confirm that or would you want to modify it?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** As far as I am aware, that is not true.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Has the Tourist Centre at The Forks been approved? Is it a new building? Is it going to use a heritage building?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am not aware.

**Ms. Frlesen:** So that, from the perspective of this Minister, there has been no provincial commitment

to any particular project or building at The Forks, beyond the archaeology.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** That is correct.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I was just adding the word "yet." Maybe I should get that confirmed from the Minister. Is the department, I would imagine, very receptive to, in particular, the two buildings that are located on The Forks to providing grant assistance in the future and not wanting to limit what the buildings could be, but she would be receptive to the grants? Correct?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, with the granting program that we have available for preservation of heritage buildings, yes.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** (e) Historic Resources: (1) Salaries \$1,235,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$249,000—pass;

(f) Recreation: (1) Salaries \$348,600.00.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about the managerial salary here which seems to have had rather a large increase. Is there a particular reason for that again?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that was for reclassification. This person became the acting director. The salary that he had before he moved into the acting director's position is the salary in '89-90. Because of his acting director's status he was reclassified, and that is the normal salary for a director.

**Ms. Frlesen:** There is also, I think it is, a \$6,000 increase in administrative support. Is that also reclassification or is that contract?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** That is just general salary increases.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about contracts in this department. Does that come under Communication or Supplies and Services? What contracts are given in this department—research, study contracts, provision of services?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** A contract out of here would be the Research Agreement—\$25,000 for salaries under the Research Agreement that we have with the University of Manitoba. There is a number of very small contracts for trainers, also, through this branch.

**Ms. Frlesen:** That contract with the University of Manitoba, is that continuing research, or is that completed this fiscal year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there are different research projects. It is the second year of a three-year agreement.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about the services to the disabled in this particular area. What proportion of resources are going into disabled recreation services?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, 20 percent of professional staff.

**Ms. Frlesen:** And of the total budget?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, of the Other Expenditures, it is about 5 percent, and it is 20 percent of the Salaries, so it would break off at around 10 percent.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I am looking for ballpark figures. These are difficult things to do on the spot, but I am just trying to get a sense of where the departmental priorities are in this sense.

I also wanted to, as I have done earlier, commend the department on its Northern Recreation Directors Project, but I wonder if I could follow that up by asking what kind of commitment there is to full-time maintenance after that? What happens after the pilot project? Are these people actually going to be hired? Will there be jobs?

\* (1540)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we put in a pilot project, and that is exactly what that means. We are hoping that we can get the directors trained, working in their own communities and in their surrounding communities. If in fact it proves to be a good program, which we hope it will be, then we will have to make provision, but along with that pilot project comes the evaluation of whether we are doing things in the right way or whether there needs to be changes in the program. Our commitment is there to work with northern and remote communities to develop recreational initiatives.

**Ms. Frlesen:** In the future, are you going to be dealing with the Department of Indian Affairs? How many of these deal with actual reserve communities?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, about half of these.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Do you think it would be appropriate to start negotiating discussions with the Department of Indian Affairs now to look at a long-term commitment?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we already have started that dialogue with Northern Affairs and Indian Affairs.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I only had a couple of questions on this particular line. The first one is the number of grants to the Rural Recreation District Grants. Can we have a number?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, 31.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** We also have the Recreation Innovation Fund of \$300,000.00. That was just for the first quarter. Is it fair to expect to see that fund increase, to quadruple to reflect a full year in the next budget? Are we going to be sticking with the program?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we have committed \$1.8 million over two years to the Recreation Innovation Fund to deal with innovative, new projects in rural, remote and northern Manitoba. The application forms have just gone out to the community, and we are anticipating a good response to those applications.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Finally, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it was encouraging to see the expected results have actually changed in the sense that there is a deletion. I would ask the Minister to tell me what has come up with the strategy. I will read it from the previous Supplementary Estimates that she had tabled in the House, and that was, of course, implementation of a strategy to promote leisure education within school districts and assistance to individuals to determine leisure interest and available opportunities. Does she have any results from that strategy or implementation, or what can she tell us today has come up?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that was part of the research project with the University of Manitoba, and we are still working with the school divisions on that.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** What is the expected outcome? Are we looking at some type of a report to the Chamber?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that will be an internal report, and we will base our future needs on the results of the report.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Just before we pass the line, and I had forgotten about it, but the Rural Recreation District Grants—you made reference to 31. Was that distributed throughout the province?



**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, of course, with exception of the remote and northern communities. That is why we put in the pilot project for the training and hiring of recreation directors in northern and remote Manitoba, but it is throughout the rest of the province.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item 2.(f) Recreation: (1) Salaries \$348,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$178,400—pass.

2.(g) Regional Services: (1) Salaries 960,400.00.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wanted to ask about one of the Activity Identifications here. I think it is the fourth one: Provides training and development to municipal councils and community organizations to develop an understanding and awareness of culture, heritage and recreation issues. I wonder if this overlaps with the activities of the Heritage Resources branch that provides information to municipal councils.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Madam Chairperson, Regional Services actually delivers—

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Madam Chairperson?

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** You will have to forgive me, Mr. Deputy Chairman, but I have been in the House for too long and I have been saying Madam Chairperson. -(interjection)- That is not a message to my constituents.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Regional Services' staff are out in the field, located in regional offices, and they are providing assistance to communities on culture, heritage and recreation programs. That is why this is part of their Activity Identification.

**Ms. Frlesen:** But the heritage branch provides the workshops. I do not understand the relationship.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, these are the people who are the front-line workers in the communities, so they may organize the workshops, the people from Historic Resources would come out and give the workshops, and then those are the people that are left in the community to deal with the programs that are not developed at the community level.

**Ms. Frlesen:** How many of these people are there, and where are they located?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have six regional offices, and they are located in: Brandon—that is the Westman Regional office; for the Eastman Region, the office is in Beausejour; for the Central Region, the office

is in Morden; for the Interlake Region, the office is in Gimli; for the Parklands Region, the office is in Dauphin; and for the Norman Region, there are offices in Thompson and The Pas.

**Ms. Frlesen:** All of these positions have been occupied this year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, virtually all of those positions have been.

**Ms. Frlesen:** The responsibility of these people would be to travel within their region and to inform municipal councils and voluntary organizations of what is available to them at the centre.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes, to work with community organizations to inform them about programs that are available through the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, to be consultants in the regions.

**Ms. Frlesen:** And with municipal councils?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

\* (1550)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Being on the Regional Services, I would ask the Minister: the Government late last November, a year ago, announced its plan for decentralization; I wanted to know, how has this Government or this ministry—has any of its offices or any of its people been relocated outside of the City of Winnipeg?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The one branch within our department that was decentralized is Public Library Services, and it will be moving to Brandon in the fall of 1991. That is our target date for moving Public Library. The rationale for that move was that Public Library Services deals with rural and remote Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg has its own library delivery system. It is a branch of some 21 staff people that we felt could handle and deliver the same service from Brandon as they could from within the City of Winnipeg. That is the total component of those jobs being decentralized in our department.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Of the 21 staff people that are being proposed to relocate over to Brandon, what number of them have agreed to make the move?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Of the original staff, at the time only two are planning to relocate. Six of the original 21 we have found jobs for within the system. The ones that have filled in those positions behind the six that have found other jobs are being recruited based on moving to Brandon.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** There are 21. Two have agreed to relocate. Six have found other jobs which leaves 13. What is with the other 13?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We will continue to work with them to see whether we can find placements for them here within the City of Winnipeg and fill their jobs behind them with people that will be willing to work out of Brandon.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Those 13 people—will the Minister assure them that they will not be forced in any fashion to move to Brandon or forfeit a job?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I did write to them personally indicating that I would ensure that I would do my best to try to find a spot for them, if they were not prepared to move or not wanting to move to Brandon.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** If we have the eight and the 13 do not move, does that mean that we will have 13 residents from Brandon filling the positions or will we be cutting the number of positions?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We intend to fill the positions in Brandon with people whom we will recruit from the Brandon area.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item (g) Regional Services (1) Salaries \$960,400—pass.

(2) Other Expenditures \$327,300—pass.

Resolution 26: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,405,900 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

Would the committee agree to a 10-minute recess? We will reconvene at 4:05 p.m.

\* \* \*

The House took recess at 3:54 p.m.

### After Recess

The House resumed at 4:06 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Committee, come to order. I am just going to ask the advice of the committee, if we could move on to the Lotteries, seeing as Lotteries has already been done from (a) through to (f) so that part of the staff could leave now rather than hold them over when we go through the entire aspect of Information Resources. Does everybody agree?

**Ms. Friesen:** How do you want to proceed on this? Do you want to go from (g) to (n), and what about the rest of Lotteries?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** We will go (g) to (n) and then that is it. We will finish Lotteries.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, just for clarification. This is just dealing now with the grants to the department, the grants through Lotteries, but it is not dealing with the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation, as such, so that can be done after.

The generation of revenues through the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation is different, in fact, from the distribution system. They are two separate entities.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** So do you have agreement? Agreement. Okay, then, we are moving on to item 6.(g) Provincial Archives Grant Assistance \$104,300 . . . Since we are being so accommodating, I wonder, instead of going line by line here, because we will have to pass in sequence, if we could just ask general questions about Lotteries and then, much like what we did for Multiculturalism. Then after that we will just agree to pass it and not ask any more questions at that point. That is what we did Monday night.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if we stay within the department and the grants through Lotteries that are processed through the department, yes, we can move around. If we are talking about special agreement groups, or the umbrella groups, then I think we should do the department first and then go to those.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** That is fine.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** We will stay with the criteria that fall under these.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Yes.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley had a question. Stay within the criteria from (g) to (n) and we will follow that format, and we can just pass them all as one group after.

**Ms. Friesen:** Could the Minister explain to me about the Provincial Archives Grant Assistance Program? I am interested in how it relates to the overall priorities of the department, particularly those of the Historic Resources branch; and second of all—maybe I should leave it. Look at that one first.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this will just take a few moments because we are sort of moving around. It takes a few moments to find the pages.

We are dealing then with Community Archives Equipment Grants and the Oral Histories Grants. Am I correct? The question was?

\* (1610)

**Ms. Frlesen:** The question was: How do the priorities, the selection of topics for this particular Grant Assistance program, fit with the overall priorities of the department, particularly the Historic Resources branch?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There is some direct planning between the two branches of the department, and it is viewed and looked at in the overall picture of the department by the executive staff of department.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask some questions about the Oral History Program, and I am not sure whether this is the right place to do it. They are of an archival nature, but I will ask it and see whether you want to defer it or not.

I think it is an excellent program, so I am not criticizing the program at all. I am wondering, since it is a debatable program within archival practice because essentially with an oral history program what you are doing is creating history or creating a kind of archives, what kind of discussion has been in the department about this and how it has affected the types of grants given.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have had some concern that there has not been enough Metis or Native content in the program, and we are evaluating right now the criteria for the grants to ensure—because I think those are the communities that we need to be targeting when we have got those elders who are growing old and possibly cannot communicate in writing to us. That will be gone forever if we do not utilize the resources that are there, so we are doing an evaluation right now of the criteria.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I agree with that. For those areas where there are no written documents, to create the documents in that sense is important. From the perspective of the other Oral History grants, in a sense you are creating documents in a way that you do not do in other areas. Has there been discussion on this in some—what is the impact on the Archives overall program?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we have not really had that discussion on whether it fits properly in this area. I do not know if it is much different from Historic Resources doing the pamphlets on different projects.

**Ms. Frlesen:** What was the other Archives Grant? It was Oral History and Capital, was it?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Community Archives Equipment Grants.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I will move on then to Community Places, if you could give me an idea of what community places have been funded or are being funded in this fiscal year.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** This is what is going to become difficult when we have to start shifting the staff around a little bit. We will just have to be—

**Ms. Frlesen:** Oh, I see.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** For clarification, were you asking for specific grants that had been allocated or the overall total budget?

**Ms. Frlesen:** Both, Mr. Deputy Chairman.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if I can, the overall authority for expenditure was \$9,449,000, and we could just provide a list of the grants. There are a lot, and I would hate to take the time to read that.

**Ms. Frlesen:** So they have all been committed? The funds are all committed in this year already.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, one more round of approvals and that will be for December of this year and that will complete the program.

**Ms. Frlesen:** This is just a point of procedure. I am asking questions in the whole area now or do you want me to pass for those two or three?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** You can just continue.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister indicate what kind of peer evaluation system is in place in the Heritage Federation?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Heritage Federation is an umbrella organization that is given a certain allocation of funding from Government to distribute lotteries revenues. We have signed a five-year agreement, and I do know that the Heritage Federation acts independently of Government in determining how they are going to grant that money or allocate that money to the community.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I do not know whether there is peer evaluation at the moment, so I am asking whether your department is concerned about that.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I do not believe there is peer evaluation. I suppose if there was a concern within the community that the Heritage Federation was not allocating funds in the

best interests of the community, we as Government would certainly like to know that and would like to hear from community organizations that are having some problems.

To date, we have not received complaints. I would imagine that would be the process to follow, and if they were not meeting the needs of the community, we should probably re-evaluate the process of allowing the Heritage Federation to allocate funds.

**Ms. Friesen:** So that any discussion or debate on that issue would come to you rather than to the federation and then you would act, or discuss it with the federation?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Ms. Friesen:** Under the Arts Council there is peer evaluation.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** In some instances. That is, through the arts gaming fund there is peer evaluation, but the organizations and the project grants that are given to different organizations within the Arts Council are determined through an evaluation process, just as they would be done through the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

**Ms. Friesen:** But not necessarily peer evaluation or jury evaluation?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the project grants within the Manitoba Arts Council have a jury process. The operating grants for organizations do not have a jury process.

**Ms. Friesen:** Have there been any concerns raised from the community about the lack of a jury process in the selection of operating grants?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there has been the odd applicant that has had some concern about the evaluation of their application, but generally speaking, no.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I wanted to pick up on the Community Places Program. Can the Minister tell me, what is the cap on Community Places?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the program was a four year, \$40 million program, which is over at the end of this fiscal year.

\* (1620)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Will the department have met that \$40 million?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, virtually, yes.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Each independent project is entitled to how much as a maximum?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, to a \$75,000 maximum for an individual application, and that is 50 percent cost shared by the non-profit organization that is applying.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** The Minister has made reference to the list—and there is a very lengthy list. I can recall seeing one a year and a half ago. In going over that list, can the Minister tell me, has anyone received the maximum amount?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The maximum that has been allocated since we have been Government to any one organization is \$125,000, but that is not at one application. Sometimes a community project has applied and received a \$75,000 grant and spent that money. Then they have gone into a phase 2 of the project and requested another sum of money, and the maximum we have allowed is \$125,000 to any one organization.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Would the Minister be able to tell me, in terms of the '87-88 budget, the number of applications that were sent in and approved and compare that to the number of applications that were sent in and approved in the last fiscal year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if we are talking about the number of applications received and the number of applications approved, fiscal year over fiscal year—

**Mr. Lamoureux:** '87-88.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Maybe if we could read out the applications received in the four years, in 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, and the applications approved in those years—okay, in 1987 there were 1,042 applications received and 484 applications approved. In 1988 there were 708 applications received and 451 applications approved. In 1989 there were 550 applications received and 358 applications approved. In 1990 to date, recognizing that we still have one more round of approvals, there were 523 applications received and 319 applications approved.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, in terms of the average amount allotted per grant, has that been increased or decreased over the past couple of years?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is fairly consistent depending on the number of major projects that have applied for versus the number of minor projects. When we first took over as Government there had been some tentative approval sent out during the election campaign and much, much more money was committed at that time than we felt should be committed, so we looked at the overall applications and determined that we would give 75 percent of the amount requested to the organizations. That was our first round of approvals after we became Government.

Since then, we have taken a look—and really if we determine, our staff determines, that an applicant has applied for \$75,000 and really needs the \$75,000 in order to have the project move ahead, we have pretty well given the full grant to those organizations in most instances. If it is determined that maybe they can get away with a little less money when staff evaluates the program, we might allocate a little less. In the majority of instances if they apply for \$2,000 to build some shelving in a day care, to \$75,000 for the expansion of a community club, if we believe their grant should be approved, we have given them to full amount. It is varied but it has remained fairly consistent. I would not say there are more larger grants, or there were more as opposed to—I think each year has been fairly consistent.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** The reason why I ask, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, is that I did receive a call from someone who was wanting to receive a grant, and this particular individual was looking at establishing a day care, and doing some renovations and having more day care spots made available. Now, it looked as if tentatively his grant was going to be approved, and I believe it was \$59,000.00. Now his concern was that, how is it that one day care can receive \$75,000—they too had applied for the \$75,000 and their total costs were approximately the same. Are there priorities that are given to different areas, whether it is day care or strictly renovations of a community centre, or things of that nature?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the day care office in the Department of Family Services does have some input into evaluating the applications that come forward and they take into context, are they receiving funding from other sources? How much have they got to match the grant that is given? All of those things are taken into account when the final decision is made.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** The common number that came up time after time—now, I do not know if it was just a coincidence but was the fact, and I will cite that we went on a northern tour. We toured a friendship centre and they made application, and they too were going to be receiving \$59,000.00.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, no. The \$59,000 does not have any special meaning or significance in the program. I guess if there are specifics in one instance where someone has applied and not received the full amount, if that could be brought to my attention I could try to determine by departmental evaluation why that number was arrived at.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I am not trying to imply anything here. I am just more concerned in terms of the consistency because it is very important; different organizations know what other organizations are receiving. I think it is very important that it is consistent.

