

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Honourable Peter Fox (Kildonan):** Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 100 students Grade 11 standing of the Sisler High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Ingram. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster, the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

We also have 15 students of the Red River Community College Extension Centre, under the direction of Mr. Harvey. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

We have 17 students Grade 5 standing of the St. Norbert School under the direction of Mr. Bosc. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

There are 10 students from the Political Science Group of the University of Winnipeg which is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, the Minister of Corrections.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.  
Presenting Petitions.

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

**MR. CLERK:** The Petition of Heller-Natofin (Western) Ltd., Praying for the passing of An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate Heller-Natofin (Western) Ltd.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the first report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources.

**MR. CLERK:** Your Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources beg leave to present the following as their first report.

In accordance with section 66.2(5) of The Legislative Assembly Act, the matter of the attachment of telecommunication terminal equipment to the public switched network of the Manitoba Telephone System and the desirability of legislation providing for proper attachment of telecommunication terminal devices under appropriate circumstances was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources for consideration and report to the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor in Council vide Order in Council No. 1152/76.

Your Committee met on January 10, 1977 and heard representation with respect to the above from the following:

Manitoba Telephone System

Gordon W. Holland — Chairman and General Manger

Gordon Backhouse — Director of Marketing and Administrative Services.

Ian Ross — Interconnection Director

National Answering Service

J. T. Wylie — Manager

Written briefs were also received on behalf of:

Canadian Business Equipment Manufacturers Association

The Canadian Manufacturers Association

Having considered the representations and briefs presented, your Committee recommends that legislation dealing with the attachment of telecommunication terminal equipment to the public switched network of the Manitoba Telephone System be introduced. Your Committee further recommends that consideration be given to the advisability of legislative changes which may be desirable in light of emerging technology, modern requirements of consumers for communication services and current policies adopted in other jurisdictions.

**MR. SHAFRANSKY:** Mr Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson that the Report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**TABLING OF REPORTS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Corrections.

**HONOURABLE J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to file a Return to an Order of the House No. 9 on motion of the Member for Swan River.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Any other Ministerial statements or tabling of reports? Notices of Motion.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Under this item, there's a bill in my name — Bill (No. 36) I would like to ask the Honourable Member for Assiniboia if he could give the House just a brief explanation of what is contained in Bill 36. Very briefly.

**MR. STEVE PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, does that mean that I can't introduce the bill or . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** No. I want to know for the edification of the House so that I can make a statement in respect to whether it's admissible or not.

**MR. PATRICK:** Okay. Well, Mr. Speaker, the whole thrust of the bill will be that all hours of work in excess of 40 hours in one week would be put on a voluntary basis, and as well, an employer subject to certain exemptions would not be able to schedule more than 54 hours of work in any one week. And the third principle: That no trade union or employee agent would be allowed to prevent an employee from accepting overtime on a voluntary basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I shall make my statement tomorrow under the same introduction.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**HONOURABLE STERLING R. LYON (Souris-Killarney):** Mr. Speaker, a question presumably for the First Minister. Can the First Minister advise the House, Mr. Speaker, if the Government of Manitoba is prepared to support the Northern Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Association with respect to their soon-to-be-expressed desire to be removed from the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Commission in this province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HONOURABLE EDWARD SCHREYER (Rossmere):** Well, Mr. Speaker, we have supported the Northern Manitoba Fisheries by way of a special policy and arrangement with respect to transportation subsidy. With respect to the question of their being in or outside of the ambit of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which Corporation was established I believe some eight years ago, that if and when the matter is brought before us in the normal formal manner, it will have to be considered. I am not aware personally of such a request having yet been brought to Cabinet's attention.

**MR. LYON:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Has the Minister not been made aware by the Northern Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Association of their obvious and numerous complaints against the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in months and years gone by?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are aware of a certain bases of dissatisfaction on the part of the fishermen with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and certain of its operations. At the same time I am also aware of the dissatisfaction of commercial fishermen with respect to the status quo ante as it existed prior to the establishment of the board.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for River Heights.

**MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. In view of the recent report of the Conference Board and the statements by the Governor of the Bank of Canada with respect to the degree of inflation in this country and the problems for the next period of time, I wonder if the First Minister is in the position to indicate whether the government's proposed timetable for the moving of the Anti-inflationary Board controls in this province will in fact be altered?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as within the course of the next 14 days we expect to have some detailed discussions on that very matter with senior people of the Anti-inflation Board of the Government of Canada, it would be just as well to withhold comment until then.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I wonder then if the First Minister could indicate whether the remarks of the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the report of the Conference Board will in fact be seriously considered by the government with respect to the whole question of the timetabling and the detail of the removal of the control period.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, the comments and observations of the Conference Board are of course a matter of interest. Their comments are perused and reviewed with interest. However, we do not regard the Conference Board as being any more definitive than the Economic Council of Canada.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Yes, well I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether there is any agreement with the statement of the Governor of the Bank of Canada that wage, price and profit control should not be lifted before the end of 1978.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, it would be my opinion completely unacceptable to determine basic national policy by the occasional utterings of a governor of a central bank.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether his government has any studies which would support a position in contradiction to that of the Governor of the Bank of Canada

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker. I'll take that latter question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

**MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. Is the Minister going to bring forward amendments to the Employment Standards Act which will ban compulsory overtime in the industrial plants at this session?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HONOURABLE RUSSELL PAULLEY (Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne announced that measures dealing with overtime, which is part and parcel of the Employment Standards Act of Manitoba, be given consideration at this session. I have on numerous occasions outside of the House, because I did not have the right inside of the House, indicate that insofar as compulsory legislation was concerned, I would not introduce such legislation; which doesn't mean to say Mr. Speaker, that legislation dealing with other aspects of overtime under the Employment Standards Act will not be introduced. As a matter of fact, the very fact in my opinion, that the Throne Speech makes reference to overtime. Both the First Minister and myself have indicated outside of the House the proper place so to do, that we were opposed to compulsory overtime, should be an indication of where the Government of Manitoba stands.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. ROBERT G. WILSON:** I have a question to the Minister of Labour. Would the Minister explain to the House in this period of restraint why the one-man inquiry is renting expensive space at the Winnipeg Convention Centre when we have an auditorium at the Norquay building and other board rooms and meeting rooms in other government buildings?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend, the Member for Wolseley has been flying so many kites in this House. I don't think his last question deserves an answer. There is no indication given to me at all that there is any substance to his utterances and we are quite used to that type of verbiage coming from the honourable member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Well, in light of the fact, Mr. Minister, that he doesn't know we are renting space in the Winnipeg Convention Centre, has the Minister had a chance to discuss the indemnity with Mr. McKay in light of his statement last ten minutes or all day regarding the public briefs concerning the October 14th day of protest.

**MR. PAULLEY:** What I have just said in reference to my honourable friend has just been reinforced by the stupidity of the question asked by my honourable friend. When hearings...yes, I'll answer—and you too, when the occasion arises. And you won't like the answer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I think anybody with the least amount of common sense would know that when public hearings are called by an industrial inquiry commission, a committee of this House asking for public representations, you never know how long they are going to take. And even my inexperienced rookie MLA should have enough intellect to know that.

(MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.)

**MR. BOB BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the First Minister in light of the absence of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and would ask him is if his government has done any assessment or studies with regard to the effect that the economic slowdown will have on Manitoba business and Manitoba unemployment rates.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, for a detailed reply I will take the question as notice. However, nothing that has unfolded in recent months should give us cause to believe that the effect on Manitoba's economy should be such as to differ from the general pattern of the past several years, whereby as a general rule levels of unemployment in Manitoba will remain about full two percentage points, or favourable with the national average. The expectation is there may be a repetition of circumstances of 1975, in which year the Manitoba economy performed relative to the national average quite well. However, all of this is subject to the vagaries of nature and we are not in a position to tempt to quantify the impact of a combination of economic — we phenomenon coupled with what may be hope not, but there's no point in speculating just now the effects of prolonged dryness.

**MR. BANMAN:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the First Minister could inform the House whether Manitoba is predicting a drop in its gross national production?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat, if there is a phenomenon of a natural kind such as prolonged drought extending into the growing season of '77, we do anticipate the possibility of a drop in gross provincial product; but then again there was such an impact the last time we had a significant drought in 1961.

**MR. BANMAN:** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the First Minister could confirm that one of the principal weaknesses in the economic outlook continues to be lack of investment spending.

**MR. SCHREYER:** , Mr. Speaker, that is a kind of self-serving question which should be put alongside the facts. And the facts are in the presumably good old years when the Tories were in office, there were in fact a string of years in which the economy of the province was performing below the national average in respect to gross capital formation, with respect to percentage increase in gross product, and also with respect to population data. So if my honourable friend wants to engage in a statistical skirmish, I am quite willing to accommodate him.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for BirtleRussell.

**MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM:** Thankyou, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Honourable Attorney-General. I'd like to ask the Attorney-General when he expects to be holding the conference with the Solicitor-General of Canada dealing with Juvenile Offenders Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have received no notification from the Solicitor-General. I did hear a news report yesterday indicating that the Solicitor-General intended to call a conference of responsible Ministers sometime in June' but that is only hearsay from a news report which I heard yesterday.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Is the Attorney-General at all concerned about seemingly being left off the mailing list of the Solicitor-General?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for River Heights.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he is in a position to indicate, in view of the fact that the Minister of Industry and Commerce is not here and he may want to take this question as notice — in view of the fact that the thrust of last year's budget was the creation of jobs and employment in Manitoba, whether he's in a position now to indicate specifically the number of new jobs that in fact have been formed in this past year, to be able to understand exactly where we stand in terms of jobs . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is of a statistical nature; it can be discussed better under the Estimates.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I'll rephrase it then, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Very well.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to indicate that the thrust of the budget last year, the creation of new jobs, has in fact achieved its objectives. That in effect' the new job creation in Manitoba in this past fiscal year has. . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** . . . asking for an opinion. Order please.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Well, I wonder if his studies will indicate support of that position?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, I indicated I'll take the question as notice, and this is a related question which I can take as notice. But just for some preliminary thought for my honourable friend to mull over, I would indicate to him that I don't accept the premise of his question that last year's budget was disproportionately gauged to job creation, since a year ago Manitoba stood really extremely favourably well in relation to the national average with respect to unemployment. Then too, I would ask him to consider this fact, that the additionality of jobs, therefore, persons employed in the labour force stands at approximately, my colleague tells me, in the order of 20,000 higher than a year ago.

**A MEMBER:** Number of employed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for River Heights.

**MR. SPIVAK:** I have another question for the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether he has received, or the Cabinet has received, the Report of the Manitoba Development Corporation for the past year?

**MR. SCHREYER:** I believe that my colleague, the Minister responsible for the MDC has the report. I seem to think that he's tabled it but I'll check.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister is: I wondered whether he had received the Report or Cabinet received the report and he's indicated, I think, that it has been received. I wonder if he can indicate when Cabinet received that report?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, I'll answer my honourable friend this time next day.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. HARRY J. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. I ask him, Mr. Speaker, in light of the news from Great Britain where the Labour Government is indicating abandonment of socialist programs as it prepares itself for a vote, would it be fair to categorize the change in the land lease program by this Minister . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is argumentative. The member knows it. Does he wish to rephrase it?

**MR. ENNS:** Information seeking only.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. HENRY J. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I realize the Minister of Agriculture is on the horns of a

dilemma but I would like to pose this question to him, and ask him in view of the seriousness of the Dutch Elm disease and the number of trees that have been lost in the Province of Manitoba, could the Minister give us any information as to what his department is doing say in conjunction with the City of Winnipeg and other jurisdictions throughout the province in trying to prevent this disease from getting any worse.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HONOURABLE SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet):** Mr. Speaker, it's rather unfortunate that the members opposite didn't avail themselves of the opportunity to discuss that item during the course of Estimates debate of the department. It's also an historic fact that we have been involved in Dutch Elm disease control over the last two years, wherein the government has entered into agreements with the City of Winnipeg and other communities and municipalities throughout Manitoba for the control and hopefully eradication of the disease. There are ongoing programs where there is a significant amount of provincial input.

**MR. EINARSON:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for the answer to that question and I wonder, then, if the Minister can indicate to us his assessment and is it having its effects? Can we look to a much greater reduction in the number of losses of elm trees this coming year because of what he is doing?

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, that's very difficult to assess at this point in time. I think really it will take several years before we will know whether this program is successful or not. It's not something that you can measure on a one-year basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY:** Mr. Speaker, on the same topic. In addition to the control program announced by the Minister, can he indicate whether the province has held discussions with municipalities in terms of developing a reforestation program for those areas that have been severely affected and where a large number of trees have been taken out?

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, the planting of trees, of course, has been and continues to be an area of responsibility of local government. We are not involved in that kind of cost-sharing arrangements whatever. We are involved with the assessing of their problem and the eradication program in a very substantial way.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Considering the extraordinary circumstances caused by the Dutch Elm disease, is the Minister prepared to consider any incentive program for private property owners whose trees have been destroyed, either on farm or residential properties, for the replantation of trees either on their property or just outside it on other areas?

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for Fort Rouge would know that it's not terribly expensive to purchase small trees for reforestation purposes for any particular home or yard in the City of Winnipeg or anywhere. The nature and the size of the forest or the backyard is not one that would preclude members opposite or any citizen of Winnipeg from doing it on their own.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Considering that the Minister has announced in the past that several thousands of trees have been destroyed, is the Provincial Department of Agriculture through its tree forest farms throughout the province prepared to offer these trees for individual use by homeowners or people to do reforestation programs or the municipalities for that matter.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, the Tree Forest Nursery Program in Manitoba is operated by the Department of Renewable Resources but I believe that I'm correct in saying that it has to do with the evergreen species as opposed to shade trees.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Portage La Prairie.

**MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, I would like to direct this question to the Honourable the First Minister. Can the First Minister confirm that meetings were held between Flyer Industries' representatives and representatives of a West German consortium to discuss the outright purchase of Flyer Industries in 1975?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that there have been discussions between a Western European firm and representatives of the MDC and Flyer Industries. Whether the firm is West German or Swedish, I can't confirm for a fact which of the two it is.

**MR. GORDON JOHNSTON:** Another question to the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister confirm that arrangements were made to hold further meetings between the Minister and the West German group in West Germany in 1975 at a time when the Minister of Industry and Commerce was going to go to Europe and that he did not show up for the meetings and could the First Minister find out or inform the House as to the reasons why he didn't show at the meetings?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I can undertake to find out. It may be for as simple a reason as that the firm in question in its own internal decision making decided it didn't wish to pursue the matter so it advised my colleague.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Highways Minister. I wonder if

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the Minister would advise the House the name of the manufacturer/supplier of the 24,000 commercial red and white license plates that are proven to be faulty.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HONOURABLE PETER BURTONIAK (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, this has been done locally here in Winnipeg for these particular plates and I am told upon investigating the problem that it wasn't really in the manufacture of the plates, it was just the paint that was bought for that particular group of license plates that was used — a bad batch of paint that really was the problem.

**MR. McKENZIE:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure the House, the public that those cars or vehicles that are using those faulty plates, they won't be prosecuted until they have a chance to exchange them for the new ones?

