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of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Friday, 25 April, 1980

Time — 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed, I would like to ask the person recording if that jackhammer noise interferes at all? We'll proceed then.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. GARY FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Petition of The Winnipeg Foundation, praying for the passing of An Act respecting The Winnipeg Foundation.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions
. . .

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Virden, that report of committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne) introduced Bill No. 49, An Act to amend The Ombudsman Act (Recommended by the Lieutenant-Governor), and Bill No. 35, An Act to amend The Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with Oral Questions, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery, where we have 36 students of Grade 11 standing, under the direction of Mr. Wiebe. These students are from Warren Collegiate, and this is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Government Services. We also have 75 students of Grade 6 standing from Voyageur School, under the direction of Mr. Kreger. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Deputy Premier in the absence of both the First Minister and the Minister responsible for Housing. In view of the report of the first quarter of this year indicating that housing starts have decreased by 82 percent since the same quarter last year, and the fact that this is the worst record for any province in Canada, in addition the fact that's apparently the worst since records have been kept in the province of Manitoba, it rises to the question to the Deputy Premier, as Minister of Finance, are there any proposals being planned in order to regenerate the housing and the construction industry in the province of Manitoba in his upcoming budget.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, the report on the housing starts is not an encouraging picture. The problem has been nailed down, as recently as this week, by the western Premiers with regards to the interest rates, and the prime cause and the prime examples of the worst problems with regards to housing are specifically caused by the high interest rates and the housing stock, let alone the housing starts, is having a difficult time. And there's not going to be any real solution to it until the interest rates come down, and that's the long and the short of it.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I've certainly not been aware that interest rates in Manitoba are higher than the interest rates in Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia or New Brunswick or British Columbia. The record in Manitoba is much worse than elsewhere, so I further ask the Deputy Premier whether or not a study has been done to ascertain the economic impact upon Manitoba of the declining construction field, particularly in view of what has happened to Ensign Homes, what is on the verge of happening, apparently, according to public reports in regard to Bestlands Homes, companies terminating their operations, jobs lost to Manitoba and the general overall multiplier effect. Does the Minister of Finance have a study, or is he in the process of preparing a study as to the detrimental economic effects upon the province of Manitoba of these developments.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the problem doesn't require very much study. The problem is very evident. You already have a surplus of homes on the market that cannot be sold and therefore it draws the immediate conclusion, why start more? But for the Leader of the Opposition to suggest there's something unique about the Manitoba position is to paint the picture incorrectly. The province of British Columbia, that normally runs 20 to 30,000 housing starts a year and is in a desperate housing crisis,

plans — doesn't plan but expects — under the present crisis conditions, to start only 1,000 homes. Now they have a real crisis on their hands. The crisis is the same across Canada. The numbers may be slightly different but the problem is the same everywhere. We happen to be in the position in Manitoba of not having the shortage of housing that the condition is in British Columbia but we have identically the same problem which is that people cannot afford to buy what is available.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, further to the Deputy Premier, reminding again the Deputy Premier that Manitoba's record is the worst in Canada including British Columbia in the first three months of this year, is the Minister suggesting that indeed there is no need in Manitoba for affordable housing for low income groups; that in fact the surplus housing relates to housing that is not affordable insofar as large sections of the Manitoba population is concerned; and that in fact his government has undertaken no program, no action, in order to attempt to remedy affordable housing for those of lower and modest incomes.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is now talking about an entirely different matter. Of course there is a need for affordable housing. The reason that there are bankruptcies and the reason there are houses not being sold and the reason there are the Ensign Homes and the Bestlands and the others that are being advertised for getting into trouble, is that the housing is not affordable. But why isn't it, Mr. Speaker? The basics of it is that the interest rates are too high and the interest rates for MHRC to build houses, or anybody else to build houses, really boils down to pretty much the same fundamental basis; it's the cost of borrowing money and that's what it boils down to. There is no panacea for the problem of expensive housing, Mr. Speaker, that is going to bail out the present problem. It's going to have to come about as a result of interest rates coming down to a point where people can afford to buy the kind of housing they want to be in and let's hope that happens fairly soon.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, then in view of the Finance Minister's response, does he then concur that the policies which were advanced by the Clark Conservative government in Ottawa, by the present Liberal government in Ottawa, rather than contributing towards a decrease in costs as it was intended, that their policies in increasing interest rates have in fact fueled the entire cost spectrum insofar as building costs and costs of living is concerned?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, apart from the interest rate problem, the only government that has done anything, made any substantive move at all to assist people out with the costs of their mortgage; the costs of their homes; the costs of financing; the costs of money, which is the root problem, was the government he referred to, namely, the former Clark government. And when his party moved in the House to see that government defeated they also washed down the drain approximately 1 billion worth of

credits that would have come back to people with high mortgages. Now, they seem to want to forget about the fact that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. I think we're getting into a debate rather than a question period here.
The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Finance. Would he not agree that the fact many people have left the province has something to do with the unsold homes, in view of the fact that many of the unsold homes of Ensign Homes have mortgages on them at the old, fairly low interest rates.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Questions of agreement again are debatable issues and really don't seek any information. Would the member care to rephrase the question?