I did want to comment on the Provincial Archives Grant—it was a substantial increase—and ask the Minister in terms of what areas of the province are looking at expanding or potentially having a new archive.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this is another one of these Lotteries actuals versus carry-overs and what flowed in one year, so the grant has not increased. It is just that what was approved did not flow in that fiscal year, and it has been carried over to the next fiscal year.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Has the Minister or the department received any correspondence for new archives?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Could I ask for some clarification? Was that capital grant?

**Mr. Lamoureux:** It would be capital grants. I had a call. I believe they were in St. Boniface; they were looking at having an archive and were seeking some type of assistance. I am also curious if they have approached the department and what the department might have told this particular organization.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have been talking—we were talking about the St. Boniface Archives, and that is a major capital project. We have been in discussion with people involved in St. Boniface, but there has been no determination yet on whether that in fact will move ahead.

\* (1630)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** In terms of the Manitoba Arts Council, MGAC, Heritage Federation and so forth, those are the organizations that are in the five-year agreements.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I believe I might have asked this question previously, but I would ask it again in terms of the accountability process: Can the Minister comment on that?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We can talk a little about the Lotteries needs assessment that was done and the change of distribution. Instead of having the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation determine what percentage of the pie will go to sports, or arts, or multiculturalism, or whatever, we have now brought all of the trust funds from throughout Government into one spot in the Department of Finance. We will be able to discuss that a little later on in the Estimates. We have sat down and determined, or structured, five-year agreements with all of the different umbrella groups that are responsible for funding community organizations with Lotteries revenue, so there is more of an accountability system through the Manitoba Legislature, through the Estimates process, than there was before.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** What would hold them accountable one year from now, or this year? Financial statements, do they have to send them in annually?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** They are given an annual allocation based on Lotteries dollars that are available, and they will be accountable, yes, through the Legislature. Those kinds of questions can be asked.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** How to the Legislature?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, because they are accounted for in the Estimates book now, any question can be asked, and the questions that are asked here in the Legislature will receive answers through me back to the Member that has asked the question. As far as more accountability, they have to submit annual budgets; they receive quarterly cash flows; they have to file financial statements throughout the year; and their statements must be audited.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** These annual reports, financial statements, that is all public information?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that has all been part of the five-year agreements that have

been signed, and those clauses are in those agreements.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, is that information accessible through any of our libraries, Legislative Library, public library? If someone wanted to peruse, even as a member of the Folk Arts Council, do they have access to it?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am not sure how the Folk Arts Council got in here.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I just threw that in towards the end, and maybe it would have best not to throw it in. Who has access to it?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, they all will be available for public reading.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Available upon request through the Minister's office, available through Legislative Library, where?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, and they will be available in the Legislative Library.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item 6.(g) Provincial Archives Grants Assistance.

**Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood):** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just have one very simple question that hopefully has a very simple and satisfactory answer. A number of years ago we were concerned about the storage of the Provincial Archives. At a time I think they were stored in parts of this building subject to leaky roofs, must and other foreign agents which threatened to ruin the documents. Could the Minister just satisfy us that archival storage in this province is now out of any kind of danger?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I received confirmation from staff at the Archives that things are much better.

**Mr. Carr:** Where are the archives stored?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the main archives storage is 200 Vaughan, and on Muir Road is the permanent record centre.

**Mr. Carr:** Could we have assurances from the Minister that there is no cause for any concern that these documents are in any way subject to natural disasters, shredding or other acts of God or humankind?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have the former Minister who was the Minister when the shredding occurred that caused some great concern, and I would hope that -(interjection)- Well, yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess there still is that human element to things

where somebody could shred the wrong box of something. That is a human element, but we are moving to a new computer-based record management system that will help improve the situation also.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item 6.(g) Provincial Archives Grant Assistance \$104,300—pass; item 6.(h)(1) Salaries \$328,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$120,400—pass; (h)(3) Grant Assistance \$9,000,000—pass; (j) Manitoba Arts Council \$5,530,300—pass.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, has this item been fully debated?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** As far as the critics were concerned it was.

**Mr. Carr:** I just have one question then. There had been some talk that the model of the Arts Council might be amended to allow for the election of certain members of the council among the community itself. The Minister will remember that the Winnipeg Arts Advisory group established that model some years back with some success in the minds of many that those involved within the cultural disciplines had therefore some say in who would represent them at the council table.

Has the Minister given any thought to changing the council, moving in that direction, or has that idea been discarded by the department?

\* (1640)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, no, there has been no thought given to that at this point in time.

**Mr. Carr:** Why not?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I believe that if we as a Government are responsible for entrusting to an umbrella organization a certain sum of Lotteries monies to be distributed to the community in an accountable fashion, we should have input into the board that is responsible for allocating those dollars.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item 6.(j) Manitoba Arts Council was accordingly passed prior to. We are now going to move on to 6.(m) Manitoba Heritage Federation \$712,300—pass; (n) Manitoba Community Services Council \$3,643,000—pass.

Resolution 30: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$35,928,200 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

We will now revert back to item 3. Information Resources (a) Management and Purchasing (1) Salaries \$661,500.00. Do we need a staff change?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Ms. Friesen:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, again I wanted to ask about salaries. There seems to have been a considerable increase in the managerial salaries and a decline in the administrative support salaries. Can the Minister explain the reasons?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there has been a reclassification from director to executive director.

**Ms. Friesen:** The difference between those salaries then is that—whatever it is? \$20,000.00?

(Mr. Jack Reimer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, we will get back to you with the exact detail on that.

**Ms. Friesen:** The decrease in these support staff salaries—same staff years—

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** That was because there were some people who left and new people hired at lower levels.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wanted to ask about the advertising by departments and wondered which departments were responsible for the increase in advertising.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it would have been the Department of Justice for the anti-drinking and driving campaign, the Department of Family Services for the wife abuse campaign, the Department of Highways I guess for photo licensing and the Department of Agriculture for the Manitoba Interest Rate Assistance.

**Ms. Friesen:** Could the Minister indicate the dates of these advertising campaigns?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I will get that, but I also do want to indicate with the increase in expenditure that there was a one time only expenditure of \$260,000 for the election that just took place. I will get that detail.

**Ms. Friesen:** One other question is the—and it may be again that same Lotteries flow-through issue—no, it cannot be in this department can it?

The decrease in capital and other operating expenditures, what is the reason for the decreases, and what has been the impact upon the department?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the decrease in capital reflects the reallocation of funds

to Other Operating for the development of software to allow for the transfer of print tendering specifications to the Western Procurement Information Network.

**Ms. Friesen:** So what is the impact of the halving of the Capital Program?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have the hardware, the computer now, and now we are developing the program. So there is a decrease in costs there.

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

Item 3.(a)(1) Salaries, \$661,500—pass; 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures, \$124,200.00.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, before we pass this line, the anti-drinking advertising, is that expected to continue or what advertising are we concentrating on in the upcoming year?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I guess that initiative would have to come from the Department of Justice through centrally, and I am not aware of what the focus is.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Item 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures, \$124,200—pass; 3.(a)(3) Public Sector Advertising, \$2,769,600—pass; 3.(a)(4) Recoverable from Other Appropriations, \$3,210,600—pass.

Item 3.(b) Information Services: (1) Salaries, \$494,600—(pass); (b)(2) Other Expenditures \$220,800—pass; (c) Queen's Printer: (1) Salaries \$1,653,100.00.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wanted to ask the Minister about conservation efforts within the Queen's Printer.

What programs or plans do you have for implementing environmentally friendly or recyclable papers within the Queen's Printer?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The Queen's Printer has assumed a leadership position in increasing the supply and use of recycled and permanent papers for Government printing in response to the Recycling Procurant Policy announced last November.

It is forecast that two million sheets, 20 tonnes of roll stock, and 28,000 envelopes with recycled content will be purchased in 1990-91 for various in-house printing requirements, including news releases and various departmental publications.

The statutes, regulations and the Manitoba Gazette have also been contracted out to printers

who will print them on recycled, alkaline paper at no additional cost.

Virtually all papers used by the print centre are alkaline processed, and some qualify as archivably permanent. There has been a real advance made there.

The Queen's Printer is co-operating interdepartmentally with its clients and suppliers to promote increased supply and demand.

The Minister of Government Services (Mr. Driedger) will be releasing a public report in the new year that outlines these and other recycling accomplishments that have happened over the past year.

**Ms. Friesen:** I am just not quite sure where the responsibility—you say Government Services. I am wondering, for example, what are the targets overall for the Government, and what stage are we at in meeting those targets for the use of recyclable or environmentally friendly products?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We are presently at about 10 percent. Of course, it would be ideal to have 100 percent, and we will be moving in that direction.

**Ms. Friesen:** I was not quite sure of the answer. Is it 10 percent of the target or is it 10 percent of the total?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Ten percent of all Government printing done through the Queen's Printer.

\* (1650)

**Ms. Friesen:** What is the target?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** One hundred percent, but it will be a long time coming. That cannot happen overnight.

**Ms. Friesen:** I wanted to pursue the archival aspect of this. You said that the paper that is being used is acceptable to the archives for permanent storage.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Alkaline paper is more stable for preservation in the archives, and we are moving towards using alkaline paper.

**Ms. Friesen:** More stable than regular paper or more stable than certain types of recyclable paper?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Most paper is acidic, and as we move to a more neutral paper, it is found to be more acceptable and it has a greater longevity.

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



Item 3.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,260,000—pass; (c)(3) Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$2,904,100—pass; (d) Translation Services (1) Salaries \$794,300.00.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I wanted to ask about the increase in the professional salaries here. Are there particular reasons for reclassification?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is just merit increments and GSI.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister give me some idea of how translation salaries are keeping pace, or in advance of the private sector? What is the comparison?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We compare well with the federal Government and other provinces.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I am not sure I understand "compare well."

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, we are competitive with roughly the same salary ranges.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about the increase in the Supplies and Services line here, could the Minister explain that?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We have a total of about \$100,000 net increase where we are recovering the money that Crown corporations in the past did not pay for translation services. So that amount is \$80,000, plus the \$20,000 increase that we have here gives us an extra \$100,000 to deal with translation services, based on the announcement of the new French Language Services policy.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister expand upon that Crown corporations element?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, in the past we were doing translation, through Translation Services, for the Crown corporations, but we were not charging them the full cost of what it cost us, so now the Crown corporations are going to be paying the full cost of what will be involved in translation services.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I am not sure how that relates to the increase in the Supply and Services.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** That is where the fees are paid to contract translators.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Then you recover it.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** And we recover it, yes.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I understand, right.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass? The item is accordingly passed.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I am interested in knowing if the department is able to keep up with the demand for translation services and I am also interested in knowing if there is a consistency between the French language services policy and the ability of the Government to sustain that policy through the resources, the grants to the department.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There is a national crisis in having enough qualified translators, but we believe with the increase we have here, we will have the ability to deliver the service.

**Mr. Carr:** Well, I just want to be assured and reassured by the Minister that the resources in the department are sufficient to keep up with the demand, not only the current demand but the increased demand, through the Government's French language services policy. Is she assuring us that the resources exist now to do a proper job?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, there is difficulty keeping up but that is why we have the increase in the number of translators that we have to contract to do the work.

**Mr. Carr:** Just so that we can put some real-life experience into a theoretical conversation, how long does it take to get a document translated? What is the backlog?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I suppose it would depend on the document.

**Mr. Carr:** And the translator.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, very definitely, and the translator. It does depend on the priority of the document so I do not think you can get an average time. I do not know what kind of a figure is being looked for here.

**Mr. Carr:** How do you prioritize, and what is the range of response time within the department?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is my understanding that we were running a backlog of between six and eight weeks, but that was before the approval to transfer this money that we have available now, so that should reduce the backlog.

**Mr. Carr:** Who establishes the priorities and what are the criteria?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, there are the legislative requirements and then the French language services policy secretariat sets the priorities.

**Mr. Carr:** I have one last question. Is the Minister satisfied that the resources available within this branch are adequate to meet the responsibilities placed on it? Is she frustrated with what has been given to her? Is she jubilant? Is she something in between? Ought we to be concerned, or can she reassure us that the policy is being implemented reasonably with the necessary resources to do a proper job?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, we were extremely pleased to get the increase in resources, and I would hope that it will go a long way to reduce the backlog.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass? The item we are referring to is 3.(d)(1) Translation Services: Salaries \$794,300—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$256,200—pass.

3.(e) Provincial Archives: (1) Salaries \$1,312,500.00. Shall the item pass?

\* (1700)

**Ms. Frlesen:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I wanted to ask about the Government records program. I notice that the records management advisory and related services provides to the Manitoba Government, the Courts, school and local Government authorities.

I wonder if the Minister could give us some idea of how records management is working, expanding in school and local Government authorities.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The Manitoba Council of Archives and the Association of Manitoba Archivists are meeting right now to determine a ten-year plan, and we are expecting a report in this fiscal year to determine priorities.

**Ms. Frlesen:** As a matter of fact, there has not been an expansion yet of records management into the school and local government areas.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** At this point, no, there has been no expansion.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Is the Minister familiar with the Quebec legislation in records management which also expands this? It is the same principle that all Government agencies have to have a records management system, but it expands it to hospitals. I wondered if there was any consideration of expansion of the policy in that area.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There has been no thought as yet to that, and there would have to be a change in legislation to make that happen.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Does the Minister have any thoughts on that matter, whether it should be expanded to include hospitals and other government-funded agencies?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** We would have to take a look at what the costs and what the alternatives are first.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about the Government records system within the Manitoba Government. I noticed that it is the Archives which makes the initiation of contacts. When the Archives goes to meet with a Government department, is it looking at what that department is now ready to dispose of, or is it looking at the entire field of a particular Government department and advising it on what should be transferred to the Archives?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The Archives looks at the entire field and advises the department.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister give me an idea of which departments have been through this process and which departments are now on a regular schedule for the transmission of records to the Archives?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** They are all on a regular schedule now of transferral to the Archives.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister indicate what the record is of the Archives in being able to deal with this magnitude of records?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** It has been very good so far.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Perhaps I did not phrase my question correctly. The records are being sent to dead storage. What provision is being made for the cataloguing and accessibility of each of these departmental records?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The process, Mr. Acting Chairperson, is quite successful in retrieving documents.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I was not really asking about retrieval, I was asking of cataloguing and availability to researchers.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is the Access Guide that does provide that information.

**Ms. Frlesen:** The Access Guide to the Freedom of Information?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Are there research guides to each of these departmental records, manuscript grouped records?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Yes, Mr. Acting Chairperson, there are finding aids to each of them.

**Ms. Frlesen:** And how recently are they, what is the most recent date on those?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the last update of the Access Guide would have been a year ago.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Thank you very much. Could the Minister indicate what proportion of the resources of this department are going to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, seven staff years.

**Ms. Frlesen:** And financially?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, 20 percent of the budget.

**Ms. Frlesen:** One interpretation of the overall move of this department is its moving to becoming a Government records department, rather than a historical archives. Could the Minister indicate what her views are on this, and where she sees it going in the future?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is only because we have added staff resources to deal with the Freedom of Information and Access to Information that we are not really seeing any shift away from the preservation of heritage toward that, just a scheduling of Government documents.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass, Salaries?

**Ms. Frlesen:** We have not finished.

I wanted to ask about the systematically selected sample of unique and irreplaceable archival materials from the private sector. I do not want the Minister to misunderstand that I am opposed to the move toward Government records. I think it has been long overdue in the last 50 years in Manitoba so that I think finally moving into that area is very good, but I am concerned about what has happened to the earlier areas of historical records. Could the Minister indicate what kinds of private sector, non-governmental records are being collected now and what kind of priorities there are?

\* (1710)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the priorities that are given are, first of all, the Native community, the Metis community, the ethnocultural

community, women and children. Those would be the areas of priority.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass? (1) Salaries \$1,312,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$265,000—pass; (3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$28,800—pass.

(f) Legislative Library: (1) Salaries \$614,100.00.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask about the implementation of a provincial depository system for Manitoba Government publications. How long has this been going on and how successful is it?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** The depository plan will be implemented in January of 1991.

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to ask, what are the present conditions? Which departments do deposit and which do not, or is it at the whim of the department?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, there is an Order-in-Council requirement for all departments to deposit.

**Ms. Frlesen:** What is going to be the impact of this in the long term on the Legislative Library for the storage, retrieval, et cetera, cataloguing of these?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, we are not increasing what we receive. We are just printing it out so the rest of the province will have the ability to access.

**Mr. Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$181,300—pass.

Resolution 27: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,463,700 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Information Resources, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

We now move on to item 5. Expenditures Related to Capital \$200,000.00. (a) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets \$200,000—pass.

Resolution 29: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$200,000 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1991—pass.