**MR. BURTONIAK:** I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member said that the people who have these plates should be prosecuted if they don't get them replaced in a hurry?

**MR. McKENZIE:** That's right.

**MR. BURTONIAK:** They have been told to get in contact with the Motor Vehicle Branch as quickly as possible and they'll be given different plates if these plates are available at the time they do, otherwise they will not be prosecuted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question following on that raised by the Member for Portage la Prairie to the First Minister. Is the First Minister aware that in regard to the designated meeting between the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the West German company that the West German company did send telexes to officials here in Manitoba asking the whereabouts of the Minister and asking why he had not showed up at that meeting?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker I've already made a note to have this followed up and it will be done.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. SHAFRANSKY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an announcement that the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 24th, 10 a.m. in Room 254 to continue with the Annual Report from the Manitoba Telephone System and should the report be accepted, then it is the intention to proceed with the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **ADJOURNED DEBATES - SECOND READING**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would call the adjourned debates on second reading in the order that they appear on the Order Paper.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Adjourned debate Bill No. 2. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. (Stand) Bill No. 3. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake. (Stand)

### **BILL (NO. 4) - AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

**MR. G. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, in addressing myself to No. 4, an Act to amend The Land Acquisition Act, I really hadn't intended to enter this debate especially after my two colleagues had made what we consider very strong points against the legislation but I do feel that I should stand and reiterate once again that we three members of this Legislature consider that this is bad legislation that has been introduced and if, with the combined forces of the Conservatives and the government, that this is passed it will turn into a bad law and it will be regretted in years to come. It will be regretted in years to come and whatever government is holding the responsibility at the time, after some experience, will have to change the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Public Works is shaking his head and I know he won't be there to take the responsibility later on so I'm asking him now to withdraw this bill. It's bad legislation. It's bad legislation and I'd like to give some of the reasons.

Mr. Speaker, what are the reasons as to why The Land Acquisition Act was first brought in and put into law? Well I think some of the members who were in the House in the late fifties, which is before my time, and certainly all the sixties, will know that the government for the first time in history started to enter into large-scale purchasing of land, whether it was wetlands to preserve for environmental reasons, or whether it was farm lands that were being taken for public works, such as the floodway, the Winnipeg Floodway or the Portage Diversion. The fact is that there was an extensive highway

program development going on and there was more land purchasing going on by the Provincial Government than at any time previous to that. The members who were in the House in those years that I talk about will remember — and I know the First Minister, at one particular time, was very exercised because some of his constituents were not receiving what he thought was fair treatment in the purchase of lands for the Winnipeg Floodway.

Now how did the government of the day go about purchasing land? There was no policy. There were no guidelines and each department dealt with the public or the individual in the manner that they saw fit. I need not remind members of the House of how the Bain Estate came to be purchased for use for the Portage Diversion. I don't know who the unnamed officials are because they were probably acting in good faith, but members of the House of that day will remember that the government bought some land that was described by the seller as prime residential real estate but in fact turned out to be swamp and sand and the government paid about three times the market price for that land. Now it was because of helter-skelter land purchasing, no policy and no guidelines, that The Land Acquisition Act was considered by the previous government and brought in. And in my opinion it's a pretty good Act. It has served a good purpose because ever since then both the buyer and the government agency have a place to turn to receive fair evaluation.

Now it can be said that The Land Value Appraisal Commission may not have been right on every account. They may have made some errors but then being human beings this is bound to happen. No law is ever perfectly followed, or no group of people have ever been perfect or right in every decision that they have made. But over the years since The Land Value Appraisal Commission has been in action there haven't been any really outstandingly bad decisions, if that's the term. They may have had to change. They may have been a little too high or a little too low, but on the average they have done a fairly good job.

Act I would like to refer members to the original that we are asked to amend by Bill 4. And here's what the original Act says, and this is Section 12, subsection 1, clause (b), "Where land is being acquired by a utility, upon application of the utility, the commission shall determine and certify an amount which in its opinion represents due compensation in respect to acquisition." Now, Mr. Speaker, the key phrase there is "which in its opinion" and all they are doing is giving an opinion. They're not giving a hard and fast judgement that has to be adhered to forever. They're giving an opinion and that's all they were set up to do.

I would like also to refer members to the latest annual report from The Land Value Appraisal Commission' 1975-1976, and on Page 2 the second paragraph, here's what they "It is frequently difficult to reconcile differences between the branch and an owner. The commission has endeavoured to render fair judgements of value in these cases. Any doubt is usually resolved in favour of the property owner." Well, Mr. Speaker, we are now going to, by legislation, change this law that says that upon the introduction of fresh evidence, whatever that is, upon the introduction of fresh evidence the certificate that was issued of a fair appraisal will then be changed. We are asked to change that Act to say that upon the introduction of fresh evidence that the Commission should vary its certificate and may vary a certificate of compensation in respect to the acquisition of the land. Well, Mr. Speaker, that can be used, in my opinion, any way anyone sees fit. Whether it's someone fighting for more money, or whether it's the government trying to get the commission to revalue downwards or upwards. In my opinion, this is bad legislation leading to a bad law. And after this is passed, in a very few years, this law will have to be changed again.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No. 5. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. (Stand

Bill ) No. 7. The Honourable Member for Swan River. (Stand

Bill ) No. 15. The Honourable Member for Wolseley. (Stand

Bill No. 18. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. (Stand

Now ) we have before us an adjourned debate in respect to the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs. I regret to say that in respect to our procedure this appears on the Order Paper in error. We had agreed in the Rules Committee that Concurrence motions would be no longer debated and consequently this motion should not have been made. And therefore I say that you carry on your Interim Supply in committee not on the floor of the House with the Speaker in the Chair. Therefore now it's up to the Acting House Leader to move into further government business. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HONOURABLE SAUL A. MILLER (Seven Oaks):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I gather from you comments, and I'll be guided by you, that a motion would now be in order that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the Ways and Means for the raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty. Seconded by the Minister of Health.

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**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

### COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is it the will of the Committee to proceed with the resolution. (Agreed)

Resolved that towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the Public Service for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1978, the sum of \$275,737,800, being 25 percent of the amount of several items voted for the department as set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1978, laid before the House at the present session of the Legislature be granted out of the consolidated fund. Agreed?

Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker

*The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker.*

### IN SESSION

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas, that the report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**HONOURABLE SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Finance)(Seven Oaks) introduced BILL NO. 23,** the Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1978.

### GOVERNMENT BILLS — SECOND READING — BILL NO. 23

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HONOURABLE SAUL A. MILLER, by leave, presented Bill No. 23, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1978, for second reading.**

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

**MR. GRAHAM:** I move, seconded by the Member for Minnedosa, that debate be adjourned.

**QUESTION put MOTION carried**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Speaker, I would move that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, seconded by the Minister of Health.

**MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair for Health and Social Development, and the Honourable Member for St. Vital in the Chair for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services.**

### CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### ESTIMATES - RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. D. James Walding(St. Vital):** We have a quorum, gentlemen, and the committee will come to order. I refer the attention of honourable members to Page 57 in their Estimates Books, Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. Resolution 105(3) Transportation Services (a) Executive: (1) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Minister.

**HONOURABLE HARVEY BOSTROM, Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services (Rupert's Island):** Mr. Chairman, just by way of brief introductory comments, I would just outline the general breakdown of this section of the department. As I indicated in my opening remarks for the overall department, the department is divided into two divisions. One is headed up by Allan Murray, Associate Deputy Minister of the Renewable Resources side. This side, Transportation Services Division, is headed up by John MacDonald, Associate Deputy Minister. It is divided into the various sections related to the transportation services responsibilities. That is Air Operations, Radio



Services, and Marine Transportation and Construction, which is a new section of this department which was added last year. I will go into the details of each section as we arrive at those sections in debate, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. DAVID BLAKE:** As I mentioned earlier, I wanted to enquire in connection with construction of the road on Black Island and we had deferred it to this particular section. I wonder if the Minister would tell us how many miles of road were constructed and who constructed it.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Just on a point of procedure I would suggest the honourable member put his question on that issue when we arrive at the last section there marine transportation and construction. That is the section that is responsible for the road on Black Island and all questions related to road construction and/or marine and barge activities could be directed there, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

**MR. EDWARD MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions relating to the report of the Manitoba Government Air Division for the year ending March 31st, 1976.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of procedure, again questions related to the air operations would probably best be put on the section related to that which is (3)(c) Air Operations on the page in front of us, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MCGILL:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. That was the question I was about to put to you, and it has already been answered by the Minister. That's quite in order. We'll wait for that particular section.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(a)(1)—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for St. James.

**MR. GEORGE MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I could ask the Honourable Minister if his department has been paid, for the services that they provided to Saunders Aircraft last year. I believe when we dealt with his estimates that there was something like in excess of \$150,000 owing to the transportation department for the training of pilots for the Skywest. I was wondering if that accounts receivable has been paid.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, that again would be a question related to the air operations section but seeing that the question has already been put, Mr. Chairman, I can answer that no payment has been received from the Federal Government on the training that the Provincial Government did, on the basis that we believe the general agreement we had with the Federal Government with respect to Skywest was proceeding. There has been billings and discussion, I suppose, but no payment has been received.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If the honourable member has any further questions on that item would he wait until we get down to (c) Air Operations. Resolution 105(a)(2)—pass; (a)—pass; Resolution 105(b) General Administration, Flight Co-ordination and Patient Air Transportation (1) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** I wonder if the Minister could tell us of the problems experienced in the patient air transportation and what has been done to iron out the difficulties that they were experiencing and prevent the reported abuses that were inherent in the patient air transportation system.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of discussion on this particular aspect of the department's responsibility. We handle the administration part of the patient air transportation. The actual funds for the payment for the transportation of individuals in located in the Estimates of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. My department handles the flight arrangements, both those that are handled through the department by way of charter aircraft that are chartered out of the Air Division complement of aircraft, as well as those that are handled by the private sector, the private charters. I can give the honourable member a breakdown, a statistical breakdown of how that has worked in practice. As far as the guidelines for the program, we are operating under guidelines which are issued to us by the Department of Health and Social Development. Mr. Chairman, to the extent that there has been changes in the program those changes have come about as policy directions from Health and Social Development *via* Cabinet, and so on. are operating under those guidelines and at the present time there is a committee which has been struck by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. It has a number of professional people from the government on that committee as well as representatives from the north and from the medical profession, and so on, that are looking at all aspects of the program and they will be coming out very shortly with recommendations to the Minister of Health and Social Development as to how the program may be changed, if it is deemed necessary that it should be changed, how the administration of the program may be modified to be able to handle those cases that are unique in that people have to travel out of the north for medical purposes and that may not now fall under the guidelines of the Patient Air Transportation Program. The program was originally established as an emergency service; a service that would provide emergency evacuation for people from remote communities and major centres in the north, to allow them to receive treatment for things that are of a life-saving nature, whether it be accident or sickness, illness of whatever kind. It tended to go beyond

that original intention where doctors, I believe, were referring people to use the service for other things besides things that would be of a life-saving nature. And that is the periphery of the program that is being looked at at the present time and that committee is addressing itself to that concept of the program and will be reporting shortly and I have no interim report from them to report to committee members. Perhaps the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development could report on the specifics that he may have heard from the committee already.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, can the Minister indicate to us is there an aircraft on standby at all times or are portions of the day set aside for standby aircraft?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there is an aircraft on standby and there is one ordinarily at each base on standby, or at each of the four bases. They operate a twenty-four hour emergency service number which can be called and we have pilots on standby to take emergency calls. I must say, Mr. Chairman, that most of the charters that are handled by Air Division are of that nature. They are emergency situations. In the calendar year of January 1st, 1975, to December 31st, 1975, there were 875 charters operated by the Manitoba Government Air Service and in this last calendar year January 1st, 1976, to December 31st, 1976, there were 588 charters operated by the Manitoba Government Air Service. Oh, I'm sorry, I'm looking at the wrong list here, Mr. Chairman. MGAD charters would be 381 and 341, respectively. I quoted you from the list of air charters that are done by commercial carriers and you will note, Mr. Chairman, that the commercial carriers, in each year, have been doing much more of the patient air transportation work than the Manitoba Government Air Division. In 1975, the Air Division did 381 and the private charters did 875. In 1976, the Manitoba Government Air Division did 341 charters, the private sector charters did 588. Most of the flights are the type that are referred by doctors to the scheduled air services and respectively in the two years, there were 6,343 patients flown in 1975, and 6,478 flown in 1976. The great bulk of those that are handled by this program are handled by way of the scheduled services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Chairman, my question has been answered.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(b)(1). The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, relative to the figures that were given by the Minister on the number of patients that were handled, I notice that one report indicates that they handled 8,760 patients and escorts in 1974-75. That would be up to the end of March 31st, I presume. And then in the next year, to March 31st, 1976, 12,083. Now there was an increase of roughly 25 percent, 30 percent. Are there any figures available for the current year up to March 31st? We are within nine days of the end of this year. How does it look in terms of the total number of people that have been accommodated by this service? Is it up or down?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if I can quote you from the two calendar years that I have in front of me here which could be used for comparison purposes, for the commercial charters as I said, there were 875 commercial charters in 1975, 588 in 1976. The number of patients handled by commercial charters was 937 in 1975, 611 in 1976. The number of escorts handled respectively in the two years by the commercial charters was 601 and 341 respectively. If you can add to that the MGAD charters, the number of charters by MGAD, as I have already quoted you, is 381 and 341 respectively. The number of patients handled in the two years was 466 and 425 respectively. The number of escorts handled by MGAD was 438 and 436 respectively. The number of patients handled by scheduled flights and other transportation was 6,343 in 1975, 6,478 in 1976. The number of escorts was 2,394 in 1975 and 2,500 in 1976. If you add those up, they should come to 1,847 patients in 1975-76 and 852 escorts. That is the first quarter, I am sorry. So there is an increase, I believe, in the last year over the year before if you total it up.

**MR. MCGILL:** Yes, I think that these figures are not quite comparable because they are for the fiscal year in the report of the Manitoba Government Air Services and I am getting a calendar year figure there. One figure interesting here, there were 425 patients accommodated and 436 escorts. There were more escorts than there were patients there. I presume in some cases there were two escorts for a single patient.

**MR. BOSTROM:** In some cases, Mr. Chairman, if it is a child that is being escorted out, and many of these are emergency cases as I indicated, there would perhaps be the mother of the child and a nurse. In some cases where the emergency is phoned in, the Air Division will undertake to take a medical person along with them if it be a woman in childbirth or something like that, so that in some cases there is more than one escort per patient, depending on circumstances.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. James.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister, it would appear that the report of the Air Division which is tied in with the Transportation Services in terms of the general flight co-ordination in air transportation division, in the year end report it indicated that the Air Division was instructed to cut back general transportation services by 40 percent. I am wondering if the Minister could advise us how the SMYs for this year and last year compare.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can give you the SMYs for each section as we go through and you can compare.