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possibly I'll try a different one on the Minister of Consumer Affairs. In view of the fact there have been some bankruptcies recently in the housing industry and those companies had sold houses to people who are apparently living in them, who had received 5-year guarantees from these companies, could he advise the House as to whether there is any trust fund or other accounts available from which these guarantees will be honoured for those current homeowners?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Consumer Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I'll have to inquire as to the answer to my honourable friend's question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs and ask him if he would report on his meeting in Ottawa concerning rail relocation, particularly in regard to the ill-fated efforts of the Winnipeg delegation and especially in regard to the misleading statements and false expectations raised by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy during the past year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, just in summary, the Minister of Transport confirmed to the delegation that the only moneys available to assist municipalities across Canada would be funds under the Urban Transportation Assistance Program. Under that program, Mr. Speaker, the province of Manitoba has allocated to it 10.2 million dollars, of which the province has allocated to the city the sum of 7.6 million for either the construction of the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass or rail relocation. So that those are the only moneys available to the province of Manitoba and the city for rail relocation. With one small exception, the Minister of Transport advised

that he would review with the DREE Minister the possibility of moneys being available under the DREE program.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether he can now confirm provincial support and funding for the long overdue McGregor-Sherbrook Overpass?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, it's well over a year ago that the province approved the city's application to construct the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass; it was approved by the federal government body and is on the desk of the federal Minister of Transport. The licence to proceed with construction was delayed pending the study that was commissioned by the federal government. The Minister of Transport advised that he is prepared to approve the construction of the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass immediately, as soon as the city indicates and the province indicate they now wish that to again go ahead, in spite of the previous resolution from City Council. So that I expect the Minister of Transport, within a few days to advise whether there is any possibility of funding under DREE, and at that time if the City Council will deal with their previous resolution and make a further decision with respect to construction of the overpass.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Minister whether, assuming that City Council gives quick approval and there's also quick federal approval, are they in a position to commence construction in the next 90 days?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I can't give an accurate date as to the commencement of construction based on the presumptions of the Member for Elmwood. I would think there would have to be some actual planning and design work by the consultants for that project, but it certainly raised a question that we presented to the Federal Minister. The UTAP agreement provides for moneys to be actually spent during the final three years of that agreement and we've raised the concern that there may be a cash flow problem under the UTAP agreement and the Minister undertook to review that with his officials and respond on that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that there is a strike at the Golden Door Geriatric Centre, can the Minister assure us that all the patients at that geriatric centre, in fact, will receive alternative care and especially that residents will not be, in a sense, pushed onto relatives who are not in a position to look after them; and that alternative public facilities are available to deal with the strike that is taking place in a private profit-making nursing home?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I give the honourable member assurance of that.

MR. PARASIUK: Can the Minister confirm that the strike at the Golden Door Geriatric Centre is between a certified union and an owner who refuses to negotiate a first contract with the union because it might cut into his profits too much?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding of the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

MR. PARASIUK: Could the Minister also confirm that the owner of this particular profit-making establishment was involved in a similar exercise three years ago when he tried to break CUPE union, as well, and that his anti-union proclivities are quite known and that these are in fact cutting into the health care quality at that particular institution because his first motive is obviously profit.

MR. SHERMAN: I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure my honourable friend that I am very unhappy with the situation at the Golden Door Nursing Home, particularly the current dispute, and I think that there is considerable onus on the owner of the operation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, some time ago I indicated to the Member for St. Vital that I would table the letter that I had written to the three premiers of the western provinces in February with regard to the Western Power System Study. I would like to table this now in reply to his question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Minister for tabling the letter. He also gave an undertaking at the same time that he would table the Appendixes to the UNIES Report and also supply a copy of the Foster Report; will he still supply those documents?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the appendices, I'll check that; there should be copies available. With regard to the Foster Report, we have only one copy in our possession and we haven't received another copy yet from the province of Alberta. We have asked them for copies of it and if they come in I'll make sure they're distributed.

MR. WALDING: One supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister does receive further copies of the Foster Report, would he also make one available to the Chief Executive Officer of Manitoba Hydro.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, that question I don't think is really necessary. The Manitoba Hydro people

are aware of the Foster Report and had an involvement in the studies that were subsequent to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I wonder if he could advise the House what effect the recently announced sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel by the federal government in their mini-budget will have on the agricultural industry and the trucking industry in Manitoba.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, it has been confirmed that contained in the mini-budget among the other taxes that were direct taxes in the area of usual provincial involvement such as the tax on tobacco and the tax on liquor and so on, that there was also contained in that statement a further tax on gasoline and on diesel fuel, and the effect of it is that it will increase and has increased, I guess this week, the price at the gas pumps by something in the order of three-tenths of a cent per litre.