The last item to be considered for the Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation is item (a) Minister's Salary. At this point we would request that the Minister's staff leave the table.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Order. At this point we would request that the Minister's staff leave the table for consideration of this item.

Shall the item pass? The item is accordingly—

**Ms. Frlesen:** I wanted to return to the CIDO agreement that we talked about earlier. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what the impact of the loss of the federal dollars in that CIDO Agreement is going to be, particular on film. I wanted to remind her in this context of the article in the Globe and Mail by Bronwyn Drainie, which I think everyone in Manitoba would agree with, of the value that the CIDO Program has had for particularly film production in Manitoba and what an excellent job the film makers are doing. What are we going to do?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I guess the reason we have committed our \$1.8 million this year and beyond is because we do believe in the value of our cultural industries, especially in film. I think I talked a bit at length during our Estimates about what value it has been to the province. We have still this year some close to \$800,000 from the federal Government.

There is no commitment from the federal Government next year. I have not given up consultation and discussion with the federal Government to see if in fact we can come to a new cost-shared agreement, without a cost-shared agreement, possibly a commitment of some funding, so that we can maintain and enhance our cultural industries, but there will be some impacts if the federal Government does not have their funding in place.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister indicate what the impact of that loss is going to be? What is the film industry going to be able to do with the monies that you have available?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I cannot give an exact indication of what the impact is going to be. I know the film community is still, can I say, plugging along, and we are still in a process of approval of certain specific projects. We will continue to do that within the limitations of the dollars that we have to offer.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Could the Minister indicate what prospect there is of monies for film and other cultural industries coming from the Western Diversification Fund?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I would think that our film industry is an industry worthy of funding through Western Diversification, and that is the argument I have been trying to make with the federal Government. I do know, and it is only from what I have read way back that there was the overall picture—I think we have \$60,000,000 coming to the Province of Manitoba; \$30,000,000 of that has gone for SDI, which will benefit rural Manitoba.

We still have yet to hammer out a tourism agreement and I think some mining money through Western Diversification. I know that the lead Minister is actively involved in communication and discussion with the federal Government to see what types of cost-shared agreements we are going to have. There has been no finalization of that amount of money, but I know there was some communications money that the federal Government talked about. I thought that in the context of that communications money, possibly we might have some money for our cultural industries.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Really in that context what we are looking at is a province which has determined that the Southern Development is its priority. We are really having to try and influence the federal Government to establish communications, cultural industries as one of its priorities.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, in essence I guess that is what the federal Government is telling us, that SDI was our priority, but in fact they obviously agreed to it. I think that we need that communication and consultation, and I have stressed very much my position on the value of our cultural industries. I do know that the federal caucus from the Province of Manitoba has met with representatives of CIDO. They have presented and I think as a result of that there has come a greater understanding of what our film industry and cultural industries do for the Province of Manitoba.

**Ms. Frlesen:** Has the Minister pursued with the federal Government increased revenues from Telefilm? Does she know what percentage we are getting of Telefilm revenues?

\* (1720)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I do know, and I cannot give you exact numbers. If this had been asked when I had my staff here, I might have been able to give more accurate numbers, but I do know that the dollars that we invest through CIDO or through cultural industries, do generate a fair amount of National

Film Board and Telefilm money for the Province of Manitoba and I do not have the exact figures in front of me. I do know we do receive a fair amount.

**Ms. Friesen:** In my opening statements I talked about the absence of any consideration of television in the department's work, and that as we looked back 50 years from now, on what the impact of television on culture and we looked at a cultural affairs department which has not been involved in that aspect of cultural communication, I wonder if the Minister has had time to think about that, and if she is aware of the initiatives that the Saskatchewan Government is making in television in terms of cultural industries.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I think that is something that is very important to look at and I will certainly take a look at that in the future.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer):** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Being on the Minister's Salary, I just wanted to go over a few items that we had previously discussed with her staff being here, one of those being the role of MIC. During the discussions we found out from the Minister that like myself, she does not necessarily see why MIC should not be entitled to elect their own presiding officer and I commend her on being as bold as to say that. I have to ask why, if the Minister believes that MIC should be entitled to elect or select their own presiding officer, the Minister would be reluctant on allowing that to happen now rather than later.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the only time that Manitoba Intercultural Council was not allowed to elect in essence their own presiding officer was under the former NDP administration and that was when the Minister actually appointed a presiding officer that was not recommended by the Manitoba Intercultural Council.

In the last instance, the Manitoba Intercultural Council elected, or gave me a list of three people that they wanted to be their presiding member and their number one choice was the person that was appointed. We honoured their decision to select their presiding officer and we went with that decision.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Given that, Mr. Acting Chairperson, why then would the Minister oppose amending the legislation that would allow them, because this particular Government of the Day has decided, and has decided correctly to allow the

presiding officer to be elected from within, what is preventing another administration, the administration being the one that was here previously, from not allowing the chairperson to be elected from within, but rather to start appointing. Why would she oppose ensuring that MIC is given the power to do it within the legislation, because the Act is there and it is there for a reason?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** In the situation that we are in right now, in a majority Government situation, we have a four-year mandate. I have indicated that we are bringing in a multicultural Act, that will deal not ad hoc with multicultural issues, but it will deal very comprehensively with multiculturalism throughout the province. At that time we will deal with the legislation that you believe to be flawed, and if we believe that there needs to be a change in the Manitoba Intercultural Council's legislation, we will change everything together and that should be in place long before we have the opportunity to have another New Democratic Government in power in this province.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, no one knows how long this Government will be in. There could be a Mr. Walding in the back benches somewhere -(interjection)- or two.

I would suggest that the Minister concurs with us on the MIC. As I suggested previously, we would amend Bill 9 in a fashion in which she would be very acceptable to it. We do not know when the multicultural Act will come in, unless of course, the Minister is willing to make a commitment to the multicultural Act being introduced in the upcoming Session which follows this if this one comes to an end.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I guess I can understand now why the people of Manitoba chose to put the Liberal Party in third position. We are not a Government that takes an ad hoc quick fix solution attitude to our problems. I have indicated time and time again—and this Bill has been before the Legislature for three years now—that in fact when the time comes to make comprehensive changes and bring in a multicultural Act, we will bring that in, and we will act responsibly.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the Minister herself said that the Act has been before this Chamber for the past three years. We have an opportunity, or she had an opportunity, three years ago. She says that she does not support it; then she

could have deleted or brought in her own Act to amend the MIC Act which would support her own personal beliefs.

There was no guarantee contrary to what the Government might believe that they were going to be successful in the next election. Some might argue that it was relatively irresponsible of the Government if the Minister was of that opinion, but failed to act on what she believes or what the Conservative Party believes.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

If you believe that you are going to have a multicultural Act and the Act is going to be coming up in this Session, then to some degree I would concur that we do not need to have the amendment put in place as long as the Minister of Culture and Heritage is going to say to this committee that in fact we will have the elected person appointed by the Minister, then that will alleviate that concern to some degree.

In order to alleviate that concern I would ask the Minister responsible, does she have any intentions on bringing forward the multicultural Act in the upcoming Session?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I talked during the Estimate process about introduction of a White Paper for discussion with the community before a piece of legislation is brought in and indicated quite probably that would not occur till the spring of 1992.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, if the White Paper occurs in the spring of '92—

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I am sorry. For clarification, the White Paper, early in the new year so that legislation could be introduced in 1992.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think it is a rarity when we get a commitment. From what I understand, the Minister then has made a commitment. By 1992, we will have a multicultural Act of some form introduced.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** If things go the way they are, we are looking right now—yes, that is a good possibility.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, then is it safe to assume that failing that, this Minister will endorse Bill 9, amend it that the funding be struck from it.

\* (1730)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I believe that we are fighting and arguing over something that

I suppose caused the Manitoba Intercultural some concern under the former administration. We in fact took their recommendation on who they wanted to be their presiding officer. We followed through with that.

Now, if that should change, then the Manitoba Intercultural Council or the Opposition might have some concern, but in fact we have acted responsibly in the way we have handled the Manitoba Intercultural Council. We will deal with amendments when the time comes. You know, the question that was just asked was somewhat a hypothetical question, because we are planning to move ahead as scheduled, and if something deters us from that schedule then we will have to be accountable for that at the time.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Leaving MIC, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I want to comment in respect to the community libraries, because I do not believe the Minister responded in terms of the need for community libraries in the City of Winnipeg and the importance of her role in ensuring that where those libraries are located are of a high priority. I would ask the Minister why her Government does not support the community libraries being located in the communities.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have never indicated that we do not support community libraries being located in communities, but the City of Winnipeg has to determine where within those communities and how many within those communities should serve the people of the City of Winnipeg. I indicated earlier on that I am not about to put conditions on the block funding that we give to the City of Winnipeg, because as I stated earlier again, if we told the City of Winnipeg how they had to spend every dollar that we gave them, then we would not need city councillors.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, then if City Hall was to decide that they no longer want to have community libraries, the Minister is saying that she would go along with it.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I think, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that the people of Winnipeg would determine to elect a new City Council if they were not pleased with the process that council went through to make those decisions.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Government speaks highly of illiteracy and wanting to combat illiteracy. We have libraries in the inner

city, older areas of the city that have been proposed to be closed down, the one on William, the one on I believe it is Dee in the Brooklands area, both of them being community libraries. Both of them, when they have come up in the past—and no doubt they will likely come up in the future—this Government has refused to take any type of position on whether or not they support those community libraries.

Does the Minister support community libraries in that area?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is not a building alone, a physically located building with library books in it, that is going to make the citizens of Winnipeg or of Manitoba literate, it is the programs that go along with the books that are provided, wherever they might be, that are going to enhance literacy in the Province of Manitoba, and it is through our education system. You cannot really say that a building located, or 20 buildings within the City of Winnipeg with an adequate or an extremely good selection of library books is going to make people more literate. You have to get people to those libraries with the programs in place that are going to make people more literate.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Access to those libraries is just as important, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, and if you take a look at the libraries that have been suggested, they are in areas that many people are only in walking distance who can use those facilities that are of the lower income scale, if you will. To close down those two libraries in particular, I think, would be a mistake in the sense of the whole concept of community libraries. The Government does have a responsibility, even though it does not want to live up to that responsibility, to ensure that if it believes in community libraries, that in fact it exists, not only in some areas, but rather in all areas of the City of Winnipeg.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$20,600.00.

**Ms. Friesen:** We just want to ask for clarification here. We are going to do Lotteries after this and is that before Minister's Salary?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** After.

**Ms. Friesen:** After, okay.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$20,600.00.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I was going to give closing remarks if the—

**Ms. Friesen:** Is the Minister going to give some?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** No, the Minister was not going to give any. The Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), do you have some closing remarks?

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would like to make just a few closing remarks. We can touch base on different aspects when we get onto Lotteries.

I did want to comment on the conflicting message, once again, that this Government is sending to our communities. We have seen that by their actions and it is very disappointing. We have gone through the Estimates, in particular I wanted to highlight the importance of the heritage buildings, the community libraries once again, and the role that the Minister should be taking in developing a much more positive atmosphere out in the community, and how it has been dampened by some of the actions that the Government has taken.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley (Ms. Friesen), with some closing remarks.

**Ms. Friesen:** Thank you. I think this is a department which affects everyone. It is one I am sure where the needs and opportunities are unlimited. It is one I would think in every Cabinet across the country that is very difficult to fight for funds at a time when health and education are increasingly consuming our budget.

I think the Minister has a number of difficulties that any Minister would have and I think, within this particular portfolio, there are a number of sometimes conflicting demands, the so-called majors and minors. Some people might say majors versus minors, but I think both of them have to be considered by the Minister. The demands for operating grants, as opposed to capital grants, I think you are under considerable siege for both of those.

One of the things that I noticed in my introductory remarks was the difficulties of trying to maintain the existing level of services in culture and heritage particularly, and the desire in a department like this to encourage innovation and creativity.

I think all of those are important. The problem that both the education system and Culture, Heritage and Recreation faces are that you want to be able to provide a kind of community, to create a creative community where people have the opportunity to

move on, where you want to give them their wings, in a sense, and yet at the same time you want to be able to create a community that they will want to come home to and where there is that sort of solid base of support for talent and for innovation. You want to acknowledge excellence and, at the same time, I think you want to nurture the groups who are still emerging. I think there are many difficulties and challenges with this particular department.

At the beginning I think I mentioned—I would like to emphasize this again—I do see an increased reliance on Lotteries money here, something which your own arts advisory group has advised against, and yet we see it here in this budget. I am I think fearful that this is potentially the way in which this department is going to go.

I am very concerned about the loss of CIDO, and I would certainly encourage the Minister and support her in her efforts to renegotiate an extended agreement with the federal Government. I do not hold out much hope because I see it in the context of the Free Trade Agreement and the way in which culture and heritage activities were put on the line in the Free Trade Agreement. I see it in the context of the decline of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the commitment to the Film Board is declining by the federal Government.

I think I would also encourage the Minister to be wary of the push to private funding, both by the federal Government and by this department. It does seem to me almost a direct route to very bland programming and bland culture. I am afraid that under those kinds of circumstances the arts simply becomes entertainment.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** We thank you for those comments. Would the Honourable Minister like to have some closing remarks?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just want to thank both the critics for their participation in this round of Estimates. We have some new people in the Manitoba Legislature, some new critics, and a variety of critics for different areas. I want to thank you for the co-operation that has been shown in passing through the Estimates.

I do want to thank the staff of my Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation for their support and the hard work they have done over the last number of years. We all know that through tough financial times we are all going to have to be a little more cognizant of how we manage our money and

how we spend it. I want to commend my department for taking a close look at things over the last few years and acting responsibly.

So thank you, and I guess we will be on to Lotteries.

\* (1740)

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** We thank the Honourable Minister for those remarks. Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$20,600—pass.

Resolution 25: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,898,000 for Culture, Heritage and Recreation for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

The Estimates sequence, as announced today by the Government House Leader (Mr. Manness), indicated that the Department of Urban Affairs was to follow Cultural, Heritage and Recreation.

However, we do have an Estimates expenditure, Community Support Programs, which is also administered by the same Minister. Is the committee willing to assume that Community Support Programs should be dealt with before commencing Urban Affairs? What is the wish of the committee? The wish of the committee is that we deal with Community Support Programs.

We will recess for five minutes and get on to Community Support Programs.

\* \* \*

The House took recess at 5:41 p.m.

### After Recess

The House resumed at 5:44 p.m.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Now moving on to Lotteries Funded Programs— (a) Lotteries Distribution Systems—\$4,112,400.00. Does the Minister have any opening statements, and would she like to introduce the staff?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I have an opening statement. I can pass that around to save some time without having to read it.

I do want to introduce my staff: the General Manager of the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation is Bill Funk; Peter Hak is Director of Finance; and Bob Swain is Director of the Lotteries Management unit within Government.



**Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk):** I can ask questions dealing with revenues or are we dealing with a specific—

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Opening statement first.

The Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), no opening statements? No? Thank you.

**Mr. Dewar:** Are we dealing with this page?

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** Yes, page 26.

**Mr. Dewar:** I do have some general questions about Lotteries. Could I ask those?

I just want to know how much money was lost during the Lotteries strike?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, approximately \$2 million.

**Mr. Dewar:** How will this Minister make up for that lost revenue? Is there a plan?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Well, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we did indicate at the opening of the casino that we would have approximately \$10 million per year for each full fiscal year for support of the Health Services Development Fund which was set up, which is a one-time project in the Department of Health that will contribute to health promotion and health prevention in the Province of Manitoba.

I cannot guarantee whether we will have a full \$10 million. Probably we will fall short this year as a result of the casino strike, but that does not mean in future years we will not have that \$10 million for innovative health projects in the province. If we are short, we will not be able to approve this year the full \$10 million worth of projects.

**Mr. Dewar:** In your annual report on page 13(a) it says net casino revenues, and they are down. Is that because of the strike?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there are a lot of one-time costs with setting up the casino, so initially the revenues would have been lower than what they will be once those one-time costs have been paid.

**Mr. Dewar:** What are some of those one-time costs?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there were training costs for staff, capital costs, salaries and training, and obligations for leases associated with the former operation of the casino at the Convention Centre which we closed down.

**Mr. Dewar:** On page 12(a) with the bingo revenue, I know with the security there was quite a decrease from \$9,000, I believe. Can you explain the security at these bingos, and why is there a decrease?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it was a contract with Metropolitan. There was a favourable resolution to that contract, and therefore there was a decrease.

**Mr. Dewar:** Are there measures taken to provide security in the different bingos throughout the province?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is the responsibility of each licensee throughout the Province of Manitoba to have security. We make recommendations, but our security is for the bingo halls that are run by the Province of Manitoba.

**Mr. Dewar:** In my own riding there was a robbery of a bingo at the Friendship Centre. I believe there was a robbery here in Winnipeg as well.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes, there have been a couple. The one instance that you cited, but there also has been a robbery in one of our establishments too.

**Mr. Dewar:** There are no plans to extend trained security staff to these outside bingos.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the scale of operations generally does not warrant it, and if we started to extend security, that would probably cut back on the revenue that would be generated by community organizations.