**MR. MINAKER:** I am mainly interested in this section, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BOSTROM:** This section? This, as I say, relates to flight co-ordination, patient air transportation and general administration in the department which also covers off certain duties related to marine construction and marine transportation and construction. There has been no decrease here, although there has been an increase in the marine transportation and construction workload of this particular section. There were thirteen staff man years in the past fiscal year and we are proposing here thirteen staff man years for the coming fiscal year ending March 31st, 1978.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister could us advise us approximately how many staff man years are used in the co-ordination of the air service? How many were used last year, that is? In the general administration.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are three that are directly related to flight co-ordination, one in Thompson, one in Winnipeg, one in The Pas.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, what would be the duties of the other ten?

**MR. BOSTROM:** These just generally would be clerks and administrative people who would be handling administrative duties for for the department in general as well as the patient air transportation program, it would be voucher clerks and clerks that would be doing duties that are related to marine transportation and construction as well as the supervisory assistance there, typists and other people doing the work in the office.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, it would appear when one tries to compare the public accounts to the estimating services, or at least the estimating techniques used in the last two years, that both the Transportation Services section under the executive and the general administration have been separated and were originally tied together under Transportation under Northern Affairs. Is that correct?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, when this section was transferred over to my department from Northern Affairs, one of the beefs I guess we had was that although this particular section of the department related to Air Division was transferred, not all of the staff that were doing duties associated with this division were transferred at the same time. For example, there were people in the general administration within the Department of Northern Affairs that were doing, as part of their other duties, some of the clerk-type duties that would be associated with this department, so that we have had to cover off those kinds of general areas through increasing the workload on some of these staff and/or attempting to redeploy staff so that all of the work that was formerly being handled by the general administration people within Northern Affairs is now covered off in here as well as in the administration section generally which is headed up by an ADM that relates to both the Renewable Resources side of this department as well as the Transportation Services side.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could advise, in the past two years, have there been any people that were under contract either working for the executive section or the general administration section that have now been placed on permanent staff?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I don't have those details here, Mr. Chairman. I can point out to the honourable member that of the thirteen staff man years that are in this section, ten are at present filled and there are three vacancies. Now I don't have the information on what contract personnel may be included in here. I can take the question as notice and get the information back.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; (b)—pass; Resolution 105(c) Air Operations; (1) Flight Operations (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

**MR. MCGILL:** I wonder if you could bring us up to date on the aircraft fleet, as of today's date. This was for March 31st, 1976, and show six Piston Beavers, five Turbos, two Otters, one Cessna 180, one Piper Aztec and two Cessna 337 as the fleet. Has there been any change in that aircraft . . .

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are seventeen aircraft that are owned by the department. These are listed, I believe, in that annual report so I should not need to go into them. Most of them are of the float-and-ski equipped type Piston Beavers, Turbo Beavers, Otters, and so on. There is one Cessna 180 included in there. We have, in addition to those seventeen, the MU-2 which is on a lease-purchase agreement and is primarily used for emergency air transportation for the PAT Program. In addition to that we have three Aztecs which are on lease, which are presently up for review, and we have one Push-Pull Cessna 337, which is on an hourly basis. That is it is used as required and the payments are made on the basis of its actual use.

**MR. MCGILL:** Does the Minister have any utilization figures for these aircraft, for instance the Six Piston Beavers. What's the average utilization in hours per month for the last calendar year or fiscal year, whichever you have there.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have some figures which are not completely up-to-date. As of the end of February of this year we have comparisons with last year. That is comparing February, 1975-76, at the same point in time last year with the same point in time this year.

The Cessna 180 flew last year 469.2 hours, this year it is 686.0. Giving you the standard Beaver rates of use 541.1 last year, 505.1 for this year (a decrease of 36.0 hours). The second standard Beaver, I have information here, is 115.1 hours last year compared to 447.8 this year (an increase of 332.7).

With the serial number MAT the aircraft flew 406.4 last year, 377.4 this year (a decrease of 29). MAV flew 364.1 last year, up to this point in time, this year up to February 388.3, for an increase of 24.2. MAZ flew 466.3 last year, this year 486.1 (an increase of 19.8). MAY flew 530.4 last year, 498.6 this year (a decrease of 31.8).

When we look at the Turbo Beavers MAB flew 336.1 last year, 474.6 this year (an increase of 138.5). The OEB 474.6 last year, 499.2 this year (an increase of 24.6). The OEA 558.8 last year, 636.3 this year (an increase of 77.5). The OED flew 471.5 last year, 322.7 this year. OEE flew 590.1, 372.6 this year.

The two Otters that we have that are owned by the government: MAU was 535.6 last year, 365.6 this year. MAX 325.5 last year, 377.2. Those are the float-and-ski equipped aircraft.

The Aztec which is owned by the Manitoba Government, the MAD last year flew 753.5, this year 728.1 (a decrease of 25.4).

The two multi-engine Cessna 337s that are owned by the government flew 479.0 last year, that is the MAE; 612.1 this year.

The NRI is 298.3 last year and 491.6 this year.

I might point out, Mr. Chairman, this is not a complete year's operation. It is one month short of a year's operation.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, while we're on this subject, does the Minister have the same figures for the MU-2 on lease.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, comparing the same period, last year because of difficulties with the ROM aircraft, the MU-2 which was on lease-purchase agreement with the government, there was another aircraft in use to cover off the down-time for that aircraft, so that between the two aircraft — you can add these figures together to get the total — there is 365.8 for last year on one aircraft, and 322.3 on the other aircraft. And this year that would compare to the 662.3 hours for the ROM (a decrease of 25.8 over last year's same period).

The Aztecs that are under lease to the Manitoba Government, last year they flew as follows: The IMT 576.9 as compared to 666.7 this year. The WDW 841.8 last year as compared to 713.7 this year. The WHI flew 813.6 last year, as compared to 745.7 this year.

And the multi-engine Cessna 337 which is on an hourly lease, or as we use it basis lease with the Firm it's being leased from, flew 441.7 last year and 505.6 this year.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, are all the aircraft on lease on a lease-purchase dry lease basis?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the MU - 2 is the only one which is on a lease-purchase basis. The three Aztecs that I mentioned, the IMT, WDW, and WHI are on a lease basis which is up for review at the present time and the WHF Cessna 337 is at the present time on an as we use it lease basis.

**MR. MCGILL:** I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, why the department would continue the Aztecs on a lease basis with that kind of utilization. It seems very high, between 576 is the low figure for last year and 841.8. Does the Minister feel it's justified to maintain a straight lease basis of an aircraft that is getting that much utilization?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, we have maintained the leases to this point to give us the option or the flexibility of being able to cut back more easily if it's necessary to do so. As I mentioned these leases are now up for review and all these alternatives will be looked at when we are considering renewing these leases, whether we should be in fact renewing them or making a request to purchase these aircraft.

**MR. MCGILL:** How many years has the MU-2 been under lease? That's the lease-purchase one. What are we in now Year Three?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe this is Year Three on that aircraft.

**MR. MCGILL:** Have you any idea what the balance is on that aircraft? There must be a considerable amount of the purchase price now is paid on it.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, it's a ten-year payment plan and lease-purchase agreement, on the MU-2.

**MR. MCGILL:** You don't have any idea what amount of money now has been paid as part of the eventual purchase of this airplane.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I would have to take that question as notice if the honourable member desires that information, I could supply it.

**MR. MCGILL:** The report I have here says that you have on lease five Piper Aztecs. That figure you gave me of three is a more recent figure. I presume that is at the present time you are down to three Aztecs on lease.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We have dropped the leases on the others.

**MR. MCGILL:** In 1974-75 the total miles flown were 2,600,000 odd and in 1976 fiscal year 2,200,000. There has been a reduction there in the total mileage. Have you any figures to indicate what the projection is for March 31, 1977, and how will your total miles flown compare?

**MR. BOSTROM:** How we would compare in total miles this year, Mr. Chairman, as compared to last year. Is that the question that is being asked?

**MR. MCGILL:** Yes.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there is approximately a 10 percent reduction in the total hours flown by the Manitoba Government Air Division. If you're looking at the period under review, which I have in front of me here, which is April 1st, 1975, to February 29th, 1976, and if you compare that to the similar period ending February 28th, 1977, there is a reduction of 1,434.2 hours which represents an overall decrease of 9.7 percent.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder does the department, the Air Division, make a calculation of the average cost per mile flown for that government Air Service? Is there such a figure available, say for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1976?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I do not have that figure available, Mr. Chairman, but it could be obtained. If the honourable member is asking that question I will take it as notice.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think perhaps it might be a way of comparing the efficiency of the operation of the MGAS with other services of similar nature. The Government Air Service probably has a figure which in total represents the total cost of a year's operation of that Air Service. And while it might not be absolutely comparable in all cases, it might be interesting to see what variation occurs in the per mile flown cost over the year.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I don't believe it is fair to compare the Manitoba Government Air Division Operation with any commercial operation because of the unique nature of this operation. The float-and-ski equipped aircraft, for example, that are operated by this department are specialized aircraft that the private sector does not have available at the present time. The Otters and Turbo Beavers that we operate are equipped with water-bombing capacity and are maintained in excellent condition to provide reliable forest-fighting capability to the renewable resources side of this department.

As well, Mr. Chairman, we provide, as I was mentioning earlier, a patient air transportation capability which no other scheduled carrier or commercial carrier is required to do. In order to perform this function properly, efficiently, and with a view to maximum safety of individuals in Manitoba we maintain aircraft at four bases in Manitoba to provide this service. The cost of those air bases and the cost of maintenance at those bases, and the operation of them, are all calculated into the total cost of this operation and to use average figures to compare this operation with commercial operations would not be a fair comparison when you take into consideration all of the extra duties that this department must carry out as part of its responsibility to provide a service to all government departments, and in particular, the renewable resources side which handles the forest fires as well as wildlife surveys and so on, and the Department of Health to whom we supply the patient air transportation service.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is quite correct. I didn't intend that the figure be used to compare with other commercial air services but I thought it might be a figure that could be compared with other government air services that may carry out a function similar to the Manitoba Government Air Service. That was simply a request for a figure that not only could be, perhaps, compared to indicate the efficiency or otherwise of our own service, which I have no doubt is pretty high, or it could be used from year to year as a comparison of the increasing costs of providing this service.

One of the major functions performed by this service is that of fire protection and patrol. Has the government Air Service made any special plans in view of the dry condition that exists now in our forests, and in view of the rather pessimistic long-term outlooks for moisture this year. Are there any special contingency plans under way to increase the capability of the Government Air Service in this area?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the capability of the Government Air Service in this area is a reflection of the demands that are put on this section of the department by the renewable resources section of the department that has made the requests for this coming fire season based on the best estimates they have for their needs and the Air Services section is now gearing up to provide the aircraft that are required to fulfill those needs. In other words, I'm saying that the air operation section doesn't determine what is required. The forestry protection people tell us what they need and, in this case, the air services section provides those aircraft that they require.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister now, what is the flying record for the past twelve months? Have there been any aircraft accidents, accidents involving any injuries to personnel during the past twelve months?

**MR. BOSTROM:** There were no accidents of any major nature. There were some minor landing and/or takeoff mishaps which resulted in damage to machinery but to no persons, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. MCGILL:** I think the director and the administrators of the air service then should be

commended for carrying out what is often rather difficult flying under less-than-average weather conditions and to have a record of that type if certainly commendable.

**MR. BLAKE:** I have no further questions.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on the member's last comments, I thank him for his vote of confidence for the administration of the Air Division and the way in which the Air Division has been able to carry out its responsibilities in a fatality-free operation and I am informed by the Associate Deputy in this case that we are the only province in Canada or in fact including the States, all the states of the United States of America, that is with respect to air operations that are operated by the government that is fatality-free. And I believe that that record has been maintained by this operation for many, many years. I believe there is a plaque erected on the wall just down the hall from here which indicates the only fatality that has ever occurred in the entire history of the air service in Manitoba. Other than that, this operation has been fatality-free.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. James.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Honourable Minister — in the report on Table I, it showed the different miles flown for the various government departments and I was wondering how this arrangement works. If, say, the Department of Finance requires transportation services, does the department official contact someone in flight operations and they proceed to arrange the chartering of the flight or arrangement of the passenger on the flight? And then is that department billed for this service? Is there a tabulation taken at the end of the year and then that comes in as revenue?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the procedure in this case is that the official from the Department of Finance who requires an aircraft must receive the written authority from a director or above in his department to utilise the government aircraft or in fact to arrange for a charter, period. The official, once having that authority, then proceeds to request the necessary transportation from the flight co-ordinator of the Air Division operation. The flight co-ordinator then has the responsibility of obtaining the most economical and efficient means of providing that transportation. It could be a Manitoba Government Air Division aircraft or it could be a commercial charter that is contacted to supply the service, depending on the circumstances, the need and so on.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well then, Mr. Chairman, if I understand the Honourable Minister correctly, then if someone with the proper authority okays the trip, then that automatically allows the department to bill that particular department that is using the facility. Is that correct?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, that is correct and in each case the billings are handled through this department. The billing in the case of a Manitoba Government Air Service charter is the same as that handled by a private charterer. The bill would be handled and administered by this department and the billing would go directly to the department concerned for payment. The payment would be channeled back through Air Division to either Air Division directly or to the private charter that provides the service.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, also in the report it indicates that there was 34,900 miles flown on Skywest aircraft. I wonder, can the Minister advise what the value of those miles were in terms of dollars?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, is the honourable member asking what return we received for flying those hours?

**MR. MINAKER:** Yes, I am wondering, there must be a charge somewhere for this particular service and I am wondering what that amount costs the division.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there was a charge made on the basis of wages and expenses of Air Division personnel utilising these aircraft over that period, but I believe that much of this was associated with the training that was taking place with the Saunders aircrafts and that was part of the billing that I was discussing earlier which we have never received payment for.

**MR. MINAKER:** I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise us how many dollars this billing is.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 and the administrator is shaking his head in agreement. I could provide the accurate figure if such is desired.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, is it not correct that the Department of Industry and Commerce arranged that particular training program?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the training program was arranged through the Department of Industry and Commerce. This is the department that we sent the bill to. However, they were doing it on the basis that the department would receive reimbursement through their agreement with the Federal Government, which I understand the Federal Government later reneged on, which is part of the public record. I do not believe that we have actually received payment but it is a question of six of one and half-a-dozen of the other because if one government department shows the deficit or the other government department shows a deficit, it doesn't make that much difference to the total overall revenue of the departments.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot agree with the Minister in his last statement because if I understood him correctly earlier when he said that if someone with the proper authority requests flights or operation services with his department, that that particular department is invoiced and billed for that service. And I would presume that if somebody in Health or somebody in Finance requested your services, that you would bill them for it, regardless of what arrangement they had made with a third party. I am asking the Minister why he has not pursued this in respect to the fact that he is operating his own department to the best efficiency that he can and should therefore go after the Department of Industry and Commerce. And I would like to know why the Minister has not.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, we have indeed gone after Industry and Commerce and to date we have not received payment, as I indicated. It shows up in our accounts as Accounts Receivable and it will show up as such until such time as we either receive payment or we receive some word from Industry and Commerce or Cabinet in general that this account will not be paid, at which time we will either write it off or make whatever administrative decision is required to finalize the matter.