Mr. Speaker, this was not announced, as I indicated, at the time of the budget statement earlier this week but in fact is contained in the so-called fine print, which came about as a result of changing the gas tax in effect of 5 cents per gallon to a percentage increase of 9 percent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Finance has a similar comment to make as to the effect that the 18 cent tax on gas and diesel oil would have had upon the Manitoba farm population.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I guess the arithmetic is probably reasonably straightforward; it's 18 cents per gallon and half a cent per litre, if he wants to work it out. I think the conversion factor is 4.52 litres per gallon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to a question by the honourable lady from Fort Rouge in her question to the Minister of Health on the deterioration of milk under the fluorescent lighting. The fact of the matter is that the study was zeroing in on the vitamins in milk, A, B2, and C, and in fact that I think the honourable member knows that's not a major source of vitamins for the human being and in fact the main products or the main makeup of milk, of course, are protein, fat, carbohydrates, and minerals, which were not studied. Another point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that just 12 to 15 percent of the milk in the province of Manitoba is delivered in pouches, of which there is an overwrap of those containers which does protect them somewhat from the fluorescent lighting.

Another item, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention is the fact that there have been very few complaints from customers. A lot of the milk in pouches is delivered directly to the homes which would not be affected and in fact the study which was put in place at Guelph was done by a company who provide alternate milk cartons; cartons of a different form of which the complaints were raised about.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Minister really hasn't stated whether there is in fact any deterioration of the vitamin content of the milk in these containers, and I wonder if he can make any comment on that or, if he makes no comment, whether he can promise that he will be able to report in the future and what effect, if any, the fluorescent light has on the calcium content of milk. Older people are told to drink milk because of the fragility of their bones as they get older and — (Interjection)— The experts on the other side mock that statement. It is a fact that older people are told to drink milk for that reason, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder if there is any study under way in the province which would indicate whether the minerals, including calcium, are affected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I, too, appreciate the member's comments on the fact that everyone in the province should drink milk. The fact of the matter is that I think the evidence that we have is that people are able to get a sufficient supply of top quality milk that is provided in other forms of containers which in fact does not deteriorate the product which is within the container, and I think that the long-term experience of the human race and the people of Manitoba understand that milk in any container is better than no milk at all.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please confirm — it seems to me he just a very definite statement to the effect that people should be drinking milk from containers other than plastic pouches, and I think if this is the position that the Minister is taking he should make it very clear, because there are very many people who are drinking milk from pouches purchased in stores. They want a definite answer from the Minister, from the front bench or the Ministry of this government, Mr. Speaker, as to whether one kind of milk is better and whether one kind of milk is deteriorated.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, without putting the question on the lighter side, I think that the fact that most milk we drink should really come from cows, I think has been the known source and has proven over the history of this country that the fact that farmers have in fact done their best to put a top quality product before the consuming public. The problem is to get the consumers to pay an adequate amount so they can provide that product to the consumers.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Again I have become a little concerned we might be getting into a debate rather than seeking information.
The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, I do wish to assure you that I am genuinely seeking information; I am genuinely concerned. I have two grandsons who drink milk from pouches purchased in the stores and I am genuinely concerned about this, Mr. Speaker, and I think that the Minister's last statement was an insult to the House and an insult to everyone who is seeking this kind of information, Mr. Speaker. This is not a joking matter. Would the Minister tell us whether in fact his department is making any statement as to the quality of milk that is coming in various containers, including pouches, that are stored under fluorescent lights in the House. Would the Minister please give us a straight answer to that question?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the information that I had provided to me from my department as far as the milk that is stored in pouches that may be affected by fluorescent lighting: No. 1, I said that 12 to 15 percent of the milk in the province is provided in pouches of which the majority of it is covered with an overwrap which does protect the product that's in the pouch; No. 2, the fact that the majority of milk in pouches or quite a lot of the milk in pouches is delivered directly to the home which the people have the right to protect in their best interests, so I think, Mr. Speaker, that with the alternative sources of milk that are available, that the population do have an opportunity to buy other sources, and it's their decision to be made whether they are not satisfied with what they're buying. As far as the quality of milk is concerned, that is checked by the dairy science department of the Department of Agriculture so there aren't any contaminants in the product and not harmful to the people of the province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, and ask the Minister that given the fact that the number of farms in Manitoba has decreased by 8.7 percent between 1976 and 1979, which is four times the rate of decrease being experienced in Alberta and Saskatchewan — and this is the information just released from Statistics Canada, Mr. Speaker, — can the Minister offer any explanation for the more rapid decline in the number of farms in our province as opposed to Saskatchewan and Alberta.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, without accepting the premise from the Member for Brandon East, and without having checked those figures myself, the period which he would mention, it could be the fact that the farmers were suffering from the policies of the last government in the province of Manitoba.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the information was released by Statistics Canada and it indicates quite