**Mr. Dewar:** I have no further questions.

\* (1750)

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Yes, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I just wanted to get a couple of quick questions on the record. The first one being, of course, is the lottery funds funding themselves? We have made it very clear on the record previously that the Liberal Party does not support the way in which the Government has chosen to spend its lottery funds, in particular, health care having to rely on gambling funds. We take a look at the casino, and I ask the Minister—she had made reference to \$2 million being lost—what number of dollars does the casino bring in on an annual basis, or a monthly basis, I should say?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we talked about \$10 million for a full year of operation. We have had a stop-work from a strike by employees for a two-month period or so. We are looking at revenues that probably, in the first full year

of operation, will not reach that \$10 million, but I take some exception to the Member's comment that our health care system depends on lottery revenue when in fact the \$10 million that is generated by the casino is new money every year that goes to one-time only projects. It is not going into the ongoing operating for the Department of Health.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I wonder if the Minister might want to comment then in terms of the Grace Hospital, and capital expenditures to the Grace Hospital. Are they being sold short because they will not accept monies from the casino?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, you would have to ask the Minister in the Health Estimates. I mean, we have had the most generous capital health program, or program for health facilities, in the last two years, than has been seen in this province for many, many years. It is certainly not going to impact construction of capital facilities because there is a Capital Program in the Department of Health. This is a one-time only cost and people can choose to apply or not apply. There is not every hospital or every community health organization that is going to apply to this fund for money, but those that apply will be evaluated and it will be determined who will receive funding through this. It is by application, and people are free to choose to apply or not to apply.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, as regards the capital funds that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) issues out, and the capital money from the casino, is it fair to say that the Grace then would not be penalized or—I should not say "penalized"—that it would make up for its needs through the capital requested through the Department of Health because they feel that they cannot accept money from the casino?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think that we are getting into some detail that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) should answer in his Estimates. In fact, what we are doing through the Lotteries distribution system is providing \$10 million for the Health Services Development Fund from Lotteries, and the criteria and the application process and the evaluating of those projects that come in are done in the Department of Health. I think that those kinds of questions would be better asked of the Minister of Health.

All we are doing is providing \$10 million of Lotteries revenues as generated by the casino into the Department of Health for these one-time initiatives.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, can the Minister give a couple of the one-time initiatives that were paid for out of this fund?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** That is the responsibility of the Minister of Health because it is an announcement that is made by the Minister of Health when those projects are approved, and it is his department that does approve them.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Can the Minister explain why it is one time for Health and ongoing for Culture and Heritage?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Deputy Chairperson, Culture, Heritage and Recreation does not receive any lottery dollars from casino revenue. The casino was set up purposely and is funding one-time initiatives or projects in the Department of Health.

**An Honourable Member:** Distinction without a difference.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** Distinction without a difference might be a good way of ending it.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would ask the Minister, the casino funds—if you have money that is being allocated to one-time capital projects at a hospital would it be then fair to say that any of those capital projects that would have been approved through this fund would not have been approved through the health care capital?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I think that the details of the criteria for the \$10 million in the Health Services Development Fund should be asked of the Minister of Health, because they are not only capital grants but they are for development of initiatives that will promote healthier lifestyles and prevent illness.

So it is not just capital; there are programs or projects that will in the long run impact on less use of the health care system, but I think that the Minister of Health could explain those initiatives.

**Mr. Lamoureux:** I will accept the challenge and ask the Minister of Health -(interjection)- we will go ahead and pass.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** 1.(a) Lotteries Distribution System: (1) Salaries, \$90,500—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$47,300—pass; (3) Grants, \$764,900.00.

**Mr. Dewar:** I just want them to itemize those, please. Will that take a long time to itemize those grants?

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Just a minute, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, first some clarification. What are we asking for?

**Mr. Dewar:** (a)(3) Grants, \$764,900.00.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** There was a grant to the Western Canada Summer Games, Canadian Hostelling Association, Manitoba Camping Association, Manitoba Parks and Recreation Association, Remote Communities Recreation Fund, All Charities Campaign and the Prince Edward Award. - (interjection) - It is read into the record.

**Mr. Deputy Chairman:** 1.(a)(3) Grants, \$764,900—pass; 1.(b) Festival du Voyageur, \$272,000—pass; (c) Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg, \$242,000—pass; (d) Friends of Winnipeg Pro Soccer, \$80,000—pass; (e) United Way of Winnipeg, \$2,178,700—pass; (f) Valley Agricultural Society, \$195,000—pass; (g) Winnipeg Football Club, \$242,000—pass.

Resolution 20: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,112,400 for Community Support Programs, Lotteries Funded Programs, for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

The hour being 6 p.m. I am interrupting these proceedings in accordance with the Rule 3.(2). The Committee of Supply will resume sitting this evening at 8 p.m. to consider Urban Affairs.

Committee rise.

## SUPPLY—FAMILY SERVICES

**Madam Chairman (Louise Dacquay):** Order, please. 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 Family Services. We are on 1. Administration and Finance, 1.(c) Planning and Research: (1) Salaries \$945,700, page 58. Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne):** Madam Chairperson, as we—

**Madam Chairman:** Excuse me, would the Honourable Member for Osborne just permit the staff to be seated. Thank you.

**Mr. Alcock:** Just before we begin the questioning, I would simply like to ask the Minister if he has the grants list available that we have asked for and that it was indicated would be tabled today. I believe there was a second document that the Member for

Wellington (Ms. Barrett) had also asked for, which was a list of research projects conducted by this division. If those two lists could be provided, particularly the grants list, as soon as possible, please.

**Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services):** We have copies for the Members today. During introductory remarks on Family Services 1990-1991 spending Estimates, the Member for Osborne requested a copy of this department's grants list. I am prepared to provide the two Opposition Critics with a list of my department's 1990-91 grants.

I would caution, however, that this list represents only that portion of provincial funding that flows to external agencies in the form of grants. My department also provides significant levels of funding support in the form of per diem payments or other purchases of service based on client utilization. For example, my department will spend over \$13 million this fiscal year purchasing services at the St. Amant Centre. Similarly the Social Allowances Program expects to spend more than \$1.6 million assisting women and children utilizing wife abuse shelters. These forms of support are not reflected in the grants list which the Member for Osborne has requested and which I am making available at this time.

As we go through my department's spending Estimates, I would be pleased to provide Members with additional information on levels of support for specific types of programs and services.

**Mr. Alcock:** I thank the Minister for providing the list, and I recognize the dilemma that he indicates when he puts forward a list like this. The grants are, of course, only one portion of an agency's funding, but they do reflect the budgetable portion, the portion within which the agency is held accountable. I trust in most cases the per diems are volume-sensitive, and the total amounts that are transmitted to an agency would go up and down depending on the volume.

At the same time now, however, there are estimated amounts for the volumes of service provided by various agencies. I recognize that they are only estimates, and the Minister cannot be held accountable. The Minister has undertaken to reference a number of those amounts in his remarks in releasing those. I wonder if he would be prepared to provide the detail of the estimated amounts of

child maintenance, income security to various groups, that will flow as a result of per diem billings?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** We will be providing that information as we go line by line through the various aspects of the department. We do not have the information ready at this time, but when we come to those areas we can provide that information for the critics.

**Mr. Alcock:** I appreciate the Minister's statement on that. I understand that may not be immediately available given the size of the appropriation. I should just alert the Minister that we will be seeking that information item by item, so it might make sense to compile that division by division as it comes up.

I note though that the very first recipient organization on the grants list is the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, and it is funded under this operating division. I wonder if the Minister could tell us why they have had a decrease in their grant?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** The level, although it does not appear so, is the same as last year. The reason it shows as \$57,500 on the '89-90 Adjusted Vote was a late payment from the previous year, but the amount has stayed constant at \$55,000.00.

**Mr. Alcock:** Then perhaps I could ask the Minister why the organization has not received any increase to reflect increases in the cost of living, such as the Minister recognized in his own office. I mean, we all have year-over-year costs that affect the cost of doing business, and not recognizing that in grants simply means that the volume of work that we can do shrinks proportionately. Why has this not been recognized?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** The funds are for some specific research that they do, and it is not for their overall operations. It is work that they do on specific research projects for this department.

**Mr. Alcock:** I understand that, but unless I misunderstand the nature of this agreement, is this not for an ongoing contract between the Social Planning Council and the department for work that is then requested by the department? If so, presumably their costs, like everybody else's costs including the department's own costs, go up year after year. Perhaps we could just add to that question, did the Social Planning Council request any increase in the grant?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** The grant again changed from an operating grant to a general purpose grant, and

they did not request any additional funds from us this year.

**Mr. Alcock:** Will the organization be receiving any additional contracts, or is there any way in which they receive any per diem or other payments than this one grant from this department?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the answer is no.

**Mr. Alcock:** The nature of this grant as I understand it is that this is a block amount and that the Social Planning Council is then requested to do certain amounts of research against the amount of money which the department forwards to them.

Can the Minister tell us what projects the department has requested the Social Planning Council to pursue in this year?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** In the past, there were specific services and specific projects that the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg Incorporated had undertaken for the department. This year they had requested simply just a general purpose grant, and this is what has been provided.

\* (1440)

**Mr. Alcock:** I thank the Minister for that information.

Coming back to the overall function of this division of the department which is research, investigation of circumstances that will impact on the department, investigation of circumstances that arise in the community, negotiation with other levels of Government including the federal Government and other departments of this Government and presumably municipal Government, I would like to reference the discussion that is taking place in this community at the current time about poverty in this community.

I would ask the Minister whether or not the department has produced any studies or done any research on the question of homelessness in this city, in this province?

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there has not been a study done on homelessness at the provincial level. The department monitors the national statistics on this issue and on poverty.

**Mr. Alcock:** If the department monitors the numbers then, perhaps the Minister can tell us the numbers of homeless people in this province at the current time.

**Mr. Gillieshammer:** Madam Chairperson, we do not have numbers on the homeless. There are no

specific numbers for Manitoba. They do monitor the statistics on poverty and we know the number of social allowance recipients in our province, but a specific figure on homeless this department does not have one.

**Mr. Alcock:** Madam Chairperson, I am a little concerned about that. I mean, you are saying that the lead department for delivering services to the homeless, or to people who are in need of food, clothing and shelter does not have any idea of how many there are in the province. Why would they not collect this information?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the department interacts with a number of people that access the program and we provide a basic safety net program for some 25,000 Manitobans who access the program for basic shelter, food, clothing. That number has been fairly constant in the last number of months. There are some 25,000 that take advantage of this basic safety net.

**Mr. Alcock:** Now the Minister says that they are the department that provides basic shelter and clothing for some 25,000 Manitobans at any point in time. Can the Minister tell us—this is not a new issue, this issue has been around for a long time. I think it is important to note, maybe parenthetically, that some aspects of this problem, at least in the United States and I believe there might be some evidence to support that some of it has occurred here as a result of changes in policy in mental health, which has released larger numbers of people into the community, perhaps without adequate supports—but can the Minister's department give us any estimate of how many of those 25,000 people the Minister just referenced do not have permanent residence?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, I have indicated to the Member that that we have some 25,000 who access the system for this basic safety net program that the department provides. The amount of funding that they receive is adequate for shelter, food and clothing, and that is tested from time to time to see that it is adequate.

We do not have a firm statistic on those who do not access the system or do not use this for a basic shelter.

**Mr. Alcock:** Based on the department's relationship with the national organizations that are monitoring this question, then does the Minister have any estimate of what percentage of people accessing

social assistance would be homeless, or what number of people over and above this 25 are not currently receiving adequate or accessing food and shelter?

I am not saying the Minister is withholding it, but there does seem to be evidence that there are certain numbers of people in this province who are homeless, who do not have a place to live and are choosing to live in bus shelters, garbage bins, under stairways and wherever they can find some warmth. I would just like to get a sense, if this is a problem that the department is working with, as to how large of a problem it is.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, there need not be a problem in that anybody who needs assistance can access assistance through the provincial Social Assistance Program, and again, that funding is provided for shelter, clothing and food.

What you are asking is an estimate of those who do not access the program, and we do not have a firm figure for you.

**Mr. Alcock:** Is the department of the belief that there are no people who are homeless in this province?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there need not be anyone without shelter in this province in that they can access not only the provincial social assistance but also the municipal or city social assistance. If some choose not to do that, for whatever reason, we do not have a figure that we can give you to indicate that number.

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister says, "If some choose not to do that," is he of the belief that there are no homeless people in the province?

\* (1450)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, I did have an opportunity to read the morning papers as well. It appears there are some who choose not to access the system, and I again do not have a number for you. I believe that the journalism that is being done certainly indicates that there are some, but I cannot give you a number.

**Mr. Alcock:** Well, I appreciate the difficulty in capturing this information. There was a very large study done in the U.S. just a little while ago trying to confront this same problem. It is a difficult issue.

I agree with the Minister that there are supports available in the community, but there are a number of people, and how large that number is we really do

not know, but there are some -(interjection)- the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) suggests that I should get my facts straight. I am asking a \$500 million department to give me a single fact on this and they cannot. I think the department should get a few facts.

The question though is: Has the department investigated why some people are choosing not to access the service?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We have some 150,000 Manitobans who interact with this department, 25,000 have indicated on social allowance, another 10,000 who access the CRISP program and 20 some thousand who access the 55 PLUS.

We have Social Allowance offices throughout the province and try to make our programs known to clients and potential clients. There are some, and perhaps these were documented in the paper as well, who choose not to access the system for a variety of reasons.

We can tell you that we do provide service for a large number of Manitobans and that the municipal level of Government also provides a service for many Manitobans as well. There probably is a variety of reasons why there are some who choose not to access the system.

By the same token, we feel that basic safety net is there to provide for that housing. We would hope that Manitobans in need, through whatever means, would choose to access the system if there is need. We would ask other service providers to assist them if in fact they need assistance in coming to grips with this issue.

**Mr. Alcock:** I thank the Minister for that answer, although I am a little uncertain as to what the department is doing or how the department functions around emerging social issues. This is not much different than the discussion we had last week on another question which is going to impact on services, and that was the goods and services tax.

I think a department that is this large, that has the kind of resources that this department has, that has the kind of mandate that this department has, would be looking at issues that are going to impact on them.

The question of the homeless did not arise this morning when The Sun was put in the box. The question of homeless people in this country is one that has been emerging and taking on greater importance over the last decade.

I referenced earlier work that has gone on in the United States. Certainly if a Minister wishes to come with me, we can go on a walk of a few blocks radius from this building, and I can introduce him to homeless people who are choosing not to access the system. In some cases, that may legitimately be a choice, and if people are choosing not to do that, that is fine. Then they live the kind of life that results from that.

I guess the real question is: Are some of these people capable of making that choice? That is the question I think that gets raised in the community with some of the people that you see. I think it is the question that gets raised in the research that is done. If some of these people are unable to access the service because they are too mentally ill to make a rational choice, then that is a question.

The other question that arises is with children and the increasing number. The perception and the belief that I hold from the literature that I have seen is that there is an ever-increasing number of children who are homeless in this city for whatever reason. I would think that a department that had responsibility for providing a social safety net or support services would be interested in that question. If your services are not being accessed, why not? My question is: Has the research department researched that issue?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes. Most of the issues facing this department did not arrive with the rising of the sun this morning, and these are before all Governments throughout the world. We do, as I have indicated, provide that basic safety net, and there are people who choose not to access the system. In the case of the post-mentally ill, we have workers who are in contact and who would encourage them to access this Government department. We fund other community agencies. I would reference the Main Street Project and others who work with the disadvantaged and the street people to have them come in contact with our department as well as our offices in the field who make an effort to see that people access the safety net which I have referenced.

\* (1500)

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister is quite right. These problems did not arise this morning, nor did they arise since this Government was elected. These are problems that have been around for some time. I guess the question though is that unless one

manages a problem, you know the saying is, "the problem will manage you." If you are trying to manage a system, surely you are attempting to understand those forces that are impacting on the system. The question of homelessness is one that has been arising. It has been taking on greater size and consuming greater amounts of energy as we try to cope with this question of how do we provide the institutionalized system and at the same time provide basic support to some people who are in that gray area, and admittedly a number of these people are in that gray area.

The Minister references specifically the post-mentally ill and says that workers in the department are in contact with these people and are encouraging them to make use of these services and that other ancillary agencies like Main Street Project are also. Has the Minister had any information or been communicated to by these workers in the system, Main Street Project or others? Are they saying that the services that the department are offering are currently adequate to meet the needs of the homeless?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, we get constant feedback from the people within our department and also from the agencies to our department, and we try and target our services where they are most needed.

**Mr. Alcock:** I am going to digest that answer for a moment, sense whether that was an answer. The question is, and let us just move on to a related group, are there homeless children in this province?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, earlier this month I met with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and we talked about various services that they provide. They did a study of runaway, homeless youths in Winnipeg, 127 in number in the study, and why they left home, their experiences and the alternatives that they saw as young people. We provided some \$12,000 toward the total cost of that project so, yes, there are runaway, homeless youth, and we are working with groups like the Social Planning Council to try and understand this problem. This is not a phenomenon that simply happens in Manitoba, yet groups such as the Social Planning Council have done some good work in this area. A number of the youth were interviewed and, of course, a lot of them are runaways from foster homes and other institutions, ones that have been in care of the department. There is an ongoing study

that we work with the Social Planning Council on and there are some data coming forward.