**MR. MINAKER:** Than I guess, Mr. Minister, if one followed the procedures with other departments as with the Industry and Commerce Department, that Table I then would be corrected for the amount of mileage showing under Industry and Commerce. Would that be correct?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe there was a separate line for Skywest if I am not mistaken. However, it may have been shown under Industry and Commerce. I am not sure on that one.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, under the report it says there were flight arrangements made for 23,008 passengers. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could advise us how many of these were paid passengers and how many were government employees?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the flights are normally billed to the department that is requesting a charter and if other government personnel are on the aircraft, the flight billing is prorated according to the number of people that are in the aircraft and the number of miles flown by the relevant staff in each case so that it would be quite a job to collect all of that information and to break it out as to who paid what for what miles and when and so on.

**MR. MINAKER:** I wonder if the Honourable Minister would have an idea of the percentage of non-government employees that use the air services?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, non-government employees are not allowed to use the service on a charter basis. There may be cases where non-government employees have accompanied government employees on flights.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well that is what I am asking, Mr. Chairman. Under the flight arrangements of the 23,000-plus passengers, how many would be non-government employees?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, it would be a very minor number and I do not have the figures here.

**MR. MINAKER:** Would the Minister be able to get those figures?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I believe they would be part of our record and I could indicate at least numbers in this case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 105(c)(1)(a)—pass. (1)(b) Other Expenditures—pass. (1)—pass. 105(c)(2) Maintenance Operations, (a) Salaries and Wages—pass. (2)(b) Other Expenditures—pass. (2)—pass. (3) Less Recoverables from Other Operations—pass. (c)—pass.

Resolution 105(d) Radio Services, (1) Salaries and Wages—pass. (2) Other Expenditures—pass. (3) Recoverables from Other Appropriations—pass. (d)—pass.

Resolution 105(e) Marine Transportation and Construction, (1) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** I was reluctant to ask a question, Mr. Chairman. There are quite a number of questions on this section I am sure that myself and other members want to ask. I brought the Black Island Road up. If the Minister could maybe give us a quick rundown on how much road was built and by whom.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the Black Island Road was built under the jurisdiction of my department. I believe it was 14.2 miles altogether, constructed under contract to a contractor by the name of Orbanski from Riverton. The contract was let on a regular basis through the tender process. He was the low tender in this case. The road was constructed last summer, completed I believe in October of last fall, and the total cost I believe was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$700,000 but I don't have the final figure here. I could provide that for the honourable member.

**MR. BLAKE:** Does this include the docking facilities on both ends?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, this did not include the docking facilities on either end of the island although there were some temporary docking facilities made by the contractor for his own use for getting equipment on and off the island and so on.

**MR. The docking BLAKE:** facilities haven't been completed yet, then? They will be completed

**MR. BOSTROM:** The docking facilities will probably be completed this summer if everything falls

into place and we are able to provide a kind of service there that we hope to be able to provide.

**MR. BLAKE:** The docking facilities, will they be tendered for public tender?

**MR. BOSTROM:** No, Mr. Chairman, no, these would not be tendered. They are minor projects that would be carried out by departmental personnel.

**MR. BLAKE:** I wanted to question the Minister on some of the barging. There were some problems with tendering or not tendering on the initial contracts and I wonder if . . . I know the barges are under construction now and if the department has a firm policy on future barge construction, if they will go to tender, accept a tender.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to questions in the House last year on this issue, we had some estimates from marine architects and so on that were putting together the plans for the department for proposals that we had for the barges. These were put to tender. The tenders that came in were much higher than the estimates of the department and it was decided during the session last year not to proceed with the construction. It was originally intended to try to construct them last year in time for open water season. Given that these tenders came in at such a high price, it was decided to at least postpone, if not in fact abandon, the project. Over the summer I looked at various alternatives, finally arriving at a decision to retender the entire works. There were two main ferries that were tendered, one on a sectional basis which was to be constructed in sections in a shop, moved to site in the north, and welded together on site for launching in Split Lake. The other was to be launched on Lake Winnipeg. Again, Mr. Chairman, the tenders that came in were very high and unacceptable to the department. The sub-committee of Cabinet that looked at these tenders instructed my department to look at the tenderer in each case and attempt to go back to each one respectively and negotiate with them to build these barges for a lower price. That is the instructions that I gave to the Associate Deputy Minister of the department who undertook to negotiate with the low tenderer in each case. Mr. Chairman, the negotiations were satisfactory in that the tenderer in each case agreed to lower their price on the final construction of these ferries. And I don't have the actual figures in front of me, but I believe that the one barge was let for approximately \$380,000 for construction. The other was about \$375,000, I believe. And in each case these final prices that were arrived at through negotiation were lower than the tenders and I believe that the procedure was carried out properly in that it was an open process in that these tenderers were informed that the tenders that they submitted were not acceptable and that we expected them to be able to build these ferries at a lower price than they had offered through the tender process. And as I say, we were able to bring them down in their final estimates to the department, contracts were signed on that basis and the two ferries in question are now under construction, one by Purvis Navcon in Selkirk and the other by Riverton Boat Works in Riverton. We expect that they will be completed, ready for the open water season, one will be launched in Lake Winnipeg, the other in Split Lake.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. In accordance with Rule 19(2) I am interrupting the proceedings of the committee for Private Members' Hour, to return to the Chair at 8:00 p.m.

### ESTIMATES - HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. William Jenkins (Logan):** I refer honourable members to Page 30 of their Estimates Book, Department of Health and Social Development. Resolution 60(j) Community Field Services (1) Salaries \$9,592,000—pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, changing somewhat the tone of discussion of last night, I'd like to come back to some specific questions in relation to the activity the Public Health Nursing Program. The Minister would recall that I raised a question in the House about three weeks ago concerning the activity of Public Health Nurses in investigating standards and making visits into guest homes for senior citizens, and other accommodations where their clients, people that they deal with, reside. I believe the Minister at that time responded that he was going to investigate why there seemed to be rules or guidelines given that they shouldn't go into such places and that he would instruct his department to enquire into what in fact are the conditions and standards in these place.

I'm wondering if he at this stage has any progress to report on those enquiries and can indicate exactly and perhaps more thorough detail what exactly is the kind of instructions given to Public Health Nurses in relation to these guest home type of arrangements for senior citizens.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**HONOURABLE LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface):** Mr. Chairman, I believe that I stated at the time, if I didn't I will do so now. If we are talking about Personal Care Homes it is not the responsibility of the Health Nurse but the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and that is taken care of.

Now, the concern with the guest home, the people are in effect paying for board and room and certain care. They were supposed to get this care. Now my concern, when it was raised by my honourable friend that apparently this wasn't the case. So I have directed our people not to exclude them, if there was a need, and this is a temporary order as I stated previously. We are in the process of setting up the office of Residential Care that will be looking at that. We are also meeting with the other



committee that will meet with the City of Winnipeg and so on to look at the licensing of these guest homes.

It is now the responsibility of the city, but we are getting together to see if that could be done. There is certainly a lack in that area, and as I say, we are discussing this with the City of Winnipeg.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I think what I would like to know more explicitly is, has the Minister rescinded the order that Public Health Nurses are not supposed to go in these places, are they now visiting senior citizens in these homes and providing the kind of attention that should be given to them? And if they are now visiting them are they also beginning to prepare reports on the actual conditions that exist in these places so that we would have some assessment

. whether the claims made about unhealthy living conditions are in fact accurate.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, no, at this time they have not been instructed to start investigating the conditions in the nursing home. The only rescinding that I have done is that if there is need and if there is a request for home care that should be looked at the way it is for any other request, and it should not be denied if there is need.

There is another group, as I said, a committee chaired by my Deputy Minister who is discussing the whole situation with the City of Winnipeg. The City of Winnipeg is responsible for the licensing of these homes at this time and this is what we are looking at to see if it is feasible.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Just really one further set of questions' Mr. Chairman' in this area. It is my understanding that much of the discovery or revelation, if you like, of this particular condition came about as a result of the work of several of the external agencies that are supported by the department now. I know that comessomewhat further down the line. But I would really want to know whether in fact the involvement of groups like the Nor'West Co-Op Health Centre and the Health Action Group and the Klinik Group and Mount Carmel, in terms of their Community Outreach Programs, in fact are being included as part of this discussion that is being done, part of this reorganizing or whatever it is, to begin investigating the problem in addition to the City of Winnipeg. In other words, is it a much more combined kind of approach involving external agencies as well?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** What is being done at this time is to study the responsibility for licensing and visiting and setting up the standards, that is done with the City of Winnipeg at this time; and later on I would imagine that when we are talking about delivering the services, if any, well then the other organization I would imagine will be called in, too.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN:** I wonder if the Minister can tell me just exactly under which programs this relates to the Mental Health and the Mental Retardation Services.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we can have some co-operation here. I think that practically every item it's been more or less like the Minister's salary and then we're talking about the same thing at times for two or three days in a row; and I answer questions; and I'm asked the same questions repeatedly. It is very difficult and we'll never finish at this rate.

My honourable friend could look at the copy of his Estimates. On Page 31, Psychiatric Services and (d) and (e) Institutional Mental Health Services, and I would imagine that most of his questions on the Mental Health could be posed at that time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to come back under this section to again some questions that were raised two or three weeks ago by my colleague from Assiniboia, concerning the assessment made by Dr. T.M. Roulston who is head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Health Sciences Centre, which were pretty astounding figures from the point of view of what they demonstrated in the way of conditions of children in the province. He indicated 30 percent of the children, according to his estimate, live in poverty; and that about 76 percent of the single parent mothers are on welfare; and the conclusion he draws is, as a result, there are a number of children living in what could be fairly difficult conditions and perhaps suffering a number of health problems and he does relate that back to some of the problems that are being treated.

His recommendation, amongst many, is that there be a much more active pursuit of family planning information, techniques, etc., both through the schools and through other means of providing that information. I'm just really again curious, Mr. Chairman, about whether the department has taken advantage — that's probably the wrong phrasing — taken account of these kinds of statements made by Dr. Roulston to determine first whether the condition he describes is in fact true; and if they are it really represents a very serious social health problem in this province; one which I certainly wasn't aware of. I don't expect most people in the province are aware of One that is particularly susceptible I would think to treatment from the Community Field Agency Type Service Program, and it would strike me that a very special kind of targeting and attack must be made upon this problem; and again I would really like first the Minister to confirm whether in fact this assessment is a fair one; and if it is a fair one what in fact is the department doing to mobilize its variety of

community field workers, health nurses, etc., to really begin tackling this thing to see if we can do something of eliminating it or certainly reducing it from the proportions that he describes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Dr. Roulston is one of the members of the Advisory Committee on Maternal and Child Health Care. There is a number of experts in that field. They have been quite active and I believe that his recommendation should come through this committee. This committee is an advisory committee mostly to the Manitoba Health Services Commission and also to myself.

As far as family planning, I think I stated this before, I had a meeting with the Family Planning Association of Manitoba. During the course of the meeting they offered to help the Provincial Government review its policy and try and set up another policy that might be considered by the department and the government and be approved.

I asked them if they would be ready to still participate and serve as an advisory committee if this group was enlarged — because I think that Family Planning is something . . . I think that there are different ways of looking at that, there is the religious involvement, and there's a lot of emotion, many factors, and I for one would not want to set up a policy that cannot be used by all Manitobans.

I don't say that necessarily they would have to use, but that could not be used. So this is being done. We have taken the trouble to — and this was before this article of Dr. Roulston's by the way — we have started discussing that with certain groups in view of finding out if they were interested in suggesting somebody for that committee. Most of that is done now. I worked most of the morning on that. I haven't got all the information, the people that will be invited, the different groups. Most of them have accepted and I would hope that in the very near future the membership of that committee will be finalized. Some of them have already been chosen. We received names, as I say, from different associations, and these associations are being notified now that we've accepted their names, and as I say there was a request from the Native Ladies' Association and so on, and the Metis, so they are being invited. So I would imagine that there should be a committee of approximately 15 people or so that would be starting their work fairly soon.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I think I'm pleased to hear what the Minister said. I'm not sure what the exact purpose of the committee is to do, though. I guess I'm a little suspicious of always setting up committees to solve problems, but I'm not denying that perhaps in this instance because I agree with the Minister this area is a very sensitive one.

What I would be more satisfied with, however, is if the Minister could indicate to the House whether these figures concerning the condition of many children in the province are in fact close to being accurate — and I'm not trying to engage in raising scare tactics, but I do think that the proportions certainly stifled me. When I saw them I was really pretty startled — and if in fact the recommendation of the Family Planning seminars or dissemination is in fact the answer, I don't know. I'm not an expert in this. I don't pretend to have any pet solution to offer the Minister, but this is what he seemed to suggest, that there seemed to be a much more active program in the schools to inform youngsters, I guess, that children come about when you — well, we don't know how they come about' and how to prevent that.

I'm just wondering again, going back to the activities of different members of these Field Service departments, whether there has been any attempt to ascertain from them the voracity of these assessments made by Dr. Roulston; and if so then to develop their own particular program, whether it means undertaking any kind of special mobilization of efforts that would be in response to it in other than family planning ways. I can just recall comments that were made to me when we were discussing last night inner city problems. A group of community workers who work really in the west end part of the city spoke about how they had just come back after doing a door by door tour and found really an increasingly large number of children totally unattended. There were no parents home at all, you know, five, six, seven year old children at home without anybody looking after them or on the streets. Again' I'm wondering whether maybe some extra special mobilization of effort might be called for at this time, just to come to grips with this thing

' in addition to the committee work. So I would again ask him, what are the terms of reference of the committee and what kind of time have we set on it, what do we expect to have come from the committee? And, secondly, what in terms of the work of the Field Services themselves is being done to assess the problem, come up with the accuracy on it and then take some steps to respond to it?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that I am not satisfied with what is being done in the department or we would not be reviewing the policy. We now have some information which has been made available that our people in the field are giving out to the family, and of course our counsellors and social workers and so on are discussing the problems with the people involved.

As far as the committee is concerned, as I stated, this was a suggestion at a meeting that I had with the Family Planning Association of Manitoba. It was suggested to me that Manitoba should review this policy and this is where they made the offer to work with us on that, I suggested that I wanted to enlarge the committee. This was accepted. As far as education, I have invited — by the way, they have

not answered me yet — but I have invited my colleague, the Minister of Education, to send somebody from his department. I thought that he would want to avail himself of the information. Most of the associations, it is the first time around, I must admit that all of them except my colleague have answered — we have the names — except that when I did mention that we were setting up this committee, other organizations came to us and asked if they could participate. Of course I'm not looking for groups now that are advocating that are very militant, very active either in the pro-life or pro-abortionists, these are not the people that I'm inviting at this time. I'm inviting mostly the religious groups and the people that are concerned in the overall thing.