definitely that there was a loss of 2,800 farms between 1976 and 1979. So my question is, Mr. Speaker, do these figures, this disappearance of 2,800 farms, does this mean that there is a more rapid decline in family farming per se in the province as we know it compared to what is going on in our neighbours to the west in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would be concerned if it was in fact the family farm units that were decreasing. I will take a look at the numbers that the member has brought to my attention. However, I think that some of the problems that the farm community are facing have been the fact that they haven't had programs such as the Manitoba Agriculture Credit Corporation to lend money to help them buy their farms, that in fact the state over the last eight years in this province were in competition to those farms, that in fact the Beef Income Assurance Program forced them to pay money back to the province instead of leaving that money with those particular producers, and I will look at what is happening in other provinces and I will say, Mr. Speaker, I intend to continue to introduce programs such as the introduction of more rolling stock to move farmers grain off of Western Canada, out of Manitoba, so that they can in fact have a cash flow which is sufficient to service their debt and feed their families. So I will compare Manitoba to Saskatchewan and do everything I can to strengthen and increase the number of family farms in the province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a final supplementary.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, for the Honourable Minister's information, the rate of decline between 1971 and 1976 was much greater than it was in this period of 1976 to 1979. There is a considerably higher rate of decline between 1976 and 1979 than which occurred in 1971 and 1976, and the Honourable Minister should have his staff look at those figures as well, because there is no question this is a more rapid deterioration of farms. So my question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, which arises from his lengthy statement, is whether it is the government's policy to encourage larger farms in the province of Manitoba, consolidation of smaller farms; is it the policy of this government to move towards more corporate ownership which these figures perhaps imply; or is this Minister about to bring in more effective programs to protect and preserve the traditional type of farm that we know in this province, namely, the family farm?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to state, and state very plainly, that I am a full supporter of the family farm that makes up the vast majority of the farmers in this province. I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we will not be encouraging one farm like the last government, one big state farm with one big cattle herd, which was truly expressed by the past Minister of Agriculture in his debate here in the House and in some of the committee

meetings; as he would like to have seen the oil companies in this country, one big oil company, so that in fact it's one big state like we know in countries of Russia or Cuba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan. Order please. Order please. I realize that it's getting towards the end of the week. I would like to see the honourable members respect the right of all members to ask questions so that they can be heard by myself at least.

The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Agriculture and it is led from the statement that he just made to the Honourable Member for Brandon East. The Minister said that he is going to supply more hopper cars for the movement of grain. Is he intending to lease these or is he intending to buy some?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, for the information of the members opposite who never get informed from the one or two members from the farm community over on the other side, the answer to the question — and we've been announcing it over the last several months and I'm pleased to announce it again — we are leasing 400 hopper cars for the period of a year; 300 of those hopper cars are now in place hauling the grain and which the Premier participated in the first loading of the first hopper car. The additional hopper cars will be in the system by the end of June and I am very pleased to announce that they are servicing the farmers in Manitoba in the best way possible.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't want to know about the cars that he had already leased. The Minister was intimating that he was going to lease more cars or have more cars in service. That leads to a further question that I have for the Minister. The cars that the Minister is leasing at the present time, who covers the insurance; who covers the operating expenses and the running repairs of these cars? Are they the leasing company or are they the railways? And from what leasing company is he leasing these cars?

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. May I suggest that the honourable member asking questions of that detail might better be served by an Order for Return.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the terms of the lease and the operating agreement were tabled with the Order-in-Council if the member prefers to look at it in detail, the agreements that were made. The 300 that are in place now are leased from the Pillsbury Grain Company of the United States and the operating agreement and the other particulars are with the two railway companies, 150 cars to each of them. So that any details on that matter I could provide if he cannot find the specific details he's referring to in the Order that has been tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan with a final supplementary.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the agreement that the Minister has with the leasing companies and also with the railways, does that also cover derailments, where cars are destroyed or partially destroyed? Does that agreement also cover that and who is responsible for that?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, subject to referring to the agreement and further clarification, the understanding that I have is, in fact, that all the operating and the risks will not be borne by the province of Manitoba, but we'll check out further on the specific details of that kind of a situation. Hopefully we have seen all the derailments in the province of Manitoba that we're going to see for the next several months. But it is possible that there could be some details that he would like me to check on for him and I would do that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, some time ago the Member for Churchill asked me about asbestos samples on the Leaf Rapids complex. I informed him at that time the samples were found to be free of asbestos. I further advised him we would extend that look into the curling rink in Leaf Rapids and I'd to inform him that we found the samples there are free of asbestos also. We, at the same time, did sampling of the rink in that same complex in Leaf Rapids and I'm sure he's pleased to hear that they are free of asbestos also.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I thank the Minister for that news which is indeed good news and would ask the Minister if his government is conducting any systematic program to determine whether asbestos is present in buildings that are used frequently by the public in the province of Manitoba; if there is any organized and systematic investigation ongoing at the moment?