**Mr. Alcock:** Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to hear that the department is looking at the question of homeless children.

It begs the question though, if people are choosing not to access the services which are provided by the department, then that might raise the question, why? In this study that the Minister references, has that question been asked? Why are children choosing not to access the service that is offered to them?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** As I have indicated, many of these runaways are from foster homes and other institutions and are already part of the system, and this is something that we want to ask the Child and Family Service agencies for their perspective on as well. Why are these children who have come into care and are in foster homes running from those foster homes? You can speculate as well as I can on the attractiveness of a lifestyle or the attractiveness of the downtown area.

These are people who have come in contact with the department, with the Child and Family Service agencies and have been placed in foster homes or institutions. While the initial contact or even long-term contact has been with these children, there still is a penchant on the part of some of them to run away to be on the street.

**Mr. Alcock:** We will return to this item as we get into the program lines, because I think I would like to ask that very question of some of the operating arms.

I am disappointed to see that the research division has not done significant work in an issue area that has been so important for the delivery of services here and across the country.

What I would ask the Minister then, given the federal provincial role that this division has, and you did mention that there was federal monitoring going on about the issue of homelessness and that this department works with that federal department—it provides information to them et cetera, is there under discussion a federal initiative on the homeless? Is it anticipated that there will be a federal program that will attempt to provide some relief to this problem?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The federal department is the Department of Health and Welfare that collects statistics on the homeless and on social issues, but

we are not aware of any specific federal project on the homeless.

**Mr. Alcock:** Let us leave the matter of homelessness for a moment and move on to something that is related to federal provincial negotiations.

We spoke a little bit on Friday about the Canada Assistance Plan and the importance that it plays in providing support for services and about how that plan had been capped.

British Columbia and others took the federal Government to court, and I believe British Columbia won a judgment in their favour I wonder if the Minister can tell us the basis on which that judgment was given, and what impact if any it will have on future negotiations relative to the Canada Assistance Plan.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The issue of federal-provincial negotiations and the relationship of the Canada Assistance Plan is, of course, a very large issue in Manitoba. The capping of that was done in three other provinces, and a judgment has come down in favour of one of the provinces that entered litigation on this. The substance of the decision seemed to surround the fact that not sufficient notice was given. The federal Government is appealing that judgment and it is still before the courts.

**Mr. Alcock:** Can the Minister tell us whether or not the Province of Manitoba was a party to that court action? Did they play any role at all? Did they seek any status in that discussion? Let us deal with that question first.

\* (1510)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, yes, we sought and were given the status of an intervener on B.C.'s behalf.

**Mr. Alcock:** Good. I am pleased to hear that. Then given that the federal Government has been unable to achieve its aim of reducing overall expenditures in the Canada Assistance Plan through its unilateral action of capping the "have" provinces, presumably, unless their appeal is successful, that will then create an overage in their budgeting in that particular appropriation.

In the negotiations that are going on right now, have there been any discussions with the provinces relative to shrinking the overall access to CAP or the overall size of the CAP appropriation?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, there have been no specific negotiations on the Canada Assistance Plan and the capping of it. We feel very strongly that it is a federal responsibility to participate in these services. We are cognizant over here, as I am sure you are, of the direction some of the federal programs are going, and it is of great concern that these be continued.

**Mr. Alcock:** I certainly, as the Minister knows, share his concern on this particular issue. It is very difficult for a have-not province such as Manitoba to continue to offer—

**An Honourable Member:** There is that word again.

**Mr. Alcock:** —social services. Well, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) now is making some reference to the use of the word "have-not." It is a word that gets used an awful lot in this particular department, I would like to inform the Honourable Member, because Manitoba is a net recipient of support because of its status as somewhat less wealthy than three other provinces in this country. I find it passing strange that the former Deputy Premier, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings) has failed to understand that. It is perhaps why we have such poor environmental policy in this province. But having said all of that and in one breath I might add, I would like to come back to this question.

The Minister said that there were no specific negotiations. The question is: Has the question been raised, and I want to go further in this question of federal support for social programs because we see in other areas certainly an ongoing offloading of support, or offloading of federal responsibilities. But has that initial stage of the discussion begun? Has the federal Government come forward to the negotiating table saying that we must begin to slow down the rate of growth, we must begin to reduce the breadth of programs? Has there been a discussion of that nature?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there have not been specific negotiations on CAP nor have they come forward and suggested as far as Manitoba is concerned, that there would be a reduction or a capping of these payments. Again, we are aware that there are other areas in which the federal Government is involved with the provinces where there has been a message to reduce expenditures, so it is something that the department is wary of.



**Mr. Alcock:** Let us speak about one of those areas and that would concern the tripartite agreements between this Government, the First Nations and the federal Government.

In the early '80s of course there was a tripartite agreement signed that provided for federal funding of provincially mandated programs, the province being the delivery service for social programs, if you like. In this case child and family policy would provide the legislative framework. The federal Government undertook to fund provincial Native agencies at the same level that the provincial Government would fund provincial agencies.

Now I understood from the discussion we had with the Minister last week that we have not been able to consummate a second tripartite agreement, or we do not have an agreement in place at the current time, but that is still under negotiation, that the federal Government at least is resisting the signing of an agreement. Is the federal Government continuing to keep up their support for Native agencies matching the provincial increases?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the answer is yes. We are working on the tripartite agreement and the federal Government is maintaining its funding.

**Mr. Alcock:** Are there disputes currently between this department—and this division presumably is the negotiator for this department—and the federal Government relative to who is providing support for certain categories of Native children?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, no, there has not been an ongoing dispute with the federal Government. There are certainly issues that are being discussed from time to time.

**Mr. Alcock:** Let me come at it this way. It is certainly a practice when there were disputes between the federal and provincial Governments about who should be providing support. An example that we dealt with a while ago was the financial support for treaty Indian children who were being educated off reserve in town schools. The question arose, who should pay? Should the school bill the federal Government? Should they bill the home community? Should they bill the provincial Government? I mean, should they just access it as a child on their books as they would a non-treaty child?

While that dispute was going on the children still required education. The province, quite rightly I

believe, undertook to see that support was provided, but then would advocate or negotiate with the federal Government relative to the recovery of those funds from the federal Government. Over time this produced a rather large bill between the federal Government and the provincial Government, a bill that was in dispute. There was an amount of money that Manitoba felt that the federal Government owed either to the provincial Government directly or to Native organizations so that they could then pay their share of costs.

The question is: Does such a bill still exist on programs, and if so, how big is it?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** At the present time this department does not have any outstanding issues with the federal Government. The issue that you are alluding to, of course, may be an issue with another department, but we do not have an outstanding issue over recovery of costs that the feds are responsible for.

\* (1520)

**Mr. Alcock:** Could the Minister update us then on the status of the tripartite negotiations? Are the Native agencies content with the speed with which they are proceeding, and is the provincial department responsible for negotiating these, working with the Native agencies and supporting them in their request to negotiate a new agreement?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The progress of these negotiations does not seem to be an issue. We are pressing ahead with them. There does not seem to be a problem in the negotiating although some of them do take some time.

**Mr. Alcock:** I am given to understand the Minister then that the Native agencies are satisfied with negotiations that are going on, the way they are being conducted. Have any agreements with any of the organizations involved been signed to date?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there are no new ones that have been signed in recent times. The existing ones are still in effect.

**Mr. Alcock:** Are they in effect because they are still within the contract period, or are they in effect because the existing contracts have lapsed, and they are simply being followed because no other instrument exists that allows you to continue to deliver services?

If the latter is the case, can the Minister tell us when those agreements lapsed, what date? When did we last have a signed agreement?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Chairperson, the agreements have lapsed but they are still in effect. They lapsed in 1987. The federal Government put a moratorium on any new agreements, and only recently have these negotiations started again.

**Mr. Alcock:** So in a sense we are operating on the good will of the federal Government, something which I suspect makes neither the Minister nor anybody else in this Chamber particularly comfortable.

On a related issue, the northern agency, Awasis, there have been some discussions within the MKO as to how that agency should be structured. I believe a certain group in The Pas have asked that they separate. They split the Awasis Agency into at least two parts and built a new agency out of that portion of the agency which currently services The Pas region.

I would ask the Minister two questions. Is the province involved in that discussion as an interested party in the negotiations with the federal Government, and is the province supporting the request of The Pas band?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Yes, as a Government we have been very supportive of that. We have given approval in principle and I personally am very supportive. We have a meeting with that group in the near future.

**Mr. Alcock:** Back to the broad role of this division, research, advance notice, looking at the problems that confront us, in the area of family violence, be it violence against women or violence against children, child abuse, has the department conducted, been involved in or commissioned any studies that look at the long-term costs of failing to confront the abuse issue, of failing to deliver services to these victims?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** This unit has been working with Family Dispute Services, and the staffs have been working together looking at the needs of battered women and children, the needs of the shelter, and have reviewed the program parameters and the services that have been provided by the shelter system in Manitoba.

**Mr. Alcock:** Is the Minister telling me that this division has been working with the operating division to look at the—when the Minister says the

needs of shelters, is this a financial review? Is this looking at what it costs in order to operate a shelter, or is this the interest or the concern that I asked about which is the long-term cost of child abuse and spousal assault, battering of women?

This is a serious social issue which has been identified for a long time. There has been a great deal of discussion about treatment, follow-up and what results from being an abuse victim. What results does come to the system in terms of additional burden for treatment and after care. The question is, has this research division done any research to quantify the cost of this problem?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** This has been an area that has had increased attention in the last number of years. This portion of the department does not do the theoretical research but has worked with Family Dispute Services on providing service and putting forth their initiatives.

Part of that was the funding model which we put in place with the core funding and the per diems which are volume sensitive. We are working on reviewing that funding formula, also on the standards that shelters should adhere to and programs that they are able to offer within the service and funding agreement.

**Mr. Alcock:** Did I understand the Minister correctly, this division, the research division, is not doing any of that kind of research? Are you saying that this division, the research division, developed a funding model, the grant per diem model, and is working on the service contracts with various agencies?

Can the Minister confirm that is what he intended to say? The second thing is which division, if not this division, then is doing that kind of work?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Chairperson, the Family Dispute section is the operating division. They are the ones that put in place the agreements with the shelters. Research and Planning works with Family Dispute to review the parameters of the service that they are providing.

\* (1530)

**Mr. Alcock:** Could the Minister just tell me then quickly on that question, is it Research and Planning division that is working on the service contracts and developed that core model for shelters grant versus grant per diem?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Chairperson, the answer is no. Family Dispute Services is the

operating division, and they are the ones that put in place the service and funding contract.

**Mr. Alcock:** Well, then I misunderstood the Minister. I thought that he had indicated in his first answer that this division was involved in that process.

Let me ask this question then. Does this division have any studies or has it conducted any research that suggests that in the whole area of prevention, be it prevention of child abuse, prevention of spousal assault or prevention of neglect, are there any studies that suggest that prevention does not work?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, while we have not done a theoretical study of prevention, we certainly support the concept of prevention in all areas of the department. The success of prevention is often difficult to measure, but certainly we are supportive of preventative programs.

**Mr. Alcock:** Okay. Moving on then to relationship between this division and the federal Government, this department and the federal Government, in the area of family violence, are there negotiations under way right now to improve the way in which these programs are funded to make more federal funds available? Are there discussions under way to change legislation that this department is involved in?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, we are not currently negotiating any new agreements. Some of the funding that we get for family violence or for this area of the department comes under the Canada Assistance Plan, and that funding is ongoing.

**Mr. Alcock:** Has there been any change in the negotiations with the federal Government relative to day care since this division was last before the House?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We have requested a meeting with the federal Government to discuss the area of cost-shared programs, and we are pursuing that at this time. We have not met on it and the federal Government has not entered into any negotiations with us on day care.

**Mr. Alcock:** What is the purpose of your requesting such a meeting, and is this just a meeting between Manitoba and the federal Government?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the request by my predecessor was for a meeting between Manitoba and Canada on the day care

issue and other funding issues. At this time, that meeting has not been set up.

**Mr. Alcock:** Presumably you had a reason for requesting that meeting. Can you tell me which issues they are that Manitoba hopes to raise with the federal Government?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the purpose of that meeting was to determine the federal Government's intentions as far as their initiatives in day care were concerned.

**Mr. Alcock:** What is it about the federal Government's current day care program that is unclear to the department?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the federal Government has discussed at various times some initiatives in day care, and these have not been pursued by that level of Government. We would like to get a better understanding of what their stance on that issue is at this time.

\* (1540)

**Mr. Alcock:** Are the Minister and the department of the opinion that the federal Government is withdrawing from the day care initiative?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, we are not aware of what their position is, and that is the point of the meeting, to clarify it.

(Mrs. Rosemary Vodrey, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

**Mr. Alcock:** Presumably, we are not having such a meeting simply to make a trip to Ottawa, lovely as it is this time of year. Presumably, we have some concerns. We have something that has prompted us to request a meeting. If we simply wanted in terms of an agreement clarified we could have asked them to send us a letter to that effect. Presumably, Manitoba is feeling some concern about some aspects of the current arrangement. Can the Minister detail what those concerns are?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** As the Member is aware, we have made some tremendous improvements in provincial day care in the last two years. The federal Government, under the Canada Assistance Plan, provides funding that helps us to deliver funding for these initiatives, and we simply want to be sure that funding is going to be maintained.

**Mr. Alcock:** What evidence do you have that it will not be?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The relationship between the federal Government and the provinces from time to

time changes. We cannot speculate on the outcome of some of these deliberations before they take place. We would like to put forward the position of Manitoba and try and ensure the support of the federal Government in this area.

**Mr. Alcock:** I can appreciate the value in going down to have a face-to-face meeting with the federal Minister and senior departmental officials on an issue, if such an issue exists, but surely the Minister is not presuming to spend the several thousand dollars necessary to take a delegation down there simply to have coffee with the Minister. Presumably you have a concern.

I am a little unclear, because the Minister is saying oh, no, we have made all these initiatives, we have improved the program, everything is going fine. If everything is going fine then why go down, and if you have a need for going down, then what is the need? What is the specific nature of the concern that you want to go down and have this face-to-face meeting about?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** I am sure the Member is not suggesting that provincial Ministers and departments should not meet with their federal counterparts, although it sort of seems that way. The federal Government has indicated that during this mandate they are going to be taking some major initiatives in the day care area. We want to be aware of what the details of their initiatives are and we want to secure the provincial position on day care and have a chance to have some dialogue with the federal Government.

This program that we have is one of substantial costs. We want to secure the federal Government's support for those costs. Basically the federal Government, prior to the last election and since, has indicated some new initiatives in day care. We want to present Manitoba's position as strongly as possible.

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister has suggested that I am saying that they should not meet with the federal Government. I am not saying that at all. I think that there can be value in a face-to-face meeting as I stated in my last question. I think at a time when we are facing greater restraints, when we are forcing agencies to accept decreases in their operating grants and we are unable to provide basic levels of support to people who need it, that we want to be a little more judicious about how many times we take advantage of these opportunities.

It seems to me that if the department has a concern, the federal Government is not following through on an agreement or is sending messages that it is not going to support new initiatives that the provincial Government wishes to undertake, then that would be a legitimate reason for going down to meet with them. If it is simply to go down to have a general discussion, it strikes me that can take place over the phone or through the mails.

If you do have specific concerns, if you do have a specific reason for going down there, if you are uncertain about the way in which they are going to fund, if they are going to continue to fund, or are they going to support your initiatives, what ones are you concerned about? What is the nature of your concern?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, I am pleased to see the Member has some concept of restraint and recognizes the need for restraint in Government from time to time.

Our Government has introduced and supported programs such as the workplace day care, family day care, and we want to see that whatever the federal Government introduces would have maximum flexibility. We want to be able to secure as many dollars as possible that we would be able to get for our province. We would be pleased to, in the interests of restraint, host the meeting here in Winnipeg.

**Mr. Alcock:** That sounds like not a bad idea, actually. Then we could all have a meeting with the federal Minister.

I should just, parenthetically, comment on the Minister's statement about restraints. Anybody who has worked in Family Services has been introduced to the concept of restraint year after year since 1976. I think this is a discussion that has taken place with this field ever since then.

Two final things with the federal Government, this Minister's department is also responsible for immigration or services to immigrants. There was a discussion during the campaign about changes in the policies and the nature of support to immigrant groups.

Will this department be involved in that policy change? If so, in what way?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** This department does deal with immigration that, you know, impacts on Manitoba. This department will be taking a lead role within departments of Manitoba Government in

negotiating with the federal Government on any new concepts or new initiatives in immigration.

**Mr. Alcock:** Can the Minister tell us the nature of those negotiations with the federal Government, what research this division has prepared to support those discussions and when we can expect a program to be in place or announced, or when we can expect to see these changes begin to be visited upon the burghers of Manitoba?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The discussions are really in their infancy. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) has made some comments on it. It will be developing in the course of the next fiscal year, and our department will be working with other departments in Government to put in place programs for immigrants that come to Manitoba.

**Mr. Alcock:** Is the Minister in a position to share with us the research that was done by this division that supported the Premier, or was the basis on which the Premier made the remarks he did?