I would hope that the policy, certainly something that will be in the terms of reference, will not be a question of a majority report, it will be a consensus. I can tell you now that as far as I am concerned unless we can have overall, an umbrella group that will be wanting to seek the same means of family planning, but by accepted methods, two different groups. Unless there is some kind of a consensus — I don't mean that everybody will have to do the same thing, but a form of funding and a form of working together — I doubt if the provincial government will move in that direction. If these people can have some kind of a consensus where they can have the same results by the means that their group, their people, their supporters would accept, then we will certainly move in that direction.

Now the terms of reference will be to look at the present policy, the policy of funding; also who we're funding, who we should fund, and to try to have a group of people that would be recognized as giving us expertise in this field and maybe set up some kind of a permanent or standing committee that could assist in this area. There'll be a lot of leeway, a lot of flexibility for the committee to report. Now I expect it's very difficult during the Estimates — as I say, I've spent the greater part of the morning on this to finalize the number of people and get in touch with those that haven't been contacted officially yet. This is being done right now. The letters are being prepared and within a couple of weeks or so we should have the committee ready to go and there'll be an announcement made at that time with the full terms of reference.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow on that with a question that I'm not exactly sure how to put it in the proper way. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that considering the seriousness of the situation, and considering that really the one group of people who seem to have, at least theoretically, access to or contact with the large numbers of young girls in particular who are, according to Dr Roulston, the ones who become harried with unwanted pregnancies. Is there a basic departmental position, in terms of the kind of guidance or instruction that a social worker, the public health nurse who may be dealing with someone in a situation in terms of recommending for abortion, to recommending where they go for these kind of treatments? Is it left up to the individual discretion of the workers? Are they told not to say anything at all? What do we do now in the sense of the kind of advice, counselling and information that is given, considering that this is really the only point of connection and interface between those who may have some knowledge and consideration and those who may simply be looking for answers? I don't know if there is any position taken but I think it would be useful to know what does take place presently now in those particular relationships and whether the Minister or the government has provided any instruction to these community field workers in their different capacities in this very difficult and very sensitive issue, but one which is very important nonetheless.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I can assure my honourable friend that the department is not certainly promoting abortion or discouraging at this time. We have the federal laws to go by. Much of the expertise counselling is done by private groups or independent groups, and they are going ahead. The funding has been something very difficult. My choice, what I have mentioned to these people, is Mount Carmel Clinic, for instance; or if there's a counsellor that closes the door and might advocate abortion there is not too much that we can do on this. Where at St. Boniface Hospital there might be another counsellor who will have a different method. These people up to now have not been financed by the government because they are promoting certain views that are accepted by some and not accepted by others. There is no doubt that some people are very militant on both sides, and this is exactly the main reason why this committee was set up to see if we could arrive at something. They are all representative. "we'll have a vote and the majority will decide what the report will be." They will be directed to try to arrive at something, to achieve something by different means, means that will be acceptable by their supporters and so on. If that could be done then we could see how the financing will be done.

As far as the information that we have from Ottawa, we have received some information. This is available at the department and we proceed with that now.

As my honourable friend knows, this is a very delicate subject. I have my views as an individual and I'm also responsible as Minister of Health, so I have to be careful what I say. I would much sooner that other means would be used instead of abortion and I think that in many instances that could be done. I think the people should not be automatically told they should have an abortion. I think they should realize what they can do with the child, either keep the child or . . . That depends on the different associations that are in this business and I think my honourable friend knows that the advice

is quite varied.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN:** Thank you. I agree that this is of grave concern, I believe, to everybody in Manitoba. I wonder if the Minister could make the communication that he received from Ottawa, whether he could make it available to us. —(Interjection)— Well, you just mentioned that you had received some communication. I read in one of the papers a couple of days ago that Ottawa was going to get together with the provinces to discuss this very thing, and also I thought they were going to send out a memorandum of some kind. It was in regard to this particular problem anyhow. But I think if we're going to wait to come up with a plan that is going to be suitable for all of Manitoba we're going to be spending many years at this and we will be getting absolutely nowhere.

I wonder if the government would not be able to come out with some guidelines and send these out to the individual school districts and have them try to co-ordinate some kind of program in just exactly what manner they would like to have this topic dealt with. I believe that that way we might be able to get something started much sooner than if we were going to try to come up with a program that is going to accommodate everybody in the province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(j)(1)—pass; (j)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,226,700—pass? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** I wonder if the Minister can give us a breakdown of these Other Expenditures?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I can't. The breakdown — I think we've discussed that quite a bit — is 42 pages that deal with all the different areas of the province. I've already given the staff man years; there is no way that I can start breaking down. I've given you the staff, the breakdown asked for staff and we've had a long discussion of what these people do. I don't know what will be done by the breakdown and I haven't got it here. There are 42 pages. It is Internal Administration. I think that whatever is germane here to the discussion has been given.

**MR. SPEAKER:** (j)(2)—pass; (j)(3) Patient air transportation \$1,000,000.00. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, last year's amount shown is \$690,000.00. Is that the total amount spent last year in this particular operation?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, that is what was voted. We spent quite a bit in excess of that. —(Interjection)— The year is not finished. I think it will be in excess of a million dollars.

**MR. BILTON:** Would the Minister say a million and a half dollars?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, not that much.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** . The Honourable Member for Wolesley

**MR. WILSON:** This Patient Air Service, I wonder if the Minister could explain. Is this for doctor visits? Are relatives included? How many relatives can come with them — just explain the program. I mean, not your relatives, I mean relatives of the people.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** . . . for a reunion, 15 or 20 usually. No, Mr. Chairman. This is the program that I guess you've heard so much about. There have been some guidelines set out, approximately 1974 when it was first announced. I think that then they threw the announcement away and it became a program by practice. It was very difficult to administer. We were financing it. Our department was financing it. It was administered by the Northern Affairs through the Government Air Services. This came to our attention and I was requested by Cabinet to set up a committee of people. There were requests by people of the north to look at the whole situation. I'm very pleased to say that they've done that work. I invited a representation from the College of Physicians, one from MARN, the nurses' association, one from the MMA; and there were a couple of administrators and somebody from our department from the Northern Affairs in the Health Services Commission. I just received Friday, late afternoon, a copy of the report that I intend to make public later on. Once we've had a study on it, there'll be a recommendation going to Cabinet to change — there's a lot of things that have to be changed. The administration would have to be tied up. I think it will not only be air transportation but other methods. There are different recommendations on utilization, utilization fees, escorts, third party recovery, legal responsibility. A policy of the government will be coming out very soon.

**MR. WILSON:** My limited experience in the area was, of course, the problems we had on Dominion Street, and through that I was able to gather information. It seems that what the Minister is saying is that some of the charges that we leveled — and he said the program started in '74 and up until this year there were problems with escorts. By that I mean people coming down from the North, who really — I guess we could call it non-essential visits. There would be one person who would be in for a check-up and would have relatives come along with them. The thing was that it seems that they were flying into airports, for instance St. Andrews, and from there they would take a taxi to a particular home in Winnipeg. I remember talking to a Mr. Fulham, from the Kinew Housing and they had sought to have the federal government in conjunction — in fact the federal government — apparently CMHC had agreed to them buying an older apartment block near the hospital, and the only thing they were

asking the —(Interjection)— Yeah' well this is part of it because it's the cost, it's the related cost. Because what we were doing, according to many people we were wasting money because it didn't make sense that we didn't have a facility near the Health Sciences Centre because you were housing all these people in homes scattered throughout the city. They had the ability to take taxis everywhere and the result ensuing costs were astronomical. It was felt that, why should these people have to travel miles by taxi to the hospital when if they were coming into the city for a visit they could be housed near the Health Sciences Centre; and the request by the Native people who were going to get the building supplied by the federal government — the only thing they asked the Minister was for the cost of a Janitor and maintenance service and it was rejected. Now basically, if we're going to continue with the million-dollar program of bringing people in from the north, Native and otherwise, we should look at the fact that this program is going to be a continuing one — a review in planning — and say what is going to be best in the long run. I think a particular facility near the Health Sciences Centre is the answer.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, this program does not allow for any ground transportation and it never did up till now. This is not the case. I had an example from one of the members of our caucus who brought something to my attention — there was supposed to be an abuse — and after investigation it was found that this was a federal program, we're not talking about the ambulance service but some of these taxis, people that were sent here. This is not the nature of the program at all; it is just for transportation from the north to hospitals here. This doesn't include what my honourable friend has been saying.

**MR. WILSON:** Could I have the Minister possibly correct that. He said, "transportation to the hospitals here." If they land in Lockport, how do they get from Lockport to where they're going to reside and then on to the hospital?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Why would they land in Lockport in the first place?

**MR. WILSON:** Well, if they were to land at St. Andrews Airport, how would they get to the hospital? Would you absorb the cost of that? You say "from the north to the hospital." Who would pay that cost?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Why would they land at St. Andrews?

**MR. WILSON:** Well, that's where the particular Midwest airfield is, I believe.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** . . . the service. I don't know of anybody that is landing there; they're landing at the airport here and I repeat, the land transportation is not included. It's not been included in any case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Chairman, I do wish to raise a question with the Minister on this point here, the Patient Air Transportation and my concern is not that we're spending too much, my concern is by withdrawing the air transportation services — and there was some indication last fall or just before Christmas and even the Member for Thompson got extremely upset and I know we had communications from quite a few —(Interjection)— The Minister of Labour says he gets upset too.

I know our caucus had communication from many people in Northern Manitoba that were really concerned because there was some indication that the government would be or may be withdrawing that air transportation and to me, Mr. Chairman, I think it's a most important issue or this item because I believe the people in Northern Manitoba when they need emergency surgery — and who are we talking about, we're talking about somebody that needs medical attention — and I don't believe that this person will receive Patient Air Transportation without a doctor's recommendation. I'm sure the doctor wants to put him on the plane and wants to send him to Winnipeg otherwise he wouldn't be coming here. So my concern isn't that this person is wasting the taxpayers money because if there wouldn't be a serious situation involved, if it wouldn't concern a patient who may be disabled or he may be aged or he may be very poor, whoever it may be, but the point is that he is not going on his own volition. I think the point is that the doctor says he needs emergency services, he has to be in Winnipeg in a certain type of an institution, a facility for either an operation or an examination or something, so he doesn't get him this transportation himself and brings his family. I think the point is that the doctor sends him and I think it's . . . perhaps the Minister can give us some indication . . . / if anything, my opinion would be the program should be expanded instead of curtailed.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think my honourable friend was listening a few minutes ago because I did state that there was a policy set out when the program started in 1974 and there has been some abuse in certain areas probably because the administration wasn't tight enough, then there was a re-statement of the same policy and this was what caused the furor because these policies were not adhered to in many instances. I would like to be able to agree with my honourable friend that it is very simple that a doctor would just sign a document when there is time. It doesn't work exactly like that. There has been some abuse. There probably always will be abuse when there is a government program like that but there is a committee exactly to look at that. Everything has

been left in abeyance, the way it has been working. We've had a committee, as I stated, that had brought in a very good report from what I saw of it yesterday and by the way, this report will later on be made available to the public and to the members of this House. That committee has made certain recommendations to do away with some of the abuse and so on and the department will use this report to prepare a recommendation that will go to the Cabinet. When it is approved, of course, it will become policy.

One of the things that might happen is that this might be part of an Act. There is nothing like that at all, so you have a set of guidelines and so on and somebody else will interpret it in a different way and it starts getting away from you. It certainly did get away from what it was intended to be in 1974 and this is why we're reviewing it. I would suspect and I'm speaking for myself, I haven't the authority to speak for the Cabinet at this time, that it will be somewhat enlarged.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to ask the Minister a question or two on this patient air transportation, realizing, of course, that maybe the information that I would like to garner from the Minister may more properly be an Order for Return. But I want to assure the Minister that I'm not after detailed information; I just want a rough breakdown and I would like to know: What percentage of the air transportation is provided by the Government Air Services; what percentage is from commercial airlines and what percentage is from chartered? Just rough figures, if the Minister could give me a rough indication of that.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I haven't this information for the very good reason that I was not responsible or my department was not responsible for the administration of this program. We were funding the program; we paid the bills after everything happened and I'm not too concerned about what happened then. I think that the report is a good one and I think that the report points out first of all that the name should be changed. It shouldn't be just air transportation, I think other methods have to be used and also I think that it goes without saying that we should use a common carrier as much as possible and only when sometime there's an emergency, then you'll use a government plane. It is certainly my intention to make that recommendation, in fact I didn't have a chance to really study the document but everything I've seen, I like.

I think that they're talking about tightening the administration, bringing the administration under one area, either a department but not two or three different groups administering that. As I say, I think that we can tighten this thing up and get more for our money than what we've been getting in the past. I can't go in more details than that; I haven't got the details. Up to now, certainly I have not been responsible for this program except the financing and as I say, there will be a policy paper that will come out to Cabinet and that will be announced in due course, as soon as possible.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, the reason I raised the question was that in some of my talks with people who have been involved in this, it's been brought to my attention and I've never taken the opportunity to check it out as to whether or not it is a true fact but I have been told that in emergency cases, in adverse weather conditions or late hours of the night in some of the very remote areas, that because the flying conditions don't meet the standards set up by the Government Air Service, that under those very severe and trying circumstances, that is when the chartered air service is used. I think it's a tribute to those that are in the charter service that they have rendered that service for the people of the north and for the Province of Manitoba under very adverse conditions and I think that I would just like to, at this time, pay tribute to those that fly, whether they fly Government Air Service, commercial service or charter, who have done the emergency rescue service that is an necessary component of our northern health program and I think that every member of the Legislature would like to really join with me in paying tribute to those that do risk so much to serve others in society.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(j)(3). The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** If I might ask the Minister, under this item, I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether or not he receives funds from the Federal Government for those patients under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This is another area that was looked at by the Cabinet and I would not include only the Federal Government, I would include all third party recovery. This in many instances was not followed through, there were many dollars lost and we're looking at that. I'm getting a legal opinion also to see where we stand on that. The Federal Government if they approve the bill, it's always after the fact though, of course, they send us a cheque. We haven't had too much trouble with the Federal Government we've had with other people in the area who previously were accepting the responsibility, including some of our own departments or Crown Corporations here in the province.