MR MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member is aware that I've set up a committee to review the handling and maintaining, installation, trucking, moving of asbestos in the province of Manitoba and I suspect that a systematic check of buildings of concern to us all — immediately of course are the public ones — would be part of the recommendations that they would come forward with. I don't think I should, at this point, circumvent their recommendations by plunging ahead in a bandaid sort of a situation. This is the first time a review of this type has been asked for by myself. It's the first time any government in our province certainly has given enough credit to the problem and recognized it to the point where it is today, that now we are looking at the entire situation in the province of Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I think the Minister is reacting to increased public awareness of the problem and while his government

does deserve credit for recognizing that, I think he has to be a little bit more honest and say that the reason that studies have not been conducted in the past may well have been that public awareness is increasing very rapidly.

I would ask the Minister now if he can indicate, in his opinion, if there is not a need immediately for the investigation for asbestos contamination in public buildings as there may well indeed be such exposure being inflicted upon the public unknowingly and that he need not wait until a committee, which is obviously going to recommend that procedure, make that recommendation to him; but that he takes some initiative and proceed immediately in dealing with this serious problem that is becoming more and more a problem of extreme public concern and public awareness.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to debate with the Member for Churchill whether in fact we did it because of public opinion or whether we did it because of conscience. I suggest to him that governments, at whatever day and age a situation arise, that if they feel they should act in a responsible manner they so do; and that's what we did in this particular case.

We have involved a large number of people in this particular review of the asbestos situation in Manitoba. I think we've involved every sector, every section of society that we possibly could from the medical profession, to engineers, to unions, to truckers, to manufacturers, and I think they themselves will be making recommendations that will suggest to us, in a responsible way, a way to deal with and look for an asbestos program that can be implemented for the province of Manitoba. I don't think myself, or our department, running off in different directions trying to implement something in the near future, or within the next few days, is advantageous to the situation in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a final supplementary.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would merely inform the Minister that it has been almost a year since we brought this matter forward in the House to ask them to take action and that very little action has been taken in that time. Can the Minister indicate when we can expect recommendations from this asbestos committee that has taken over a year to get into place?

MR. MacMASTER: No, Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you when that particular committee will have its findings. The asbestos problem has, or certainly the concern, has been with society as a whole in our country and the United States for many many years and I say that I am reasonably pleased with the fact we now have a committee in place and it came by conscience of ourselves that something should be done at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. In

view of the Minister's earlier comments in this question period that the onus to resolve the dispute at the Golden Door Geriatrics Centre rested with the owner, can the Minister indicate if he's met with the owner to convey his views and to ensure that the matter is resolved?

MR. SHERMAN: It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the owner was out of the city on business and returned to the city last night. My views have been conveyed to him through the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. PARASIUK: In view of the urgency of the matter, is the Minister prepared to meet with the owner to try and resolve this matter as quickly as possible so that residents don't have to be dislocated from that particular institution while this unnecessary action on the part of the owner continues?

MR. SHERMAN: Well I'm certainly prepared to consider that, Mr. Speaker, the conciliation officer is at work in the situation at the present time and there is a possibility that direct intervention by myself as Minister will not be necessary but I am certainly prepared to consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

MR. PARASIUK: I would ask the Minister not only to consider it but to undertake it today, in view of the fact the strike has begun, in view of the fact the owner will not meet with the union and in view of the fact patients are being forced out of that particular . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. May I suggest the honourable member is being repetitive. The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I'm asking the Minister if he will undertake the action, not merely consider it. There is quite a difference between those two words, Mr. Speaker, and I'm asking the Minister if he will undertake the action of meeting with the owner in view of the fact the patients are being forced out of that institution when they don't have to be forced out of that institution if the Minister will only act right now.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the honourable member that I have been acting and up to this point in time no patients have been taken out of the facility and it may not be necessary to take them out. It may be necessary for me to pursue the course suggested by the honourable member but the Health Services Commission is conveying that kind of information and it may prove to produce the conclusion we want.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Question Period having expired, before we proceed with Orders of the Day, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my right where we have 25 students from the Oak Grove

Lutheran High School Band from Fargo, North Dakota.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this morning.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I might just confirm, in order to accommodate members opposite, on Monday the Estimates of Urban Affairs will proceed even though Consumer and Corporate Affairs may not be completed. Once the Urban Affairs Estimates are completed we will then return again to complete the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Estimate.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, would you call the Adjourned Debates on Second Reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned Debate, Second Reading.

Bill No. 2, An Act respecting the operation of section 23 of The Manitoba Act in regard to Statutes standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Gladstone. (Stand.)

Bill No. 6, An Act to amend The Wills Act and The Mental Health Act standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand.)

Bill No. 16, An Act to amend The Veterinary Services Act. The Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand.)

Bill No. 27, An Act to amend The Liquor Control Act standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Government Services that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Health and the Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY — CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): Committee come to order. We're on Resolution 38, 5.(c)(1) — the Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairperson, to briefly outline the functions of this department and the activities over the past year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, this branch is governed by The Clean Environment Act and the Public Health Act. It

provides the direction, the supervision, the inspection and the enforcement, province-wide, in the areas of waste management, noise control, radiation protection and quality of maintenance of air, water, food, together with technical laboratory services.