\* (1550)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** As I indicated, this issue is in its infancy, and any research that has been provided by this department or other departments is for internal use at this time.

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister is saying that this division has conducted research upon which the Premier made the announcements he has made, but it is just not available for release at this point?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, I did not say that and that is not correct.

**Mr. Alcock:** So is it correct to say that this division has not done research on that policy and that it was announced based on some other evidence that was in existence despite the fact that this division is their lead division?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, I would caution the Member for getting too far out ahead of this issue, that we are responsible for immigration and settlement issues within the province in terms of employment and education. Any new initiative on immigration is something that we would have to respond to at the time that immigrants come to this province. The research that has been done by this department has to do with education and job training.

**Mr. Alcock:** Presumably changes in immigration policy are going to have an impact on the service delivery capabilities of this department, and

presumably policy announcements of the sort that we have seen would be based on some sort of understanding of what the impact would be. I am a little unclear if I understand the Minister correctly then. No research was conducted on that before this announcement was made. If the Minister would like to clarify that, I will give him a moment, or I can just move on to something else.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The impact on changes in immigration policy is one that this department has to ready itself for. With the changing face of the world, with the changing employment opportunities, research done by this department is intended to provide for education and job training for those who come to Manitoba to access the program.

**Mr. Alcock:** It is qualitative research about the nature of the programs currently offered as opposed to some sort of projective or quantitative research about what the impact will be should a given number come and how much more of these services we are going to require?

I am having a little difficulty sorting out whether it is the kind of research that an operating division might want to do in order to determine the quality of a program it is delivering, or the advance research that a department of this size might want to do in order to ready itself for something that is going to impact on it.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The department does research both on programs existing and projections, works with the federal Government on programs and projections and does some research in that area.

**Mr. Alcock:** Then in the area of immigration, is the Minister saying that the only research that this division has done has been of the program for programmatic nature, not of the quantitative and projective nature that was formerly mentioned. I would just like to clarify those two things. Is there a study in existence that has quantified the impacts of these policy changes on this department?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The branch, as I have indicated, does studies on existing programs, their feasibility and their success. It also does studies on projections—this is done by the Immigration branch—and the impact on immigration within the province. The studies that have been done by this portion of the department and the Immigration branch are for internal use only in looking at immigration that will be coming to Manitoba this year and in future years.

**Mr. Alcock:** This year and in future years. I think then that the Minister's answer to my question is that, yes, this division has done quantitative and projective studies of the impact of changes in immigration on this province. The Minister is saying that that is in existence; presumably that was in existence when they made the program or the policy change, but I am pleased to hear that.

I can understand that prior to a program being announced publicly that such a document might not be released because it is in the nature of a policy document and one that might be used in a Cabinet discussion. Under the freedom of information legislation that is clearly within the purview of the Minister and the Government, and I do not dispute that. I wonder though, given that this document exists, would the Minister undertake to release that information once Cabinet has made the policy decision about the program that will flow from the Premier's (Mr. Filmon) announcement?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, the Member is jumping to conclusions about the existence of certain documentation that might be done by Planning and Research. You would have to enter in a discussion in the Premier's (Mr. Filmon) Estimates to get some of that information that you are requiring. I do not think the Premier has made a policy announcement. He was simply making some comments.

\* (1600)

**Mr. Alcock:** Unless the department has returned to an oral tradition, the Minister did indicate that there were some studies that this division had done. If the studies are done, presumably either they are written down on some kind of form or they are recorded in some way because the Minister also said that these studies were not releasable at this time. That is the study I am referring to. If I am getting ahead of myself, I thought that is what the Minister said. That there was something that was not releasable at this time. My question is: When will it be releasable?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, there is not a formal study that we are talking about. There have been positions put forward. There have been discussions among this portion of the department in Planning and Research, but there is not a formal document that we are going to table.

**Mr. Alcock:** Moving on then to the Income Security area. There is a court case that is being fought, the province is aware of that, between one James Finlay

and the federal Government, and I would like to know if the Minister can update us on the circumstances surrounding that particular case and the position of the department relative to the negotiations that are taking place on that issue right now.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Acting Chairperson, my understanding at this time is that the federal Government has filed to seek leave to appeal a decision made by the courts.

(Madam Chairman in the Chair)

**Mr. Alcock:** One of the issues in dispute, and the Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) is aware of this, because she was at a workshop that I was at as was the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) on income support brought forward by the Manitoba League, of which Jim Finlay is a member.

Mr. Finlay makes the case that when you research the cost items that are used in determining the overall increase in the cost of living, that the current formulation that the department uses to determine year-over-year cost increases is inaccurate, that it does not capture all of the costs involved. It uses one index; it does not index separate items. As a result, he makes the case that people have been badly underfunded in the support that they have received.

I believe his case, and perhaps the Minister can clarify for me, was in part based on the fact that CAP calls for quarterly updating on this and that this was not followed through on, et cetera, et cetera.

Can the Minister comment on two things: The first is what is the nature of the difference between the case that Mr. Finlay puts forward and the way in which year-over-year inflation increases are currently calculated by the department?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The department, of course, reviews the social allowance scale and payments every year. Throughout the 1980s, the cost of living has been increased on an annual basis. We use a common indicator to determine the increase in the cost of living, and it is the Winnipeg based Consumer Price Index.

**Mr. Alcock:** Mr. Finlay, with some support from the University of Manitoba and others, has collected an extensive examination of the costs to a person attempting to live in this community of exactly what it costs and what they need year over year.

The question is: Has the Minister's research department examined the case that he makes and can he offer their findings on it? Is he correct or not?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We have used these common indicators in the Winnipeg CPI to determine cost of living. We do not have Mr. Finlay's documentation on the area that he is specifically interested in.

**Mr. Alcock:** I am not holding this Minister or this Government accountable for the way in which that decision is arrived at, because my understanding is, and the Minister can correct me if I am wrong, that they have not changed the system. The system that is used right now is the system that has been in place for some time.

The issue is not whether it has changed from the previous Government to this Government. The question is—and I am frankly kind of surprised to hear that this department who is responsible for delivering Income Security Services and has been a party to, indirectly if in no other way, a court action that has received some interest brought forward by a Manitoban who is receiving income security, who has boxes full of research. I am surprised that they have not sat down and at least ascertained the veracity or the falseness of his claim.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the issue before the courts is not the method by which assistance is calculated. The issue before the courts has to do with the recovery of overpayments and also with the levels of municipal assistance, so the information that is before the courts and the issue that is before the courts is quite apart from the research that the Member has alluded to.

**Mr. Alcock:** Yes, I am aware of that, and I am sorry if I confused the issue by mixing those two things up.

Let us leave the court issue aside for a moment, and let us just focus in on Mr. Finlay.

We have somebody in this province who is well-known to the system. You have two positions. You have the current position by the department which says that your system for assessing the impact of year-over-year inflation on the cost of living is an adequate one to base an increase to the lowest income strata in our province. You say that your system is okay. On the other hand, you have somebody who, supported by the School of Social Work at the University of Manitoba at least, has done a very extensive look at what it costs, item by item—if I have the right figure, and perhaps the

Member for Wellington can jog my memory—I think he said that there was a 7,000 percent difference, which is sizable indeed.

Now I suspect that Mr. Finlay's system may be somewhat inaccurate also. However there is a difference.

\* (1610)

Has your division ever taken the time to look at the case that he has presented, and have the calculations been done on the model that he and presumably the School of Social Work put forward?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, I am sure the Member is not suggesting we increase the social allowance by 7,000 percent, but the department on an ongoing basis looks at the indicators to determine cost of living, to determine this basic safety net that we provide for social allowance recipients. They look at a number of common indicators. The one that we have settled on is the Winnipeg based CPI, and it seems to from year to year reflect the cost of living.

If you are saying that it is not enough, I am sure that many advocates for social allowance recipients are going to take that tack that it is not sufficient, that it should be more.

While I personally have not looked at the research of Mr. Finlay, I am told that some of his information has probably been before the department before.

**Mr. Alcock:** Yes, well, I am not prepared at this point to advocate for a 7,000 percent increase in social assistance rates. I can assure the Minister of that.

I am, however, interested in stepping back from that discussion, the one that is simply an arbitrary pressure to see rates raised without any kind of underlying analysis. What we have before us is two questions: The way in which the department does its work and the model the department currently uses to assess its year over year cost implications. We have an assessment that has been done by a recipient with the support of the University of Manitoba that suggests the department's method is flawed in that within that there are cost items that are not captured in the basket of goods that makes up the Winnipeg CPI change.

My question to the department is: Has the department conducted a study? Has the research division researched the claim brought forward by Mr. Finlay and the School of Social Work? Have they

ascertained the truth or falsity of the claim that he is making?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We update and review the basket of goods, look at CPI on an annual basis, and look at any information that comes forward. To my knowledge, the University of Manitoba data has not been brought before the department, but we are prepared to look at any information that would shed new light on how this rate is determined. As I say, the rate is constantly being reviewed and is changed on an annual basis.

**Mr. Alcock:** Then perhaps following up on the conference that was held on Friday and Saturday, can I take to the Manitoba League for the Physically Handicapped that the department, through its research division, will receive the research that has been done by the University of Manitoba School of Social Work and by the league; it will examine it objectively in the way in which it is presented and will offer an opinion on it?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I have indicated that we would be open to information provided by the community, recipients or the university, and would be pleased to receive such.

**Mr. Alcock:** Then perhaps I will suggest that they get a hold of the Minister's office and the Minister can facilitate that piece of work so that it does get done. In the question of negotiations on income security between the province and the—actually, just let me end this particular thing with one comment. While there is a great debate, and the Minister is quite right that any advocate for income security would always suggest that the rates are too low and they have not kept pace with inflation, and I tend to support that belief, the question really is, to what degree?

Macroindicators of the distribution of wealth in this country would suggest that there is some truth to that, that there is a larger number of poor people today than there was a decade ago, that there is a smaller middle class than there was a decade ago, that there is a serious problem with the distribution of wealth in this country, and it is a growing problem. Instead of being able to redistribute income so we maintain a more level playing field, in fact we are losing ground. So I think it is an important issue that should be examined, because the relationship between the various poverty indicators and the level of support that we currently offer is growing wide. It is one that needs to be confronted.

Has this issue of income security rates been discussed with the federal Government? Are there negotiations under way at the current time? Is the federal Government planning any programmatic changes that the province is currently aware of?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the province sets its own rates, and the federal Government assists in cost sharing those rates. There are no national standards as far as Social Allowance is concerned, so the rates we have here in Manitoba are made in Manitoba.

**Mr. Alcock:** So then, is it correct to assume that the discussions relative to the Income Security Program take place within the CAP negotiations, or are there other mechanisms whereby this division representing the province, and the province and the federal Government, sit down to discuss Income Security Programs, or is it simply, we send a bill to Ottawa and they pay the cheque?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** As I have indicated, the rates are set by the province. The province has the jurisdiction and the maximum flexibility in setting those rates, and the federal Government is responsible for 50 percent of the costs in that area. The costs to the province and to the federal Government, of course, are substantial. We have quite a number of thousands of people accessing the Income Security, and probably almost half of the expenditures of this department are in Income Security.

**Mr. Alcock:** Well, the Minister in part makes my point that nearly half of the expenditures in this department are Income Security. Now the Minister has felt sufficient concern about a day care program to want to go to Ottawa and have a meeting with the federal Minister about day care. What is the nature of the relationship with Income Security? Are we satisfied as a province that things are proceeding as they should? Are there no forums under which we meet with the federal Government and have discussions about programmatic issues relative to Income Security the same way we might in child welfare or in family violence, or in employment, or in immigration, or any one of the other areas under the purview of this Minister?

Is it simply that those mechanisms do not exist? Is it simply a financial arrangement? If those mechanisms do exist, is there anything occurring with them or are they simply not being accessed right now?



\* (1620)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there are a number of forums where provincial Ministers and the federal Government get together to discuss certain issues such as poverty in trends that may be emerging, but the relationship with the federal Government in this area is strictly financial. I have outlined the manner in which that is done.

The question about inviting the federal Minister or officials to Winnipeg to meet with us surrounding day care was because they did indicate some new initiatives, and we wanted to meet on those.

**Mr. Alcock:** Not to belabour this point for too long, there are no initiatives that have been suggested with the federal Government. The program is proceeding as it has proceeded. There is no reason for concern or, at the same time, no sense that there are any new initiatives arising, either propelled by the provinces or propelled by the federal Government. Is that a fair statement?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** It is not an issue that we are meeting with the federal Government on. I have indicated that we have maximum flexibility as far as the determination of rates, that any change in those rates is determined on an annual basis by the province and that the federal Government is responsible for 50 percent of those costs.

**Mr. Alcock:** Has this division done research on how our rates compare with those rates in other provinces?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, we have access to that information.

**Mr. Alcock:** Access to that information as a result of research conducted by this division and, yes or no, can we have that information made available to the House?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, we are able to collect material from not only our own system, but other provinces as well, and that information is given forward to us on a confidential basis.

**Mr. Alcock:** Madam Chairperson, I am sorry. You mean the information on income security rates in other provinces is confidential? Surely recipients in other provinces know what it is.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** What I am telling you is that certainly we make our rates public. It is not a problem to discuss this information with the Member, but the research that is provided to us from other provinces is done so on a confidential basis.

**Mr. Alcock:** Perhaps the Minister can tell us which provinces are afraid to share their information with the public.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The rates that provinces have for income security, of course, are a matter of public record, but the research that they do as far as their income security program is concerned, and information that they might provide us in that area, is not something that we are going to make public.

**Mr. Alcock:** Madam Chairperson, I can understand anybody not wanting to release information that is personal in nature, that may identify individuals or targeted groups of individuals. I think that is a legitimate concern. Under the Privacy legislation that information is and should be withheld, but surely comparisons between provinces about the level of income support, the nature of their income support programs and interprovincial examinations of that policy is public information. Why is the Minister afraid to release it?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We have no hesitation to release to you the rate that we pay, and the rates that other provinces pay, for social assistance or income security. Any information that is sent to us in confidence, we are not going to release to the Member or to the public for a variety of reasons. I would suggest if the Member was interested in doing some research on a sister province in income security, that he should contact them and perhaps they would flow that information to him.

**Mr. Alcock:** Perhaps if the Minister would undertake to release the information he can release, then I will know what provinces are not willing to have their information released. Then I can go and ask them, or I can have a Member in their Legislature ask them the same question if they are afraid to have their information made public. I think it is an important public policy decision that should not be held from public debate.

I am astounded when you are talking about the expenditure of public funds to support people that any province would keep their information private. I can understand the Minister's need to respect confidentiality provisions. If you have information on a confidential basis from another government, I can respect and support him in his desire not to release that information. I think for the sake of the debate that should rightly follow in the community, that who is unwilling to have that information shared should be made available, and we can seek it in other ways.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** It seems that we are in agreement then, that we would release to you the information that we are able to release to you, and that we would keep in confidence the information that has been sent to us in confidence.

**Mr. Alcock:** I thank the Minister for that. I would like to have that information, if it is possible, before we get to the Income Security part of the debate. I do not anticipate us being there too soon. I suspect we will have some time to do that, but perhaps by Thursday.

A couple of questions then on relationships within this province, department to department, because another responsibility of this research division is to negotiate with other operating divisions. As we discussed in opening statements, and as has been discussed many times in this House in other locations, there is a problem between divisions in the provision of services at times.

I would like to start off with day care and education, a relationship between Family Services and Education relative to day care programs. I have had a discussion in Interim Supply with the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). He has referenced some problems that have arisen in the provision of certain day care services within schools and some of the conflicts that have arisen between the department and different school boards about the support for day care centres within schools.

I understand there was some work being undertaken by the department to clarify the support policy for day cares in schools with particular emphasis on lunch and after-school programs that are supported within schools. I wonder if the Minister can inform us of the status of that examination and let me know whether or not there is a background paper that has been prepared by this research division that (a) is a background paper in existence, and (b) can it be released?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, it is the Child Day Care Branch of the department that is taking the lead on this issue and the question would be more appropriately asked at that time.

**Mr. Alcock:** Madam Chairperson, I quite understand that this division cannot do everything and we will just try to finish narrowing down what it indeed does do.

There was a question raised on the relationship between this department, this department and Education have a great deal of interaction around

different kinds of problems, and there was a question raised in Question Period today, and it is not necessarily a new question, about whether or not sufficient funds are available in Education to provide the support that they need to provide to very difficult kids. The problem is that when Education fails to act this department cannot fail to act, it must respond. The question is, are there negotiations under way that are looking at policy changes to better support multineeds children, or heavy needs children, within the education system?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the funds for special needs children in Education, and I can tell you from my background in education, is an ongoing discussion between school divisions and the Department of Education, between specific schools and the school division, with the parents of the children involved. This department is in contact with special needs of children in the child welfare system and usually this kicks in after the school division is unable to provide the appropriate services in the school setting.

\* (1630)

**Mr. Alcock:** I know that this Minister as an educator with his background both as an educator and his experience in the rural areas is aware of this problem. I am also aware of how the costs of providing services to very difficult children, where one provides them through the education system, are visited disproportionately on smaller school districts and perhaps smaller less robust tax bases. We have the same problem here in the City of Winnipeg where the provision of special services for high needs children in areas where the tax base is somewhat less, shall we say, expansive than in other areas, the programs suffer. We begin to see needed services in harder to serve areas cut back.