**MR. BILTON:** This, Mr. Minister, is available to all people regardless of their means in that country, bringing them out by air, in the event of an emergency?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There's no means test, no.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(j)(3)—pass. 60(j)(4) — External Agencies \$2,982,500 — pass? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** . . . if the Minister can identify the external agencies?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The City of Winnipeg, there's a grant for the City of Winnipeg for operating the Inner City Health Department that is, \$1,582,700.00. This appropriation essentially deals with the outreach or field services portion of the community health centres developed over the past five years on an experimental basis. Total estimates of the operation of these centres will be dealt with later on under the Manitoba Health Services Commission Estimates. With the exception of the three Winnipeg centres, that is, Mount Carmel Clinic and Klinik and the Citizen's Health Action Centre, the balance of community health centres simply deliver some field services for specific geographic areas on behalf of the department. These field services were transferred to the jurisdiction of community boards and are considered as a field component of health care units which may include hospital and/or personal care homes and/or medical clinical services. The rural centres in operation include Gladstone, Seven Regions Health Centre, Hamiota, Leaf Rapids, Lac du Bonnet, Churchill and Vita. The three centres in Winnipeg: Mount Carmel, Citizens' Health Action and Klinik as yet do not deliver services on behalf of the Department. They have a somewhat different origin than the rural community health centres and provide a somewhat different mix of services than the other centres. As I mentioned earlier, the details of the total budget for all of these centres will be covered

Now under the MHSC, just the Outreach portion is funded here so I'll give you that. Seven Regions Health Centre is \$114,100; Hamiota Health Centre — \$32,300; Leaf Rapids District Health Centre — \$137,800; Lac du Bonnet District Health Centre — \$95,400; Churchill Health Centre — \$388,200; Mount Carmel Clinic — \$379,500; Klinik — \$181,500; Citizen Health Action — \$49,000; Vita Health Centre — \$22,000 for a total of \$1,399,800 plus the City of Winnipeg which gives you the amount that you see in front of you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(j)(4)— Pass: 60(k) General Purpose Grants \$662,500 — Pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** I wonder if the Minister, rather than passing this might give us an indication of what the nature of the specific grants have been under this program. Are they dealing with medical research or is it grants more to community outreach agencies? Maybe he could specify that.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes I can give this information. There's the Canadian Association in Support of Native People — that's the general purpose grant in support of the Association's objective in activities. There's the Canadian Council for the Blind — \$100, general purpose grants in support of Council activities; Canadian Council for Social Development — \$8,500, general purpose grant in support of the Council's objectives on a national basis; the \$200, Last Post Fund — general purpose grant to assist in the administration costs associated with the burial of indigent veterans; Social Planning Council of Winnipeg — \$35,000, a grant in recognition of the objective and activities of the Council in the area of social welfare and community needs and the public and private voluntary sectors in Winnipeg; The Winnipeg Council for Self-Help — \$10,000, a general purpose grant for an organization concerned in trying to improve conditions of people receiving welfare assistance and those on low income by encouraging citizen participation, self-education and personal and social action regarding grievance; Canadian Diabetic Association — a grant to help the Association to provide diabetics with information and health education concerning the detection and treatment of diabetes and that amount is \$1,000; Lunch and After School program — \$61,100, care and nutrition in developmental group setting during lunch hour and after school care provided in five centres for 120 kindergartens and school age children. At present these families are now ineligible for subsidy under the Child Day Care Program.

The province had made a commitment on continuing support to those centres in operation when the provincial program was initiated. These centres are Fort Rouge Child Care Programs Board, Lord Roberts Child Care, St. Matthews-Maryland Child Care, Westminster Children's Care and Windsor Park Children's Care Centre.

The Indian and Metis Organization — grants in support of nine Indian-Metis Friendship Centres, the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres. Friendship Centres are located in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage, Selkirk, Swan River, The Pas, Winnipeg and Lynn Lake. That is \$366,900.00.

There's miscellaneous project \$20,000 — that's some of the largest requests received annually which receive support not otherwise provided. This might be some of the late ones that are coming in. Manitoba Indian Brotherhood — \$130,800, a grant support to the Brotherhood aims and activities on behalf of the Indian people. Grants are paid on instruction of the executive council, the negotiation, there's a committee, sub-committee of Cabinet.

The Old Grace Hospital Mortgage — that's provision for loan payment on mortgage assumed on the purchase of the old Grace Hospital, that's that's the one that's not used any more — Old Grace is \$28,100 for a total of \$662,500.00.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I'm glad the Minister read out the list. There's a number of interesting questions that arise out of that particular group of agencies that receive support. The first question I would have relates to the \$10,000 grant to the Council of Self-Help Groups. Press reports of a few weeks back indicated that they have received . word that they will no longer be supported, or

would not be receiving a grant.

**A MEMBER:** ... the United Way.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, if the Minister is right then that the United Way is self-supporting, is there any additional compensation that will be coming from this department or would the grant program be staying the same for this particular council?

I think the Minister indicates, Mr. Chairman, that it will stay the same. I wouldn't want him to rise to his feet just to answer that.

Let me then raise a question which is one I think of some importance, and that is the Lunch and After School Program. We have now been supporting — I think this is, well since I guess the four years I've been in the House — this is the fourth year where the program has remained the same. The purposes of it are set up to assist primarily working mothers, working people, whose children need care beyond the school hours. As is often discovered the schools go from nine to three, people tend to work from eight till five, and there are many important spaces in between when there isn't any support when they are away from the home.

The problems that concern me first — Pardon me — the Luncheon After School Program. That in the Lunch and After School Program I believe there's four that receive \$35,000 I think was the combined total? Is that what it was, \$60,000? \$61,000. To begin with, Mr. Chairman, I think first the grant has stayed almost static in terms of this department, therefore the services rely upon a high degree of contribution by parents and volunteers which I think is a good thing. But certainly the costs have not kept up with the inflationary prices that are having to be paid in many of these programs.

A second problem is that the programs are not funded to provide service during the summer months which is fundamentally illogical considering that the program was set up in a large part to provide services to working parents; and working parents don't have the same holiday — they don't get a two-month holiday like school children do — and yet for some reason or other the grant does not supply funds to continue the programs over the summer months. As a result, every year there's an horrendous scramble for LIP grants and make-work things to try to make do for that two-month period in between. It just doesn't seem to me, Mr. Chairman — I heard the First Minister last night wax fairly eloquent about his commitment to provide additional resources for particular problems in the city and that they just had a Cabinet submission of a million dollars which I later gathered was only \$400,000; but nonetheless it would seem to me that considering that the work that is being done to the Lunch and After School Program, that this particular illogical absurdity could be rectified simply if a Minister lay claim to some of those funds that the First Minister is now talking about to support the Lunch and After School Program.

A third element to that and perhaps one that is even more serious, it may be that we can examine it later in the Day Care Program, but this June there will be a new graduating class in Manitoba, that would be the graduands of the Day Care Program, meaning children that were introduced into the program about two years ago when Day Care really first got started, are now going to be reaching the age where they will be going to school. Unfortunately in many respects, the availability of those additional services to provide care for children during the lunch period and after school period, are not available. So all of a sudden you have a number of children who will be coming out of the Day Care Program, many people who have set up a new pattern of working as a consequence of the Day Care Program, all of a sudden are now going to be forced into the scramble for private baby sitters, make-work projects or putting emphasis back on the schools.

I can indicate to the Minister just by way of some testimony to that, that in a school in my own riding I've helped to set up what could be called a Community School Project which tries to provide those additional services through the school and the first week it opened there were 40 children in the lunch program. Again, it's being funded through a LIP grant and that will probably come to an end in June and they have to start all over again.

But the fact of the matter is there is a very strong demonstrated need for those particular services. It doesn't seem to be that the government has made any attempts to refine it or develop it or even to recognize that there are a number of fairly illogical and abhorrent kinds of — curious really, I guess, more than anything else — attitudes towards this particular program. They've got these four things kind of hanging out there dangling on a fairly thin string and they're neither betwixt nor between, they haven't incorporated it as part of a regular program. They're still being forced into the grantsmanship game' and I think the service is very well demonstrated, so I'd really like to have it clarified if the government intends to make any decisions about what they're going to do on Lunch and After School Programs, both in terms of maintenance over the summer months and in particular considering that a number of the children who have now been in the Day Care Program will be requiring that same kind of services once they get into the regular school program where there is not lunch or after school services available.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, this is the debate that we had last year. I wish to repeat this explanation that this was a sort of a pilot project of this department and if there is going to be any expansion of this policy it will be through the Department of Education who have a certain program.



This is not enlarged, this is just going on for the time being until a policy is determined, if any. It is not the intention of the department anyway to go into this. It would be going through the Department of Education.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister indicates that he is transferring responsibility or using the vernacular —(Interjection)— well, now, wait a minute. Let's get things clear. The Department of Health and Social Development funds pilot projects, there's no argument about that. Presumably the purpose of a pilot project is to demonstrate something, to prove whether it's good or bad, to prove whether it serves or doesn't serve. A pilot project is not there for its own sake. It's there to demonstrate something, to prove something, to show something, to determine whether there is a need that needs to be fulfilled.

Now I assume, after four years, we could probably make some pretty fair conclusions as to whether the program is providing a service or not. My own conclusion is that it very clearly is, but it's up to the department I suppose to make the case on whatever monitoring they've been doing.

But now what we're saying is, that I would suggest that the time has come to make a decision or get off the pot, and if it means transferring it to the schools then I would assume — it's a vernacular. I don't wish to burn the ears of the Member for St. Johns by using common street language, I know that he's not accustomed to such a vernacular, that's right. It is however, part of the dictionary of English usages, I think I've seen it contained in that. In any event from that distraction, Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that the service that has been provided and demonstrated through the pilot project, the Minister is quite right, it probably should belong as part of the educational program. However, the educational funds which we just debated in Estimates a week or so ago does not include anything, and in fact there is no financial assistance for so-called nursery school programs or Lunch and After School Programs.

But it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that those who are providing this service, those who are on these projects, are really kind of getting caught between two departments and that they are a little bit like a badminton shuttlecock being bandied back and forth.

I really suggest, Mr. Chairman, the time is, is to make a decision to go forward with this, and I don't care which department does it, but it seems to me that if not, then there is going to be kind of a lemming-like movement over the cliff as all those kids are coming out of Day Care programs, and also they're going to fall over the precipice because there will be no pick-up in the public school program. I think it's a real dereliction of program continuity or responsibility to have children and their parents becoming used to a certain degree of service through Day Care and then all of a sudden cutting it off at the age five because the schools themselves are not prepared to pick it up. I'd certainly support an introduction of that kind of system on a wider scale in those schools where the service is required. But right now I don't think the Minister can get off the hook by saying, it's the Department of Education that should be doing it, because they're not doing it now. —(Interjection)—

Well, Mr. Chairman, the last I heard the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Development were part of the same government and I assume that they talk together from time to time. I don't know what their personal relations are, but I assume that they share the same party mantle, they're in the same Cabinet room from time to time, that they may even get together — who knows for a little get-together over lunch once in awhile. It would therefore strike me that one can't say it's their tough luck and not mine if they don't go ahead. The fact is that we're not talking about departmental empires autonomies, we're talking about a program. I think, Mr. Chairman, that's what we should be concerned about it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health on a point of order.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** On a point of order. My honourable friend knows very well that it has never been the custom in this House for a Minister to answer and to defend other people's programs or talk about priorities for another Minister. I think I've got enough in my department without having to answer for another department. I'm not getting off the hook, it's very clear. If this goes through it will not go in this department, and we're not on the hook at all. It was a pilot project to see how the project would work. It was a pilot project to see where best the administration would be. I think that there was a lot to learn on that and also because of that program it was felt, in the priorities, that the government would go in Day Care, and there was no Day Care Program when this started.

So if my honourable friend wants to know what the future of this program will be, he will have to discuss with the Minister who is responsible to bring in these policies. Sure we sit in the same . . . but I don't think he'd like it very much, not more than I would appreciate it, if the Minister of Finance would start making declarations about policy within our department.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, then let's approach it this way. If the Minister is going to stand on the purity of the pilot project approach, I would like to know from him, has his department prepared an assessment based upon this pilot project with a series of recommendations concerning the continuation or expansion of the program, that he has also thereby transmitted to the Minister of Education so the Minister of Education can thereby determine whether it should be included as part

of the educational program. If he has prepared such an assessment and such recommendations, is he prepared to table them in the House so that we can see what in fact the statement is, so that we also know what the result of that pilot project has been. Therefore we can determine whether in fact — maybe we have to set up a new department to handle it seeing that both Ministers seem to be reluctant to grasp what they are doing.

I'm not asking the Minister to make policy in someone else's area, but I am saying that right now the money for this program has been spent in this Minister's department. And therefore, I can only assume from that that he carries with it responsibilities for determining whether there will be a continuation or not of the program. I would like to know if in fact that kind of an assessment has been done, recommendations thereby made and discussed with his colleagues in Cabinet.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'll repeat again that there is not going to be any expansion of this program within this department. Sure, there has been some discussion, this has been discussed from time to time when we discuss priorities and discuss with the members of Cabinet. But this is a responsibility of another department and I don't even know if he has — I know that I have my priorities that my colleagues might not know about and I try to push them through Cabinet - I don't know where this stands on his priority list. I can tell you, because this is what you're trying to get, that it is not that high on my priority. I think this is what you're trying to get. It isn't that high on my priority, I think that there are a lot of things — I don't like to see the State take all the responsibility away from the family — I don't think it's the end of the world for somebody to bring their brown paper bag and a lunch. I think that there has been expert advice on that, that program is not working that well. I know that some of my colleagues don't agree with this, I happen to agree with that. I think that we can learn an awful lot and some of the people in my department agree, as I do, that we can do an awful lot more by educating the people, telling them what it's all about and try to look at their diet and get them to have a balanced diet. There's nothing wrong with bringing your peanut butter sandwich to school. Most of us did and I don't think that we've suffered that much.

So I'm not saying, all those programs are terrific, but it's not a priority with me and I don't care who knows it.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think we are beginning to get somewhere now. — (Interjection)— Well, we've got it. So let's deal with the case made by the Minister? First, I don't think a reasonable argument can be put on the grounds of harkening back to the days of brown paper bags, peanut butter lunches and what one's mother used to do for him when one was a child. Conditions change. — (Interjection)— Yes, well, okay. But I think that's too easy a cop-out. It's too easy a way out to say, look, why can't the kid go to school with a peanut butter sandwich like I did. — (Interjection)— Well, maybe because part of the proof is in front of us, but maybe the fact of the matter is that in many cases the schools aren't open for children at noon hour to begin with.

**A MEMBER:** That's a different thing.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Oh, well, now we're getting back to the problem it's someone else's responsibility. What I am also saying is, that I heard the First Minister last night — we had a good exchange — say, look, isn't it better to have people working than people on social assistance? I think the Minister would tend to agree with that position, right? And isn't it more important to provide the kind of incentives to enable people to work than to simply accept social assistance?

Now if a difference between having someone be on social assistance and working and acquiring those benefits that the Minister likes to talk about in great great volume and great frequency, then if the difference is simply having them have confidence that their children are going to be well looked after during those hours when the school is closed as opposed to having them have to go home where there is no one home and they don't know what may happen to them, having to find baby sitters which may or may not be reliable, or simply having to cut their work off at an earlier time or get up two hours earlier, whatever the condition may be and considering the — and I don't like to put things in these terms always — but considering sheer dollar value of between having these programs available for working people, for working mothers, so that they do have that security that their children will be looked after during those hours when the school is not prepared at this time because they will receive no money from the Department of Education to provide that service, it's not included under the Foundation Program. That it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that a pretty good argument can be made for the program sheerly on those grounds alone. Now I think there are other grounds as well and much more important ones.

But the fact of the matter is, is that I don't know what his assessments are. He says, it hasn't proven to be that successful. Well, I would say I want to see the reports. Presumably we've had programs going for four years, that's long enough to test any project. I would like to see the assessments made on the projects to determine what kind of value, what kind of service, what kind of benefit they are, and I think the Minister should be prepared to table that report if he has one. I suspect maybe he doesn't. And if he confirms, I'd be right.