MR. COWAN: Would this be, then, the appropriate area in which to discuss the new environmental lab?

MR. JORGENSEN: No, that would be under Research and Development, under Environmental Control.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps then, Mr. Chairperson, the Minister can give us an updated report as to the status of that lab; when it will be completed; what he foresees to be the function of it; who will be using it and the procedures for the use of the lab.

MR. JORGENSEN: We're scheduled to move into the new lab about mid-June.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know whom I'm waiting on.

The Leader of the Opposition. Or was the Member for Churchill waiting for an answer?

MR. COWAN: We were waiting for answer.

MR. JORGENSEN: The short answer to our honourable friend's question is that we are scheduled to move in about the middle of June and it will be occupied by Mines and Resources or Minerals Department and the Department of the Environment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, under testing I would like to ask the Minister a question pertaining to a particular situation to determine what tests have taken place in order to ascertain the degree to which acid can be diluted prior to its being permitted to be spilled into the sewage system or poured into the sewage system in order to avoid damage to the sewer system, specifically, in the city of Winnipeg?

I want to give an example of a situation to the Minister, which the Minister may or may not be aware of. It is a situation involving Varda batteries and permission that they had received from the city of Winnipeg some time back to pour diluted acid into the city's sewer system. The city had thought, I suppose, in giving the permission, I can only assume, that the diluted acid would not damage the sewer system. The end result, unfortunately, is that in the neighbourhood of 300,000 damage has been done to the city of Winnipeg sewer system and it's my understanding that the city is attempting to claim this damage from the battery company. I believe that there is continued pouring of diluted acid into sewer systems, but the damage necessitated replacement of the sewers in the neighbourhood of the battery company in this particular case.

So I would like the Minister, if he could, advise what tests and what standards are applied by his department in order to assist the city and other municipalities insofar as this question is concerned, the safe levels to minimize damage that may take place to sewer and other systems when supposedly

the diluted acid is permitted to enter sewage system as waste water.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if there's any determined level that is advisable or permitted. I think the safest thing is not to have any acid poured down the sewers at all but if that sort of a spill or that sort of thing does occur, then the more that the acid is diluted, the less damage will occur. The department was made aware of that particular situation and, perhaps, my honourable friend would just wait for a moment and I will get the particulars as to . . . I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that the city gave them permission to dump the acid and since it has jurisdiction over its own waterways, we were not necessarily consulted, although we were informed of it. So the matter does come under the city of Winnipeg jurisdiction.

MR. PAWLEY: The reason for my asking the question, though, the city obviously gave permission in the best of faith that no damage would be done and thinking that the dilution undertaken by the battery company was adequate. Obviously it is not because 300,000 damage has been done to the city sewer system and I think it's crucial that somewhere or other the provincial department and municipalities try to arrive at safe levels by which this sort of action can take place to minimize damage such as this in the future. So, does the department provide the city of Winnipeg with any guidance as to levels by which they might safely permit the companies to pour diluted acid into the sewer system?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, if the city of Winnipeg had consulted the department I think we could have provided them with some help in advance of the decision. However, we were not consulted and we only knew about it after they had given permission for the dumping of the acid. They took it upon themselves and it is their responsibility, it is within their jurisdiction to do so.

I expect that if problems have arisen, as my honourable friend indicates as a result of this, it may be well to have a thorough investigation of the nature of the difficulties that have been created and perhaps some guidelines or regulations should be developed. However, I do remind my honourable friend again that the city was within their jurisdiction and authority authorizing the acid to be put down the drains.

MR. PAWLEY: I am not questioning the jurisdiction or the authority of the city, obviously though they did act on the basis of incorrect information from somewhere and you say not from yourselves, but unfortunately maybe they acted in the absence of any information that would have assisted them; that apparently was the case. So I am wondering if the Minister could advise whether or not his department will look into some guideline, maybe by the guidelines that the Minister intends to introduce to ensure that mistakes of this nature do not take place elsewhere, in other municipalities, city; that there are some safe levels, standards that are applied. With

the increase in the number of plants and factories utilizing chemicals of this nature there is increasing threat to damage taking place within the sewer systems, within our municipalities; 10, 20, 30 years ago the threat was minimal but it is certainly increasing with the use of chemicals. Unless there are some adequate standards required of municipalities prior to giving such permission, ratepayers could very well end up bearing tremendous costs because of errors, as innocent as it may have been here in granting permission.

MR. JORGENSEN: It's unfortunate that the city did not see fit to — and perhaps they did, I don't know — to consult with the manufacturer of the pipe to determine whether or not any damage would result from pouring the acid down the drains. Our staff are available for consultation at any time and I find it a little bit surprising that they never took advantage of the opportunity of giving us a call to determine whether or not we had any observations or any suggestions to make to them.