There are two debates here. One is why is there no resolution of the education finance question—and I think that is a question that is perhaps better directed to the Minister of Finance; I am not expecting this Minister to account for that—but one of the debates has been could these programs be delivered through Family Services and, therefore, be eligible for CAP funding, as opposed to delivering these services through the education system and having them become part of the block grant and also having them impact on the property taxpayers. I want to know whether this research division has researched this issue.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The school divisions that I am familiar with are very autonomous and take great pride in providing services. I think there is also a feeling with families that they would like their children to be in the local school wherever possible.

As far as delivering the service through Family Services, the federal Government has not indicated a willingness to provide CAP funding for something that is clearly an education function.

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister makes a statement that the Canada Assistance Plan people, the federal people, are not prepared to support that. Presumably that is based on some sort of discussion with the department on this issue. Has this research division prepared recent documentation on the potential size of such a programmatic change, on the cost savings?

I agree with the Minister completely when he says that people prefer to have their children educated in their communities and as close to home as possible. I think there is great merit to that, but with that comes an additional financial burden. It is a financial burden because major education finance can shift onto homeowners.

The question is: Are there some of these services that can be funded through Family Services, psychological assessments, counselling, AIDS support, to compensate for handicaps, not educational disabilities that could then be shared rather than block funded and relieve the Minister of Education of such a heavy financial burden to allow him to offer more of the innovative programs that he knows so well?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Certainly the people from this department do have a relationship with people in the school setting, but again the responsibility for providing for the education of students is clearly under the Department of Education and the local school boards.

The department, in fairly recent times, has provided low incidence funding for students who need special attention and special care in the school system. That has become an increasingly generous funding through the Department of Education, and many of the cases of students in the education system are being accommodated there. You know, I speak from the knowledge of students in my area.

There are occasions when students, because of severe handicaps—but I am not aware of very many of them—have to perhaps be provided with an

alternative education system either in the home or in other educational institutions. A lot of that depends on the willingness of the parents, but the primary responsibility rests with the local school board. Certainly they struggle with that from time to time, because in many cases they have to undertake capital renovations, they have to bring specially trained people in, but the divisions I think have been very good in accommodating these students and maintaining them in their home school.

**Mr. Alcock:** Yes, I would agree with the Minister, although I think there has been considerable discussion of some of the problems that this leads to and certainly the costs involved in it.

I am not talking about moving children out of the school system. I am talking about the difference between a support for perhaps a lower teacher-child ratio because of a level of handicap, and the situation where a child needs physiotherapy, needs attendant care, needs to be changed and washed in the middle of the day, physical kinds of care that are not necessarily related to the task of educating the child.

(Mr. Ben Sveinson, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

The question I am asking is that there is a relationship between two departments, Family Services and Education here. Has this problem been studied by this research division? Has it been studied relative to the question of, are some of these services shareable under CAP if delivered by Family Services? Is such a study in existence?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Manitoba enjoys one of the lowest teacher-child ratios in the country, and the quality of education in Manitoba is a very good one.

The department often works together with specific cases and families as they relate to the school system, but I want to tell you again that there are CAP guidelines which in no way allow for the education system to access those dollars for the education of the child.

The school system has been very good at providing the education and the type of care that the Member is talking about in terms of whatever the needs of that specific child are, whether it is changing and washing them, or in other cases, helping them to read and write. Many of these cases are so individualized that there are no precedents that they can look at, but I can tell you that educators work very hard with the families and with this department to provide education for children across

the province. By and large, I think the education system and the low incident system have been quite successful.

**Mr. Alcock:** Then the Minister is saying that there is no study, this issue has not been examined, and this is not a discussion that the two departments have had.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The provision of education for these people is the responsibility of the Department of Education, and the department, I am sure, has looked at many of those cases over the years and tried to provide the best service and education possible for them.

Our department has not studied the problem of the low incidence of funding and the needs that are there in the public school system.

\* (1640)

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training):** Reg, where were you when my Estimates were on?

**Mr. Alcock:** The Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) asked where was I when his Estimates were on.

I think that we are still misunderstanding two things. I am not suggesting that this Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) take responsibility for the Minister of Education. All I am asking is a boundary question, a question of the relationship between two departments, something that it says in the objectives for this division is part of their responsibilities, wanting to know whether this issue has been examined by the division.

I am told by the Minister, no. I am told that it is not part of his responsibilities, that no research has been done on it. I am surprised by it because I understood that there was research that had been ongoing, but the Minister has certainly answered in the negative, one more time.

Now, the final question area on this division is the one that was raised last year. It was raised in some of the responses to the Speech from the Throne and it was raised today in Question Period again. That is, the federal Government made a policy change relative to its unemployment program. That policy change is perceived to have an impact on provincial income security programs in that as people are less able to access unemployment insurance or only able to access it for a short period of time, presumably if they are not able to locate work they

will then move to provincial assistance. What research has this division done to determine the impact of that federal policy change?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Mr. Acting Chairman, just going back to the previous question, certainly we have examined the relationship between this department and education. We have approached the federal Government a number of times to do some cost sharing for low incidence students, but the federal Government does not cost share under the Canada Assistance Plan.

As far as the next question on UIC changes and social assistance, certainly we have looked very closely at this and there is going to be an impact, probably more on the municipal system than on the provincial system. We have increased the amount of funding that has been put into this area of the department and we will be monitoring very closely the intake of social allowance recipients. There will be an increase in social assistance caseloads and expenditures.

At this time there are no federal estimates of the impact on social assistance that have been provided, but based on estimates that have been attempted by several of the provinces, Manitoba's employable caseload could increase between 3 and 6 percent, impacting on the gross expenditure of the province somewhere between \$300,000 and \$700,000 for provincial social allowances and a greater impact on municipal assistance.

I think the Member is aware of the distinction between the people who access municipal assistance and provincial assistance. The impact on the municipalities could be from the neighbourhood of \$1.5 million to over \$2.5 million.

**Mr. Alcock:** I thank the Minister for his answer. I find that information quite helpful and it is interesting to note that the department can do good work, can track an emerging issue, and can provide information. Nobody is going to criticize the Minister if we find out that it is really not \$700,000; that it is \$820,000.00. What we are looking for is indications of things, not finite estimates in this particular process.

On the question then, and the Minister references the difference between municipalities and the province, just on a related question, does the Minister have a current estimate of the costs of moving to a single-tier system?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Mr. Acting Chairman, the question of the rates, as they relate to the municipality and to the province, of course, has been a subject of some discussion over the last number of years and what is being proposed, or what is being discussed is not that we have a single level of Government responsible for it, but that there be some standardization of rates in the province, and to that goal a committee has been struck and is bringing forth information and we are actively working toward some standardization of rates within the province.

**Mr. Alcock:** I hear the Minister say that they are actively working toward some standardization of rates within the province. Do they have a piece of research, a study that suggests how much that would cost them if they were to move that way in this fiscal year?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Mr. Acting Chairman, we cannot give you a figure on that at this time because there are a lot of variables. There are some minimum standards and we have to agree on those standards, but the provincial Government is actively working with the municipal levels of Government to address this issue. It has been one that has been around for a long time and been actively under consideration since the mid-'80s, that there is a different level, obviously, of funding that goes on for municipal recipients, as compared to provincial ones and these variables are being looked at and it is an ongoing thing that we hope we will have some resolution for in the not too distant future.

\* (1650)

**Mr. Alcock:** Mr. Acting Chairman, the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) has announced a study on family violence that was discussed in this House the other day. Is this department, through its research division, is there any involvement, have you been consulted on this, as you are the operating arm relative to violence against women in particular?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I can tell the Member that we will be very involved. I, along with the Minister of Justice, met with a number of people following the last vigil where a request was made, and along with the Minister responsible for the Status of Women (Mrs. Mitchelson), where the request was made that we do some research into this issue of family violence. It was determined that the Minister of Justice would take the lead on this and made his announcement last week, and we are very pleased

to have someone from the legal community come forward to conduct this study and this investigation. The department will work in whatever way possible in this study so that the recommendations that come forward will be ones that will be suitable and will be effective.

The Family Dispute branch of this department will be very involved in providing information that has come forward from the various committees and shelters that Family Dispute is responsible for. We would like to see the same sort of public support identifying this type of abuse, as we see has been gained by the drunk driving legislation or some of the other initiatives. We would like to be very pro-active in eradicating the type of family violence that we have seen in this city and this province over the last number of years.

**Mr. Alcock:** I am going to end the questioning on this particular line—this is the Salary line of the Research and Planning Division—at this point. I have one final question, which I am going to ask, but I thought I would take advantage of this question just to make one observation. I have never been clear about the function of this division, and this is no reflection on the current personnel. I do not even know who they are, and they certainly were not in the division when I was involved. I have never been able to determine whether this is a unit that is there to protect the Minister, or whether it is a unit that is there to provide leadership to the department.

I would hope that under this ministry, it is the latter; it is there to help this corporation, this huge department, better prepare itself for changes that are going to take place in the community. It is going to be looking ahead at what is coming and attempting to respond to it, rather than simply screwing around building fallacious arguments to support the political positions of Ministers.

I think the Minister has bulwarked himself adequately with two staff and seconding one from this division, that he is taking care of his own needs, and I would hope that this division will be allowed to take care of the needs of the department. I would like to see when we come to this debate next year a little more evidence that this division and this department is prepared to look to tomorrow rather than simply responding to what hits them today.

With that, we could go on ad nauseum on how prepared this department is for the things that confront it. We will have more to talk about as we

get into Operating lines. The only area that we have not covered—I would just ask the Minister to comment briefly on the federal-provincial relations aspect of the employment programs. There have been some federal changes announced. You do have some responsibility for delivery of certain employment services, and I would like to know what negotiations are currently under way in that particular area with the federal Government and what changes you anticipate this year.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Just to respond to the preamble there, I would tell you that the need to do things in this province for so many of the 150,000 people who access this department is uppermost in my mind as opposed to having people protect the Minister.

I would say very seriously to you that I take the responsibility very seriously, that we have a lot of work to do. I am not under any illusions that those problems are easily solved, and I would hope that you do not see them that way either.

There are federal-provincial negotiations and an agreement called, the SARs Agreement, and the major initiative there is employability enhancement for social allowance recipients. We have a number of these projects such as Gateway, which was introduced by this Government, which is an attempt to get social allowance recipients into employment.

We have taken other initiatives as well to try and make it possible for people to get into the work force rather than drawing social allowance, not only year after year, but in some cases generation after generation. I think it is important that we provide some sort of education and training for these recipients, and this is an agreement with the federal Government whereby they cost share it.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Sveinson):** The Honourable Minister for Osborne.

**Mr. Alcock:** Hey, I like that. Thank you, Madam Minister—now you see you have me so flustered now, they made me a Minister.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Sveinson):** I apologize, the Honourable Member for Osborne.

**An Honourable Member:** Becky has other thoughts about that.

**Mr. Alcock:** Oh, I am sure she does. I think that there is one related question when it comes to interdepartmental relations. The Ministry of Finance made a decision to give \$8 million to large corporations for employment enhancement training.

I am wondering whether there was ever any consideration or any discussion with this department about using some of that money to enhance the employment of people who are currently unemployed, or to enhance the employment of the disabled, or whether there has been any discussion about how that tax credit is structured in order to see people that are recipients of service from this agency receive some benefit from that \$8 million giveaway.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I am not aware of any of those discussions that went on before my coming into the ministry. The programs that we are involved in and taking a lead in, and I mentioned Gateway to you, are people who are already in our system that we want to find some education and training for to make them employable—people who are already accessing our system.

**Mr. Alcock:** The question that we discussed on Friday about the provincial payroll tax, I understand the Minister has taken some action on that, and we may see a review of that issue. I am wondering if the division has been able to assess the total impact of that change in policy on the operating lines of agencies who receive support from this Government.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Mr. Acting Chairman, on Friday, we did talk for some time on the payroll tax as it related to Child and Family Services agencies. We will be reviewing that in the context of the entire funding formula for agencies.

(Madam Chairman in the Chair)

\* (1700)

**Mr. Alcock:** I will pass to the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) at this point, but I would like to thank the Minister for that. I think that is an important step and I trust that review will substantiate the case the agencies have been putting forward. It does leave three or four other areas you could look at, but at least one of them is taken care of.

**Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington):** I have a general question, and I will apologize if the Minister answered it at the very beginning of this Session. On Friday, I asked to have tabled the reviews that were discussed in the Activity Identification section of this Planning and Research.

I am not sure—did the Minister—obviously he has not tabled it, because I do not have it, but can he give me the status of that request?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We did table the grants list today, and I believe the Member received a copy of that. We will be tabling some further information tomorrow.

**Ms. Barrett:** Just for further clarification, is that more information on grants, or is that on the request for a list and update on the reviews that have been undertaken by the division?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** It will be a list of the reviews that you requested the other day, and we will make every effort to table that tomorrow or whenever we meet next in Estimates.

**Ms. Barrett:** I would like to follow up just briefly on the statistics that the Minister provided in response to the question about the impact of the unemployment insurance changes on the province and the municipal social assistance rates.

Can I ask, No. 1, who generated these figures? Was it the Planning and Research Department, or did the figures come from some other source?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** We generated the figures that I provided for you earlier, but a lot of the research that went into that was a result of information that we gathered from other provinces and some of the research that they have done. These are Manitoba figures, but we did use information in a larger sense that was provided by other jurisdictions.

**Ms. Barrett:** When you say that the impact on the municipal assistance roles could be anywhere from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million increase, those figures were extrapolated from information from other provinces, or were those figures that were generated locally? I am not sure how you get the figures for Manitoba based on what kind of stuff from other provinces.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The information was generated locally on Manitoba figures or on the situation in Manitoba, but some of the models that were used to generate those figures were ones that were developed in other provinces.

**Ms. Barrett:** I guess I have a general question or comment then—several general comments, but I will restrict it at this point.

The department was able to come up with some specific figures for impacts of the unemployment insurance changes on Manitoba and on the Family Services Department. The department has known for several years about the fact that these changes were likely to go through.

My question goes back to questions that were asked on Friday about the impact of the goods and services tax on the department, various elements in the department, and on the services that are provided by, not only the Department of Family Services, but externally funded agencies.

My question is, if there were models developed for this unemployment insurance change, were there not models available or some research done externally that could have given some general idea on the impact of the goods and services tax on Family Service agencies?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** That is being done at this time, as you are no doubt aware. I think you indicated on Friday, there are a lot of question marks surrounding the GST and its application.

As far as the agencies are concerned, I indicated the other day that there will not be a goods and services tax placed on salaries or the money that flows through to the foster parents. That is in the neighborhood of 70 to 80 percent of the spending done by the agencies.

We are having it refined to the point that the GST probably will have minimal effect on the Child and Family Service agencies, and there will be a rebate of a portion of those costs.

**Ms. Barrett:** The Minister has just stated that the GST will probably have minimal effect on the agencies funded by the Department of Family Services. Granted that we are talking between 20 and 30 percent of non-salaried, non-flow-through funds for these agencies, but I would suggest that is still a major part of these agencies' expenses.

The cost of administrative requirements for reporting the GST, which have been commented on in the media and by a number of agencies, will not be minimal.

My question is: Does his statement mean, when it comes time to deal with the budgets for the Child and Family Service agencies and other agencies that are funded to a greater or lesser extent by this department, will that statement underlie or overshadow the kinds of budgeting increases that are going to be allowed by this department for those agencies?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I do not want to minimize the types of problems that the agencies are facing. Their immense growth and the significant funding changes that have gone into them over the last five years are certainly things that have happened. I

think that there needs to be a stabilization of the system, that there cannot be the type of funding increases year over year that we have seen over the last five years where the funding has doubled to those agencies. That type of funding is, in my estimation, not going to continue into the 1990s. I think there has to be a stabilization of those agencies as far as their income and expenditures go and as far as their mandate for service goes. I said the other day that I foresee this as a transition year where the agencies and the department are actively working on those budgets together to put in place the funding and service agreement so that they will know exactly what funding they get and what services they are to provide.

\* (1710)

I am not comfortable that we are going to solve the funding problems for the agencies, and any expenditure, when you are in a deficit position, is going to have an impact on the total picture. What I am saying to you is that the impact of the GST—and we are not comfortable that we know that complete impact at this time, and the Finance Department, as we said the other day, is taking the lead in doing the research and the application of that, and we hope to have some information for you—but when you are in a deficit situation, whether you are an agency, whether you are an individual, any extra costs can have an impact on your operation.

We are saying in the total picture, in the total expenditures that agencies are facing, that we expect the impact of GST to be minimal, but that does not take away from the serious funding problems and the serious spending problems that they have. If we can bring those two together and stabilize the agencies—and I would hope with your help and my honourable friend from Osborne's help that we can work together and these agencies will survive and do the good work we expect them to do.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, I know that Child and Family Service agencies have been asked to submit budgets that are balanced, and you and the Premier both mentioned several times that your department is working with these agencies to come up with balanced budgets—can you tell me if any Planning and Research staff are involved in these ongoing dialogues with the Child and Family Service agencies?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the groups that are working with the Child and Family

Service agencies on the funding and service contracts are the Child and Family Support Branch and the Agency Relations Branch. The work is ongoing to bring forward these balanced budgets and have agreements signed, we hope in the near future.