So now we have, Mr. Chairman, the example of a pilot project which really isn't a pilot project because no one is doing any evaluation or assessment to find out if it's of benefit or not. It's simply

kind of one of those things that I guess maybe, because they figure well, we can continue funding those four but no more. That, Mr. Chairman, is not good management. If I was funding pilot projects, frankly I'd want to know what the pilot project is for, what value it is and what good does it do? It would seem to me that that should be done then. I presume that because we're being asked to forward Estimates in this next year, then obviously maybe the first step, at least, is to get some benefit from the money he's spending, and that is to ensure that the Lunch and After School Program is examined more carefully so that we can determine whether there is some value to it.

Now I think, Mr. Chairman, going one step beyond that, I don't think that the Minister has really examined this program very carefully. I think simply he's let his own biases interfere with the judgement on it and not determined whether in fact the kind of service that comes under Lunch and After School Programs conforms with the sorts of policy guidelines that the First Minister was enunciating last night that we're trying to give people the incentive and assistance so that they can go and become gainful members of society by working as opposed to sitting at home on social assistance. I don't necessarily agree that that is always the proper objective, but if that is the objective then it would seem to me this is the program that supports that right down the line, therefore I . . . Again I have to say that I think it is the Minister's own peculiar bias. It has nothing to do with the merits of the program which has created this curious anomaly of the Lunch and After School Program, sort of sitting out there in limbo without any change in their position other than remaining as they are.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe my honourable friend is right. It is no longer a pilot project and I'd like to transfer it out of the department as soon as possible. It was decided that what has been started would be kept. I know that certain people in the government probably would go along with my honourable friend. This is one of the reasons why I feel that the Department of Education —I can't speak for them— might bring in a certain policy.

Everything that we do I guess is biased. I happen to be very biased in looking back and looking at what the family meant compared to what it does now. I happen to be very biased that way. And I happen to be very biased to think somebody—it is not either black or white that either they don't go to work or they go to work only if there is a lunch—definitely I think that some place should be open at schools, especially in this cold climate that we have, that people should be able to go in to eat their lunch. That is something else. I also happen to think that the facilities, the gyms and so on that they have in school should not be closed at 3:30 because the teachers want to go home. I think that's duplication. I think it is ridiculous. In fact I think it's assinine not to use these and try to build a community club that is just about a block away from the school. I happen to think that that's wrong. We have set up a committee with the Department of Education and other departments to look at the situation.

But this is not what we are talking about. We are talking about now, the state providing the meals and I say that that is not the priority that I like to see. There are many many more priorities. My honourable friend seems to think that if that's not done people won't go and work. They have got to make sure their children are well fed. Then the next step will be, maybe we should clothe them, because they might not want to go to work if they're sure that they haven't got a proper jacket and so on. I think that we are there to help the people, give them incentive to try to find work which in most cases they should have, but to help them out and if they're not trained, if they need retraining, fine. We have the Day Care which I still say is the best Day Care program in Canada that is doing exactly that. The experts in nutrition tell me—they're biased too, I guess—that it is not that important, the important thing is good eating habits, a balanced diet, and education. They say that this is where you should direct your funds, if anything, to let the people know what a balanced diet is all about' and some of the junk foods that they shouldn't have.

I am not condemning my friend for believing in this program. We've agreed on many things and we probably will agree on many other things. This is something that I don't agree is a major priority in this department. There are so many other things to do that this could be done very very easily. I don't think I should be chastised because I happen to feel bad about the way there is less respect for certain things in society, especially the family and so on. If I could be instrumental as a Minister of the Crown to try to do my little bit to reinstate this respect and this family life, I certainly would want to do it. Why this program, is it healthier? It is not healthier. These people should have the responsibility, it's been done before, it is still done. There are people that go to work early in the morning and at night they prepare the lunch for the husband that is taking his lunchpail. For the kids that are going to school, they sell all these facilities that keep hot soup or cold drinks and so on and they can bring their lunch to school and I don't think that anybody is worse off for that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. It being 4:30, Private Members' Hour, in accordance with our Rule 19(2) I am interrupting proceedings for Private Members' Hour and shall return to the Chair at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR — PUBLIC BILLS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The first item' Tuesday, on a Private Members' Hour is Public Bills.

Bill No. 9' The Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Stand).

Bill No. 17, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Stand).

**BILL (NO. 19) — AN ACT RESPECTING THE ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 2**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON** presented Bill No. 19, An Act Respecting the St. James-Assiniboia School Division No. 2 for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 19 is a bill regarding the boundaries of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. At the present time the members of the School Board are elected at large in that division and it's a very large division and there are complications because of the present system they now work under.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to explain that the Member from Assiniboia seconded the motion when I introduced it for first reading and the Member from Logan seconded the motion on this occasion and the reason for that is the division becomes part of and works into the constituency of the Member from Logan which is the Brooklands area of St. James-Assiniboia School Division and it works into, working east to west, the Member for St. James' constituency, my constituency Sturgeon Creek and the Member for Assiniboia's constituency. The reason the School Division asked me to present the Private Members' bill is that their offices happen to be in, of course, the best constituency of the whole province, Sturgeon Creek.

Mr. Speaker, in the last election of the St. James School Division there were 28 people ran for office and ten were to be elected. Many people that went to vote in that election had no idea who the people were that were running because they were just not knowledgeable about people who had put their names forward from other parts of the city. St. James School Board, the Trustees—and I might say the fact that they have asked this bill to be presented is a credit to them because there is approximately six of them that will be running against one another when this change is made but they believe it will bring better representation of the people on the School Board. They had communication with the Minister. They had a study which was commissioned by them. They asked the Urban Institute of the University of Winnipeg, who I'm sure one of our members knows very well here, to do a study for them on how elections are held in different areas regarding school divisions. — (Interjection)— Well, he didn't give them any advice on what to do. He gave them advice as to what is happening elsewhere.

The School Division then went to the trouble of taking that study to the meeting and holding area meetings with the people in the School Division and they presented to them four different ways of changing the electoral boundaries of the School Division so that it would give better representation and it came back four to one that it be done in the manner they are presenting in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister and his department, as I say, were completely involved and of course we are interested in having much better representation. What they have done, Mr. Speaker, is they have taken the six wards of the city and they have used those boundaries and they have combined King Edward ward with Deer Lodge, Silver Heights ward with Booth and Kirkfield ward with Charleswood. I have submitted this information to the members involved and the Minister and they have also decided to elect three members at large from each of those wards which will give the School Board nine members on the Board which will be one less than they have previously had. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that there has not been a chance — I can name the person but I won't, that has run four times from the Charleswood area. There was just no way he was able to get elected. There has not been any chance to have representation from the east end of St. James in Brooklands area. It just wasn't possible to get the turnout available to elect school trustees from these extended areas on either side of the boundaries of the School Division. So, Mr. Speaker, this definitely makes a much better situation. The School Board is working on the basis of what the people recommended would be the best way and what they wanted. So, Mr. Speaker, I present this bill to the House and I would hope that it is supported by all the members. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Member for Portage La Prairie, the debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS — RESOLUTION NO. 9**

**MR. SPEAKER:** . The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage La Prairie, that

WHEREAS many provincially funded day care centres are operating under a large deficit and will have to close their doors unless more generous maintenance grants are

made; and

WHEREAS the provincial government's response to alleviate the problem by increasing the *per diem* rate from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per child is an insufficient amount to solve the large deficits faced by many day care centres,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of instituting a more generous maintenance grant system for the provincially funded day care centres which would have the effect of helping existing centres in financial trouble and encouraging new centres to be established where the need exists.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, the other day, attempted to have some success with another resolution that was before the House; I did not, perhaps I'll have a little more success with this one. I believe I will because I know during the Throne Speech debate the Leader of the Official Opposition indicated to this House that he will work and do something to improve the day care centres in this province so I would hope that I would get support from him and I believe one other member indicated that we may get support as well. So perhaps there will be support on this side of the House' because the other day — (Interjection) — Maybe I'm too optimistic, I don't know, the Member for Lakeside says that I'm up two.

I know the other day I was chastized by some members of the House in bringing the resolution on Income Supplements to our Senior Citizens and perhaps the members in this House were not aware or may not be aware that the Income Supplement in the Province of Manitoba is \$7.82 per month. In Saskatchewan it's \$20.00; in British Columbia it's \$38.38 and in Alberta it's \$45.01; that's the provincial supplements. So I'm just putting that in the record and I'll get back to my resolution. — (Interjection) — month, this is on the Senior Citizen's Supplement. The Minister probably wasn't listening. — (Interjection) — I'm getting there slowly, I'm going to get there. Well, the Minister of Health and Social Development indicates it's another socialist resolution. In my opinion I'd be inclined to believe that he believes the \$7.00 supplement for senior citizens, which we debated here last week, was sufficient while the other provinces' supplement per month are \$45.00, \$50.00 and \$38.00. So, it seems to me this province is falling behind, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Would the honourable gentleman stay with the resolution and not wander afield?

**MR. PATRICK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In bringing this resolution to the House . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Would the Honourable Minister of Health state his point of order.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I think that was kind of a sneaky way to try to put something on record that he says I said, or I think, which I never stated at all.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The point of order has already been raised by myself. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker' I know you don't want me to go back but I never made any reference, I never made any reference to the Minister of Health and Social. . .

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Minister of Health and Social Development, he feels that you know, the changes in the day care centres that he announced just the other day or a week ago, increasing the cost from \$5.00 to \$6.00 will solve the problems. Mr. Speaker, they will not solve the problem. Certainly not solve the problem because the government has not stopped, in fact the Minister has not stopped boasting, you know, what a great job that the government has done with inception of the program since 1974 and I want to give the Minister credit, it was a good start, it was a good start. But Mr. Speaker, the Minister has to realize and accept that this is not 1974, you know, it's not 1974, the costs have gone up. Right now there are several day care centres and I'm sure the Minister knows several day care centres that are almost on the point of closing down — he'll say to me which ones — they are in financial straits. Well, that's a fact, Mr. Speaker; Knox on River Avenue, you've got the Co-Op at the Health Sciences Centre, you've got the Freight House in Fort Rouge, they are. And some of these centres are operating in an area of \$10,000 deficit, some are operating with a larger deficit than that and I'm told that a number of directors of the centres have indicated that some of these will have to close. Now the Minister can say that's not true, but that's what I'm told by the directors of these centres.

Now funding for these centres through the Department of Health and Social Development, I believe' is determined and I'm told at the present time that level is at least 30 percent below what it should be. Now the Minister will have an opportunity and I hope determined and I'm told at the present time that level is at least 30 percent below what it should be. Now, the Minister will have an opportunity, and I hope, too, that he can indicate to the House. . . I know that on many occasions he spoke three or four times in this House and he said, "What a great program it is" and he keeps boasting and taking a lot of credit. Well, that's fine but I'm saying that the time is past because 1974 may have appeared to be fine but not today because there are problems, in fact, I just have an

editorial here from the Globe and Mail and the headline says: "The Parents Still Pay Most of the Day Care Costs" and there's indications in here, all the way through this article where they point out and substantiate the fact that they do. Mr. Speaker, there are 5,000 children attending licensed day care centre facilities in this province. I'm told that there are 28,000 children under age in Manitoba whose parents are employed outside the home. —(Interjection)— Well, maybe I should finish.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** My honourable friend keeps on saying, "I'm told". I wonder who has been telling him all these things.

**MR. PATRICK:** The people that are directly involved with these programs. The people know what they're talking about. The Minister's not listening. I have a Globe and Mail article here. The Minister's not listening. In the article they did a pretty good investigative study throughout Canada and what does it say: It says it's by Patricia Bell, that the parents still pay most of the day care costs.

I have another article here. Perhaps the Minister has a copy and this is also concerning a day care centre. It says, "I cannot understand". . . I'm quoting now from this letter from a constituent of mine . . . "I cannot understand how my payment can be more than double from one six month period to the next. I receive my six month increment at work which means I had to work for six months under financial strain before I was able to get enough for clothes and food. Then I got my company annual increase of six percent. Unfortunately this resulted in over 100 percent increase in my day care payments. All my utilities have increased as well so it seems like it is a futile exercise to try to make it on my own. The incentive to work is quickly lessening. I am a working mother. I am not receiving any financial aid from the children's father. I have to pay for someone to look after my other child who is in Grade 2. I cannot understand why a single working woman who receives considerably less than a man has to pay almost the maximum. A family with two working parents only has to pay \$100 for 20 days. How do you justify me paying \$91.60?" I think this is a valid point. This woman has a really good point. So when the Minister says everything's fine — (Interjection)— Yes, I just read one.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** My honourable friend referred to two documents that he quoted and I think he should . . . I'd like to investigate that and I want my honourable friend to table these. These are within the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, this one I know I have to table and I will gladly table it. The other one is a newspaper article and I know that you have indicated in this House many times that the newspaper articles do not have to be tabled. Yes, I'll give him the whole article too. Mr. Speaker, I'll just finish the last paragraph.

"I cannot understand why a single working woman . . . I'm desperately, and I mean desperately, trying to make a decent home for my children. I have no unnecessary expenses. The bulk of the clothes my children have are hand-me-downs or gifts for their birthdays or Christmas. Relief of this situation does not seem to even come close in the future. Do I always have to live in near poverty? Is it necessary to deprive my children of things to do and clothes and extra food? I'm trying but I don't see how I can succeed in the future. I've never gone on welfare nor have I even come close to considering it until now. I'm penalized for working, for not living out of the hand of the province totally."

I think that this person makes a good point. Somewhere along the line we have to consider that day care centres, and I'm not here indicating or suggesting that every child should be entitled to a day care centre but surely, Mr. Speaker, we can at least make a move in this area to provide day care centres for those people, the working mothers who are in the labour force, who are able to look after their families, who are able to look after themselves and who are able to pay for all their — just like this lady says in this letter, she has no hand out, she's not getting any help except — (Interjection)— Getting what? She's working. She's not getting any help. She just told you: "Relief of this situation does not seem to be even close in the future. Do I always have to live near poverty? Is it necessary to deprive my children of things to do and clothes and extra food. I'm trying but I don't see how I can succeed in the near future. I have never gone on welfare nor have I even come close to considering it. I'm penalized for working, for not living out of the hand of the province totally."

So, all I'm indicating to the Minister, perhaps we can, you know, let him take a look. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table this. I'll table it.

So I'm saying to the Minister, I understand that there are 23 children now that are perhaps in day care centres; some are well run, perhaps the others are not well run; there are areas in the city which do not have any day care facilities and perhaps they should have. So has the Minister given consideration to this . . . ? A day care centre I believe, in my opinion, should be a right to the people that require them where they can look after themselves. I don't think it's only a necessary service in society with 57 percent of the women between 16 and 65 are now employed outside their home. Outside their home — 57 percent. So this in itself, Mr. Speaker, this in itself, I'm saying 57 percent are employed outside the home. This in itself would indicate that it's a good investment. It's a good investment that we can have these people employed. Again, I don't think it's a frill; it is not a luxury for working parents as well, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's a luxury because the cost is much less by

having these facilities where the mothers can go to work and I'm talking particularly of single mothers but again, there's cases if the two parents work because they're in a low income, why shouldn't they have the right to the facilities.