Whether or not a regulation can be defined clearly enough to apply to that and other situations is something that we'll have to look into. But I agree with my honourable friend, it's unfortunate that if the taxpayers are going to have to pick up the tab for a rather substantial repair bill as a result of neglect on the part of the city to ensure that their actions were not going to be harmful.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the Minister advise whether or not he or his department have information whether there was any lead within the acid involved in this particular case or in any other cases in which acid has been poured into the sewer system, sanitary system?

MR. JORGENSEN: Any lead within the acid?

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, within the acid? Because in this case the reason I ask of course, it was battery acid in the particular case brought to the Minister's attention.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes. I'm advised that most likely there would be lead if it was battery acid that was turned out.

MR. PAWLEY: I'm just wondering, in view of that, has there been any exploration by the department to ascertain whether there are any other consequences that could flow from this acid being poured into the sewage system?

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm advised that there wouldn't be; dilution would remove any other consequences.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the Minister advise whether or not those PCBs are still in storage in the Werier warehouse?

MR. JORGENSEN: To the best of my knowledge I'm not sure whether . . . Yes, that is correct. They are still in storage at Werier's warehouse.

MR. PAWLEY: I'd like the Minister's comments. Apparently the department first became aware of the

PCBs in October of 1979 through Dr. Yee, I believe, in the department. The PCBs as I understand it were not in secure storage at that time, not in the same warehouse they are at the present time. They were not moved from that insecure warehouse till sometime in 1980, I believe it was, in February, approximately, of 1980. Why would there have been a delay of four to five months in ensuring, in insisting, that PCBs without question one of the most dangerous substances that's available to mankind, would be permitted to remain in an insecure storage during that period of time.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, as my honourable friend is aware, we have no authority; the Act does not give us the authority to order the removal of those. The product belonged to Mr. Werier; he was advised of the danger of holding them and at the location that they first discovered they were in close proximity to some food stuffs. We advised him of the dangers and told him that it would be better if he moved them out of there and into an isolated storage space, which is what he did eventually. But I repeat that until we have brought in amendments to the Act, which will give us the authority to order their removal, we just simply have no authority to move them. Now, I'm sure that Mr. Werier would have been very happy if we could have taken them off our hands and, at the taxpayers' expense, moved them out. But I doubt very much if my honourable friend would have agreed to having the taxpayers shoulder that particular bill.

MR. PAWLEY: Is it not so that the PCBs were not, in fact, moved until the city brought pressure to bear upon Werier to move the PCBs, that the pressure which resulted in the moving of the PCBs did not occur, did not result from the city?

MR. JORGENSEN: It was not as a result of pressure brought to bear by the city. We advised them that they should be moved.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the Minister assure us that legislation is going to be introduced this session, then, to ensure that this type of situation doesn't repeat itself?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, it is our intention to bring in amendments to the Clean Environment Act which would, in effect, give us greater authority than we do have in matters of this kind.

MR. PAWLEY: Sufficient authority to ensure that the PCBs would be removed within a specific period of time to secure storage.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'll leave that judgement to my honourable friend when the bill is introduced in the House as to whether or not we have that sufficient authority.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to assure my honourable friend that the opposition will provide all the support it can muster to ensure that the authority is as strong as is required, so that situations like this do not occur in the future. There had been allegations, and the Minister dealt with this

in the House earlier, but there had been allegations; in fact there had been some leaking from one of the containers.

MR. JORGENSEN: No, there was no leakage from any of the containers. What my honourable friend is probably referring to is a transformer, a switch assembly, which contained a lubricant that had been brought into the same storehouse and it was leaking. We tested the contents to determine whether or not it contained PCBs. It did not, so the leak was actually from the transformer that contained oil.

MR. PAWLEY: I think it is a deplorable situation, Mr. Chairman, if someone should buy a substance such as this with expectation of gain at the subsequent point and, in fact, because of a ban on PCBs is unable to do so, then continues to retain those PCBs and refuses to ensure their removal to secure quarters elsewhere for liquidation of elimination or, certainly, isolation, because of the cost.

Can the Minister assure us that the legislation that he will introduce to ensure that, firstly, the owner of such dangerous materials will be required to assume the cost of the removal rather than the Manitoba community as a whole, if possible and only if not feasible, would the taxpayers end up in being required to foot the bill? I understand the costs here to remove these PCBs down east, for instance, where there are storage facilities where they could be isolated, would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 8,000 to 9,000.00.

MR. JORGENSEN: There are several companies that have been active in removing and storing PCBs. The bids vary. I'm advised that Kinetic Contaminants, an Alberta-based company had offered to remove them, the quantity that he had in storage, for 3,500.00. Now whether or not he's going to accept that offer remains to be seen. To the best of my knowledge, he hasn't up to this point.

MR. PAWLEY: And what about legislative provisions so that we don't end up in these type of squabbles as to who's going to pick up the bill?