**Ms. Barrett:** I will bring up the discussion more in those particular budget lines. I have a couple of questions on some studies that would appear to have been instituted or worked on in the last Estimates process. I am wondering if the Minister can give me an update on those and if the Planning and Research component has been involved in this.

The first is: There is a working group on community living. Has it reported—and I am asking, being new in this situation, if it has reported? If it has not reported, can the Minister give me terms of reference, or who is on it, that type of information?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the working group on community living was commissioned in June by the previous Minister, and it is in progress at this time. We are hoping to have a report from this working group by January, and when we get to the line in the budget to deal with this, I would be pleased to provide you with the terms of reference, the membership on the committee and so forth.

**Ms. Barrett:** There also was mentioned in the Estimates last time a Social Services Administration Act review. I am wondering if the Minister can update us on that, if Research and Planning had any elements in that review, and if so, what they were.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, The Social Services Administration Act review was held, and this branch was involved in the review. The Act was found to be satisfactory to meet the needs of the department at this time, and there are not anticipated legislative changes that are coming forward.

**Ms. Barrett:** Is there a report that could be tabled by this Minister as to the findings of that review?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, there was not a formal report presented that we could share with you.

**Ms. Barrett:** Could the Minister either table today or give us information today, or get for us, who was on that review? Was it just a staff review or were there external agencies represented on it, user agencies, people that actually were the recipients of social



services that might have some sort of other view to put into this review?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the review was done by staff from the department. Outside agencies, or individuals from outside agencies, were not seconded. It was done by department staff.

**Ms. Barrett:** Finally, can the Minister tell us why the review took place? Is it something that is done on a regular basis, or was there a particular need felt on the part of the department to have this review?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I am told that the previous Minister initiated the review with the thinking that perhaps the Act was not appropriate to respond to the changing needs of society. In that light the Act was found to be adequate and no changes in it are anticipated at this time.

**Ms. Barrett:** Finally, does the public have access to this Act? Is this Act accessible to external agencies or is it only an internal document?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, this is a public document and we would be happy to provide you with a copy of it.

**Madam Chairperson:** 1.(c) Planning and Research: (1) Salaries \$945,700—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures \$240,700—pass.

1.(d) Communications: (1) Salaries \$287,300.00.

**Ms. Barrett:** I am looking at page 31 of the Supplementary Estimates. I have some questions on the Salary line. Basically in the Professional/Technical area, there is the same staff complement 4, but the salary increases—my inaccurate math—about \$27,600 and that is a fairly large increase given what the other salary increases across the department are. I am wondering if the Minister can explain that differential.

\* (1720)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, there is a significant difference there. I want to assure the Member there is a good explanation for it. There is a staff member who has been seconded to the, it is called federal-provincial interchange, and we pay the salary for that person under this appropriation. The federal Government reimburses us in another area. So while the staff level here has remained the same, it does include the salary for someone who has been seconded by the federal Government.

**Ms. Barrett:** I am not trying to be obtuse here but this was my next question. I did not understand the

footnote (1). There is the \$27,600 additional funding. Is it going to be recovered from the federal Government? I have several questions about this but that is one of them.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, I apologize if I was not clear. There is additional information I could give you.

There is the additional cost to cover the salary of one professional staff on secondment with the federal Government. That is fully recoverable, but it does not show up on this particular line. There is provision for a full salary level for one professional position that was previously underbudgeted. This occurred when the amalgamation of the two departments took place. There is also general salary increases, annual merit increments, overtime and other minor adjustments.

So of that total figure, 45.2 thousand is the secondment, 21.2 thousand is the full salary for this person that was partially charged to the other department before, and the general salary increases were 11.6 thousand.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, can you explain what this interchange agreement between the province and the federal Government is?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, it is a method whereby the federal Government is able to hire provincial civil servants. She or he, this person, is able to maintain their tenure and their benefits. The province continues to actually do the paper work and paying the salary. All of the funds are recovered from the federal Government. So it is a method whereby, in simple terms, the federal Government can hire a provincial civil servant and that civil servant still maintains the benefits and protections of the job that they have.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, can the Minister describe what this person is doing for the federal Government?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The specific job is with the Western Diversification office. It was a job that was advertised by the federal Government in that particular office. This individual applied for the position. It is a communications position. It is a way in which we can allow for career development opportunities for an employee of the provincial Government. I do not think it is anything new. I expect it has been ongoing as Governments change from time to time, but it does provide for a career development opportunity. It allows the person to

retain their benefits and their status, and at the same time, take advantage of an opportunity, anything that any good employer would do.

**Ms. Barrett:** I would like to go on to the Objectives and Activity Identification, page 30. The objective "to ensure that the department's communications result in public understanding of the policies, and public awareness of and access to programs and services," is this all of the programs and services? This Communications area, does it have the same impact on all the programs and access? I am asking a general question. What kind of communication strategy happens here? Is this interdepartmental—within the department this is only communications external?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** I apologize for not introducing the new member at the table as Janice Little, our Director of Communications, and the branch of the department is responsible for both internal and external communications.

As I indicated to the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) earlier, we have upwards of 150,000 clients accessing the department. It is important that those people and other Manitobans know the services that we provide and have an opportunity to see the various brochures and information provided by the department. At the same time, it is important that the general public understands what the department does and what services are provided. There is both internal and external communications function of this particular branch.

\* (1730)

**Ms. Barrett:** When the Communications department works on behalf of agencies that are funded by, or programs or agencies, is that in response to a request by the agency for assistance, or is this something that is initiated by the Communications division, or is it a combination? I guess I am asking how pro-active or reactive the department is in regard to program, working with programs.

**Mr. Gillehammer:** The answer is both. The director of Communications and staff may react from public sentiments that come forward, that something needs to be updated, or that it needs to have additional information. Our goal and objective would be to provide the best information possible that the public would be demanding. It allows us to provide a service for the public. By the same token, there may be information that comes forward internally

from various branches of this department whereby suggestions are brought forward that additional information is necessary or that information is outdated. We would make every effort to, you know, within our scope, provide correct, accurate and thorough information. So again in answer, it could be both an impetus internally or it could be something external that has come to our attention.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, could the Minister tell us approximately how much of the duties of the Communications Department are dealing in terms of speeches and news releases versus preparing, updating brochures and that type of thing for the programs that the department funds?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Chairperson, rather than simply zero in on speeches and press releases and background notes, I will give you the entire breakdown of activities of this branch and the percentage of time that we would associate with it. Of course, it is our best identification of those activities.

The production of publications and displays, 20 percent; media relations, 15 percent; news releases, 5 percent; advertising production, 5 percent; planning and monitoring, 10 percent; speeches and background notes, 20 percent; special events, 5 percent; and a final category called other, which would include public inquiries, correspondence, administration meetings with departments and external groups, about 20 percent. I hope it adds up to 100 percent.

**Ms. Barrett:** I am sure it is close enough. I was interested in more of a general breakdown.

I do not have very many more questions, but I was interested in the media monitoring, if you could describe what is entailed with media monitoring. Is that actually listening to and watching the media, or clipping newspaper articles? What is involved in the media monitoring segment?

**Mr. Gillehammer:** Madam Chairperson, we monitor the media of all kinds—it works both ways—to be able to analyze the public perception and public reaction to policies and plans and new initiatives that the department might take. The information gathered is just one source, and we have it analyzed. Of course some of it is very accurate and helpful, and some of it is just other.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, I think my favourite category is Other, always has been.

Finally, a specific question, co-ordination and production and purchase of advertising for the department, does that come under Other Expenditures, Communication?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The costs of advertising and publications and notices are spread throughout the various branches of the department.

**Ms. Barrett:** I assume that means that the advertising is for jobs and that kind of thing. Therefore, it would come under the particular program that was being advertised for, the particular job. My question is more what is advertising then, as it relates to this activity, since it does not appear particularly under the Expenditures?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** It encompasses quite a variety of things, such as legal notices that have to be placed from time to time, as they relate to clients or Child and Family Services agencies. The Abuse is a Crime, the advertising that was done around the whole area of abuse that has been so well acclaimed across this country, there was a cost to that; personnel ads from time to time; educational messages and other forms of information that are perceived to be prudent to put forth before the public.

**Ms. Barrett:** I am sorry. The answers keep engendering questions. The Abuse is a Crime advertising campaign—I recall the figure \$200,000 as being used, when it came out that that was what the cost of the campaign was. Was that last fiscal year? No, it has been in this fiscal year's budget. This says "production and purchase of advertising," so I would assume that that amount of money would have to appear somewhere.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The Abuse is a Crime was an initiative that was run in 1989-90 and, because of its success and acceptability, some of it was carried over into this budget year as well.

**Ms. Barrett:** Where would that have come in? Would that come under the Communications line?

\* (1740)

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** I believe the cost of that was some \$200,000 for the first year. It will show up under Family Dispute Services, where I think the Member is familiar.

**Ms. Barrett:** Yes, the Member is familiar with that section. So just as a final point of clarification then, such as the Abuse is a Crime will occur under Family Dispute Services, the other advertising items come

under the particular program that they relate to. So Child and Family legal notices would appear under the Child and Family Services. Is that how it is spread out?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, it will appear under the program area and we can discuss those lines in the budgets as we come to them.

**Madam Chairman:** Item 1.(d) Communications: (1) Salaries \$287,300—pass; item 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures \$60,300—pass.

1.(e) Internal Audit: (1) Salaries \$273,700.00.

**Ms. Barrett:** I will admit to a bit of confusion as to what this particular department or division does. I know there is Financial and Administrative Services, Internal Audit, Program Budgeting and Reporting, several areas.

Can the Minister state what "advising management on internal management policies, practices and controls" means?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The individuals in this department go out to the various branches and do a program audit and come back to management to indicate whether there is a consistency between what the branch is to be doing and what is actually happening, and they report to the supervisors. We then will have an audit of the system and indicate that we are successfully performing our mandate.

**Ms. Barrett:** I am assuming that the professional technical people actually implement these program audits. Could you please tell me what their professional qualifications are, what types of background do these people have in order to be able to do this job?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** The five staff years under Professional and Technical for this branch in terms of the audit are basically accountants.

**Ms. Barrett:** So the internal management policies that these accountants look at are basically financial in nature?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes, it is basically financial, but they also will comment on funding as it relates to the program that is to be delivered.

**Ms. Barrett:** When you say that they comment on the funding for the programs, do they make recommendations as to funding levels for various programs, or do they simply state that for X number of dollars given to this program they spent X minus dollars, or they overexpended? Can you clarify their commenting on the program?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Perhaps I will go into a little detail that will clarify this.

Under Branch Activities, it undertakes audit reviews and assessments in the areas of the design, development, implementation and operation of financial, managerial and operational systems, policies and practices, processes and controls, including computer-based systems.

It also audits audit reviews, the reliability and adequacy of information available for decision making and for accountability purposes, including the extent to which management information is utilized.

It audits the adequacy of protection afforded public funds and assets and the extent of compliance with legislative, central agency and departmental directions.

**Ms. Barrett:** It is not very clear, but never mind. I will carry on.

The Results says "review of all major programs, functions and systems over an audit cycle of three to five years."

Does that mean that these five SYs go to each program regularly and that the entire system will be audited every three to five years, or what determines which parts of the department will be audited at which time?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** They do audit the major programs every three to five years, and that can vary depending on the concerns that may arise from time to time within the department and give it some flexibility.

All of the systems will be audited in that particular audit cycle to give feedback to management to be able to make any changes that would be deemed necessary, and if changes are made, to see how they are working in subsequent years.

**Ms. Barrett:** Is the internal audit department involved in the process that is being undertaken with the various Child and Family Services agencies?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, no, the Internal Audit is not involved in that. The Agency Relations Bureau is the group that is responsible for working with the Child and Family Services agencies.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chairman, I have no further questions in this area.

**Madam Chairman:** Item 1.(e) Internal Audit: (1) Salaries \$273,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$17,200—pass.

1.(f) Agency Relations Bureau: (1) Salaries \$203,000.00.

\* (1750)

**Ms. Barrett:** I do not know if I am out of order, Madam Chairman, but this item may take a fair bit of time, I think, between both the critics. I ask if it is the will that we declare it six o'clock.

**Madam Chairman:** Is it the will of the committee that we call it six o'clock? -(interjection)-

**Ms. Barrett:** Again, I think the activities of this department will come clearer as we get into it. I have not a very good sense of what the bureau specifically does. I would like to ask the Minister under Salaries again, the professional-technical three SYs, can the Minister give us the general qualifications of these SYs? We will start with that.

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, I would like to introduce the gentleman who has just joined us at the table as Richard Lussier, Executive Director of Agency Relations. The three SYs that you ask about, two of them are chartered accountants and the other person is someone with program experience, a program analyst.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chairman, may I ask the area of expertise of the program analyst?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, this program analyst has been involved in social policy development and has worked in the Income Security area in the Income Supplement area.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chairman, is it out of order or is it appropriate for me to ask the name of this individual who is the program analyst?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairman, the individual who you are asking about is named Sue Bentley.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chairman, could I ask if the program analyst position is a Civil Service job or is it an Order-in-Council? How long has Ms. Bentley been in this position?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** It is a Civil Service position. The person is still in transition from the previous position in Income Security and is relatively new to this Agency Relations Bureau.

**Ms. Barrett:** I know that the person currently occupying the position is, as you say, new to it. Is

the position itself new or has the position been ongoing for a period of time? Has the Agency Relations Bureau been, for a period of time, two chartered accountants and one program analyst or how has the mix changed, if it has?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the Agency Relations Bureau is new. The job descriptions and the bureau are established within this budget year '90-91.

**Ms. Barrett:** Is it possible for the job description for the program analyst to be tabled for us?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Yes. We will make every effort to provide that for you when we next meet.

**Ms. Barrett:** Could the Minister explain the rationale for creating the Agency Relations Bureau? What, if anything, did it replace, or what was it in response to that the bureau was developed?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, the Provincial Auditor had raised concerns, and perhaps I could just read briefly into the record some comments here: For the last three years, we have expressed concern regarding the adequacy of the department's monitoring of external agencies to ensure funds granted are expended appropriately. The department has recently initiated action to improve monitoring and we are encouraged with the approach taken. The department has established a newly mandated Agency Relations Bureau. This was one of the major recommendations of the Phase 2 External Review. The bureau's role is to

ensure that policies, systems and procedures are developed and maintained, which will support operating divisions and ensuring accountability of external agencies.

The bureau will be expected to plan, develop and implement standards and guidelines for forecasting budgetary requirements, analyzing variances and program monitoring against predetermined delivery standards. Special financial and management audits of external agencies, as well as the development of an agency-based management practices model, are within the bureau's planned scope of activities.

Those comments are from the Provincial Auditor and I think maybe address your question.

**Ms. Barrett:** Madam Chair, I note that it is 20 seconds to six o'clock. Would it be possible for the Minister, whom I appreciate having read into the record that report, to provide it to the critics for tomorrow or for our next Session as well?

**Mr. Gilleshammer:** Madam Chairperson, you are asking for a copy of what I just read. Sure, we can provide that for you.

**Madam Chairman:** Order, please. The hour being 6 p.m., I am interrupting the proceedings.

This committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening at which time the Estimates of the Department of Labour will be considered.

## Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Monday, November 19, 1990 - 1:30 p.m.

### CONTENTS

<b>ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS</b>			
<b>Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees</b>		Tourism	
Committee of Supply		Carr; Ernst	1401
Dacquay	1395	Department of Tourism	
		Carr; Ernst	1401
<b>Tabling of Reports</b>		Unemployment Insurance Changes	
Supplementary Information		Ashton; Filmon	1401
Energy and Mines		Employment Standards Act	
Neufeld	1395	Ashton; Filmon	1402
<b>Ministerial Statements</b>		Winnipeg Police Force	
Chemawawin/Easterville;		Harper; McCrae	1403
Moose Lake Settlements		Aboriginal Justice Inquiry	
Neufeld; Hickers; Carr	1395	Harper; McCrae	1403
<b>Oral Question Period</b>		Recycling Programs	
Shoal Lake Water Quality		Cerilli; Cummings	1403
Doer; Filmon	1396	Resource Recovery Institute	
Goods and Services Tax		Cerilli; Cummings	1404
Chomiak; Derkach	1398	Bill C-22	
Winnipeg School Division No. 1		Santos; Downey	1404
Chomiak; Derkach	1398	<b>Non-Political Statements</b>	
Manitoba Learning Centre		Commonwealth	
Carstairs; Gilleshammer	1399	Parliamentary Association	
Minimum Wage		Martindale	1405
Martindale; Praznik	1399	<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
Social Assistance		<b>Concurrent Committees of Supply</b>	
Martindale; Filmon	1399	Culture, Heritage and Recreation	1406
Shelter Allowances		Family Services	1435
Martindale; Ducharme	1400		
VIA Rail			
Reid; Driedger	1400		