I think that day care is a good investment. The most important resource, Mr. Speaker, in this province is our children and I hope that the Minister can give some consideration to this Resolution. I think it's a preventative service. It is a preventative service and should be treated like a preventative program but I say it's not.

The other point, Mr. Speaker — I know that the Minister will say, "Well, we have to pay the people that look after their children, the low income or the low wages," but it's in many cases, it's not an easy job to look after a large group of children. It's not an easy job; you can't say you can get somebody that's 65 years of age or 70 years of age — (Interjection) — well, there's nothing wrong but the thing is at that age, with a lot of children, there are many people who are not able to handle that many children. They're workers, they're not able to handle that many children so you have to get qualified people. — (Interjection) — No, I'm not discriminating.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PATRICK:** No, Sir. I will indicate to the House now and the Minister can read my speeches on Labour Estimates last year and the year before. I've indicated to him I don't believe in people retiring at age 65. The ones who wish to work, they should work but there's some situations because you're going to get somebody for a low wage, and you say, Well you can look after so many children in a day care centre, without probably proper experience, proper knowledge. . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PATRICK:** Well, the Minister's idea of a day care experience is somebody that had ten children. That's the experience to look after a day care centre.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, that's certainly a completely different attitude than information I received from many people across Canada on what the day care centre is all about. If he says all a day care centre is is you get somebody with no supervision, with no direction, with no understanding of the children. . . .

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I didn't say that.

**MR. PATRICK:** . . . so a proper day care centre, Mr. Speaker, has to have experienced personnel, has to have trained personnel. It has to provide some education to those children and does the Minister say we don't need any of those? A child learns, Mr. Speaker, more in pre-school perhaps than in any other time of its life. That's when a child develops its habits so the Minister now says that, you know, the day care centre, just get somebody there that you can get at the lowest pay that you can get and that's a good day care centre.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please. Wait until I recognize the member. The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** On a point of order. My friend knows very well that I did not make these statements. He is during this speech saying the Minister said this, the Minister said that. Maybe he's hoping that I will say it but I haven't said it yet.

**MR. PATRICK:** But, Mr. Speaker, right from his seat you know, what he's been quoting and saying, well what's wrong with 65; what's wrong with that person. . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PATRICK:** The Minister indicated that a woman who's had ten children, a mother that's had ten children, she's the most qualified to look after the day care centre. So where's the education program? Really, I think that . . . you know, I'll give the Minister some credit that he made a start in this area in 1974 but what I'm saying to him, this is 1977. The Minister purchased a car but now he's not prepared to put any gas in it. That's what happening as far as the day care centres go.

Secondly, he's trying to tell the day care centres that they must work on the minimum wage or at the bottom of the wage scale. The problem is you can't get people to run those day care centres at that type of salary because we need trained staff, we need experienced staff. The Women's Bureau of the Federal Department of Labour did a study indicating that most of the day care staff in the province are of lowly paid female workers earning minimum wage. That's not my words. The largest day care centre facility in Winnipeg, the very centre that the Minister of Health said was a model, model for all Canada, has an acute staff shortage today. Very acute staff shortage. It has a projected deficit of \$60,000 for this coming fiscal year. — (Interjection) — I don't even know who's running that day care centre, really.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Five minutes.

**MR. PATRICK:** When the centre began, the staff members were paid at levels approved and accepted by the Department of Health and Social Development through the Health Services Commission but then you had the Joint Evaluation Program done by the Board of Directors of the Health Science Sciences Centre, so what are the facts, Mr. Speaker? What are the facts? The people working in the day care centre were evaluated, their salaries were found to be almost 30 percent

lower — 30 percent lower than they were worth when compared to those accepted of equal classification within that institution. That's the fact, Mr. Speaker, so surely . . .

Again what I'm trying to tell the Minister, you know, he made a start on this program; I don't deny it and I know the Minister's taken a lot of credit because he's made at least half a dozen speeches and I've heard him and he said what a job we did in the day care centres. The point is, that was some years ago. Today there are serious problems; there are problems with some of them closing down and what about the areas where there is a need for these day care centres where there's great need and what's happening? So when the ones that are presently in operation have to close down and they have deficit financing, then how can you establish another one where there is a real need in areas of Greater Winnipeg alone, not even other areas.

Again, the Minister should realize if you get qualified or capable and able personnel, you will not be able to keep personnel too long if you aren't prepared to pay the proper wage. All I want to tell the Minister: There is a need; it's an investment to the community and if you can keep people working instead of going on welfare, which is a loaded word, I know, to my friend, the Member for Pembina, that's the best investment. In fact, I would believe maybe he might agree with the proper day care centres, properly funded where the people have an opportunity to go to work.

So I hope that the Minister will give consideration to this Resolution. I tabled the other letter to him and I could give him, in fact, I have a full file of material on day care centres in the caucus and I'll bring it to him — (Interjection) — I'll table this too. So, I hope that the members do support this. I know I have the support of the Leader of from the Leader of the Official Opposition and perhaps some of the other members will support this Resolution as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for Assiniboia sometimes sounds more of a left-winger, more of a socialist than some of my colleagues. In fact, I think . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** However, there are a lot of things wrong with his Resolution that I do want to comment on.

The one thing that the honourable member is doing is he is reacting to an agitation which has come out of principally two, I gather two day care centres in this City and these are two of the centres which have the highest level of service, the richest level of service in the City. They also happen to have some very vocal people who are making a great deal of noise. And I understand perhaps that one of the directors may be running as a candidate for the Liberal Party so one can understand perhaps why so much noise is coming from that quarter.

The opposition is reacting to that kind of agitation that's coming from two of the centres that are the most richly endowed in terms of services of all the day care centres. I would remind the member that when we were in convention, when our party was in convention a short while ago, those same groups attempted to pressure our convention by bringing in mothers and babies, mothers and babies, in order to embarrass the government. It's an old tactic, Mr. Speaker, of which I don't particularly approve. — (Interjection) — Yes, some of our own members were involved in organizing this and that to me, Mr. Speaker, doesn't excuse the action but the fact is that through the pressure tactic they were attempting to influence the direction of the convention. Now that's legitimate within our political process but the government has to make decisions on the basis of the facts, on the basis of rationality rather than on the basis of emotion, on the basis of pressure tactics.

In this case, I may be in some disagreement with the Minister of Health, I'm not sure to the extent of our disagreement but, Mr. Speaker, I believe in a universal day care program. I believe in a program that will ultimately be available to people who need it in this province at a cost which they can afford. I believe that we have to move towards universality as our budget permits and as quickly as our budget permits. I am not sure whether the Minister shares my views. Perhaps he does — (Interjection) — he apparently shares my views. But the problem is the member raises some concerns that are in conflict with this move towards universality. The higher you raise the qualifications of the staff of day care centres, when you have to hire PhDs to look after two, three, four, and five-year old children, you make the operation of a day care centre an extremely expensive proposition. Mr. Chairman, the honourable member says, "Who said hire PhDs?" The honourable member was commenting on the fact that the Minister of Health wanted to hire poorly qualified staff and pay them low wages. Obviously, the Member for Assiniboia wants us to hire very highly qualified staff, psychologists, sociologists, specialists in child psychology, specialists in creative play and other esoteric areas of study. Mr. Chairman, the higher the qualifications of the people who staff the day care centres the more it will cost us to run those day care centres. — (Interjection) — Well, I wouldn't quite agree with the Member for Morris. I wouldn't agree necessarily that if people acquire degrees they're going to be less competent in looking after children.

But I do think that there are certain skills in looking after children that are not created by degrees, by university training. Mr. Chairman there are some women who are good mothers who have no university training. There are some people who have skills in looking after children who don't have



university degrees who don't need them. These people are people who can serve well in day care centres and you do not have to pay them the salary that you have to pay PhDs. So I personally would favour a move towards universality while keeping the qualifications of staff at a reasonable level. That is the only way we will ever be able to afford to move towards universality. The honourable member said we bought a car in 1974, now we won't put any gas in it. The problem is we thought we were buying a VW and the honourable member thought we were buying a Cadillac' and there is some difference in interpretation.

The honourable member stated a number of other things with which I disagree. He said that a number of centres were on the verge of closing. I think that the honourable member is misleading the House when he says that. I am not saying that he is intentionally misleading the House, well, I won't say that. But he is misleading the House. The fact is that although some budgets are not in I gather yet or they may all be in now, the fact is that only a few centres are budgeting for deficit in 1977 after they have increased fees to the six-dollar daily maximum. And the budgets, of course, that have been submitted are not necessarily the amount that will finally be spent in operating the day care centre. What has happened is that of course the day care centres are independently operated, they are not creatures of the government, they are independent, non-profit organizations, and they have developed a skill that some government departments have developed and that is, they ask for more money than they think they are going to get. And they have been doing this, they have been asking for more money than they expected to get and consequently, they submit a budget that would presumably put them in deficit after they've received the funds the government is allocating. I think the government has a responsibility to limit funds. We have a responsibility to limit funds.

We have some responsibility to the taxpayer. Mr. Chairman, the member cited a number of institutions which were on the verge of closing and which he said would have deficits. Now one that he mentioned is the, I believe, Health Sciences Centre. That was originally started in, the decision was made to start it in 1975 and it was started on the assumption that it would run in the first year of the program on a deficit of \$57,000.00. It was started on the assumption that that deficit would not be made up by the Provincial Day Care Program but by contributions from CAP, from the Nurses Association of the Health Sciences Centre. So, this particular institution was started with a projected deficit.

Mr. Chairman, the second institution, Knox, which has made a great deal of noise has chosen to provide a very rich program, a program which is far richer than the standard programs provided in other institutions. And it is projecting a deficit. Unfortunately, if an institution which is a private institution chooses to provide a far higher level of service, it is going to have to do that by getting funds elsewhere because the government can't be expected to provide that enriched service which is not determined by the government but meer, determined by a private organization. The in the second clause of his resolution, states that the increase the *per diem* increase is inadequate to provide the funds that the needs. The fact is increase, of course, is only being paid by parents who don't receive a subsidy' only those parents who don't receive the subsidies, pay the \$6 daily fee and the fact is that this increase will provide 14 percent additional revenue to these centres, which more than covers the cost of living increase due to inflation over the past year. So, this revenue should be able to more than cover inflation. It should provide for some enrichment of the program.

Now I noticed that the member dropped the third clause, the third Whereas in his original resolution which made some reference to the fact that the province was not making full use of the 50-50 cost sharing which the Federal Government provided and there is a good reason why the honourable member dropped that clause' Mr. Speaker. The fact is that the Federal Government does not costshare 50 percent in our whole program. They cost-share 50 percent only for parents who are subsidized. They do not cost-share on the maintenance grant that is provided for non-subsidized parents. There is a maintenance grant for all parents that will average about \$490 per child space this year. The Federal Government does not cost-share that for the non-subsidized parents. So the Federal Government is not cost-sharing our full program. Mr. Speaker, we have a curious thing. Again, the Member for Fort Rouge was chiding us because we are not moving in to the Lunch and After School Program area. He was giving the Minister of Health a bit of hell.

**A MEMBER:** He deserves it.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** Well, does he deserve it? The Minister of Health is catching it because we don't provide a lunch and after school program right now. The fact is that the federal Liberal government will not even fully cost-share our present program. So the Member for Fort Rouge was making fun of the fact that our Ministers don't talk to one another. We are members of the same party, we don't talk together, the Ministers don't have lunch together. One wonders whether the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, the Member for Fort Rouge ever talk to their federal colleagues.

**A MEMBER:** Too far away.

**MR. JOHANNSON:** They seem to be too far away.

**A MEMBER:** Too few.

**MR. JOHANSSON:** We have a curious situation again, Mr. Speaker. We have a program which is not even fully cost-shared by the Federal Government because they consider that our program, I guess, is too advanced. The provincial Liberals say that we should put more money into our provincial program.

Mr. Speaker, I think that our provincial program is moving at a pretty reasonable pace. It is developing at a reasonable pace. We have among the lowest daily fees charged of any province in the country to the parents. We are the only province which provides a maintenance grant for every child placed in the program regardless of the parents' income, so every child in the program is subsidized to some extent and the purpose of this subsidy is to provide reasonable daily fees for the parents, for all parents. So we are the only province in this country that has the maintenance grant for all child spaces regardless of the parental income. The other provinces don't have this and yet the honourable member is chiding us for not going quickly enough. Perhaps we aren't but we still have the best program in the country and we are also providing higher operating revenue to the day care centres than almost any other province in the country. And again the member says we are not going high enough, we are not going fast enough. Well, we have the best in the country and that is not good enough for the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Five minutes.

**MR. JOHANSSON:** Mr. Speaker, one of the people who has lately been complaining about our program wrote a very interesting letter to the Tribune of November 28th and I would like to quote it for the honourable members. "The following letter has been sent to Manitoba's Minister of Health, The Honourable L. Desjardins, Minister of Health and Social Development:

'Dear Sir: I wish to . . . .'"

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. JOHANSSON:** Mr. Speaker, by the way this sounds as if it had been written by a backbencher as an amendment to one of the resolutions of the House.

"Dear Sir: I wish to congratulate your department and the Government of Manitoba for the recently announced changes in the provincial Day Care Program. Since its inception in 1974, the provincial Day Care Program has been modified and improved and I believe it now represents the most generous program undertaken by any provincial government." And I skip a bit.

"As well, the increase in the subsidy levels to assist more parents with the cost of day care represents genuine concern for the needs of working parents.

"Having read the text of your address to the Federal-Provincial meeting in Charlottetown, I wish to commend you personally for your sensitivity to the unique problems inherent in the provision of child care services, and for your commitment to the development of an adequate program."

Mr. Speaker, even I would not dare be that laudatory to our Minister. I quote again, Mr. Speaker.

"I am encouraged that the Manitoba government has not used Federal foot-dragging as an excuse to delay the implementation of these changes until the details of a federal-provincial cost-sharing could be worked out.

"Yours sincerely, Norma McCormick, Director, Health Sciences Centre Day Nursery."

Mr. Speaker, as I say, I would hesitate to be so lavish in my praise for the Minister of Health. — (Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, this lady is not a candidate for our party but she is very complimentary towards our Minister.

Mr. Speaker, our program since 1974 has grown from zero day care centres to 166; we have grown from zero children in the program to over 5,000; and we have grown from a budget of \$6,000 in 1974 to over \$4 million this last year. That is a reasonable amount of progress under our present Minister and his predecessors and I think he is to be congratulated for it.

I, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, don't have an amendment on me otherwise I would probably be moving it but I understand one of my colleagues will be submitting an amendment. So, the Minister will be getting his due later. I intend to vote in support of that amendment and in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add a bit of compliment, not perhaps quite as lavish as that of Norma McCormick, but I think the Minister has been doing a good job.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Health. Order please.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Could we call it 5:30, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is it the pleasure of the House to call it 5:30 at this time? (Agreed) Very well, in that instance I shall be leaving the Chair for the supper recess and the House will reconvene at 8:00 p.m. in Committee of Supply with the various chairmen.