MR. JORGENSEN: I would hope that the legislative provisions that we are contemplating will deal with that situation, so that we would have the authority to order them out and not at taxpayers' expense. We don't know the extent to which there still remains in this province quantities of PCBs. We are attempting to get a handle on that by surveys. We have a joint program with the city of Winnipeg now to use our various inspection services as a, well, I hate to call it a sideline but as a part of their inspection service when they move from one business establishment to another to enquire about any hazardous materials that may be in storage at any business premise, so that we can have some idea of what quantities there are and how much there are. The city of Winnipeg requires that sort of information; at least, the City of Winnipeg Fire Department requires it so that if there is a fire in any particular building they then know in advance that up, say, on the third floor of this building there is X number of barrels or X quantity of

a hazardous material that could cause a problem if they caught fire, so that they can come to those fires equipped to ensure the safety of the firemen. It's a program that has been carried on by the city of Winnipeg Fire Department, but we want to expand that in conjunction and co-operation with the city of Winnipeg Fire Department but we want to expand that in co-operation with the city of Winnipeg . It will give us a better idea of what hazardous materials may be in store all throughout the city, and we hope we can then identify further quantities of PCBs that we can then undertake to remove from their present locations and other hazardous products, as well, if they are banned or if there use is not permitted. We can't do a great deal about a product that may be hazardous but yet is not banned. But at least we will know it's there and we can be forewarned if anything has to be done in the way of firefighting or anything else in that particular building.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. While on the subject of polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB's, I would ask the Minister if he can indicate if there will be any extra staff added in order to accomplish this inspection he is talking about.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, not necessarily. Both the city of Winnipeg inspectors and our own inspectors will carry out that inspection service as a part of their inspection services now. I don't think, if you are in a building in any case, that it will take that much more time to do it. Although we are, in order to get a broader picture, and that would include areas outside the city, we are engaging a number of summer students this year for the purpose of attempting to get an inventory of hazardous materials that may be laying around that will bear watching. As I say, we are attempting to get a handle on that situation so we have a better idea of the nature and the magnitude of the problem that we have to deal with.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, I would ask the Minister how many summer students they are anticipating hiring in this regard and for what period of time.

MR. JORGENSEN: I believe there are four students. That is just for this project. For what period of time? Sixteen weeks, I understand.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister indicate if they will be travelling throughout the province?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes.

MR. COWAN: So there will be a number based here in Winnipeg or all four of these will be travelling areas outside Winnipeg?

MR. JORGENSEN: I don't know that, as a result of the inspection that would be carried on by inspectors in the city, whether it would be necessary to base them here. I think they will be all outside the city.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister then how many inspections this department makes, average,

and I'm talking about a ballpark figure here, on a yearly basis; not how many inspections, that's the wrong way to phrase it, how many different establishments are inspected by this department?

MR. JORGENSEN: I am not sure whether we could get a handle on that at the moment, Mr. Chairman; we'll see what we can do to provide that information.

MR. COWAN: I appreciate, Mr. Chairperson, that it is a detailed question and so do realize that it will take some time to come up with even a ballpark . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: If indeed we can.

MR. COWAN: But the reason I ask, there is a very specific reason that I do ask and that is the Minister has indicated that he is going to be relying upon the department, in it's normal inspection process, to identify areas where toxic chemicals are stored, and in order to fully evaluate the effectiveness of that methodology one would have to know what percentage of the establishments are actually being inspected and one would have to know how long it's going to take to go through all the establishments. It may well take 10 years; it may well take 10 months, I don't know and I think that is an important factor in attempting to evaluate this particular methodology.

I'm not certain that it's best and if I can suggest, and I have been known to suggest before and provide unsolicited advice so it is nothing new, but if I can there may be a number of other avenues that can be explored along with this particular course of action and that is to send out a survey form to the different . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: We tried that.

MR. COWAN: Well, the Minister indicates that they tried that; perhaps he can fill us in on the details of that, then.

MR. JORGENSEN: The difficulty with that kind of a survey is that there could be a lot of people who have PCB's on their premises and they don't even know it. I might also add that the city of Winnipeg Fire Department already have a fairly substantial inventory of hazardous goods in many of the establishments in the city, so it is a question of just adding to the inventory that already exists and attempting to complete it to the best of our ability.

As my honourable friend perhaps will understand, it's not one of those areas that you can be so definitive, largely by virtue of the fact that the people who sell it may have that product in storage and may not know what they have in storage. So it will take some time, I agree, but we will be attempting to get a better idea of the nature of the problem by this method. I can tell my honourable friend that we did, between the federal government and ourselves, we did attempt the survey method and it did not produce very much in the way of results.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Gary Filmon (River Heights): The Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: The Minister has indicated one of the reasons it might not have produced very much in the way of results is that people were ignorant of the

fact they actually did have a toxic chemical in storage, and that is indeed a problem and it will be a problem whether they send out a survey form or whether they send out an inspector, although an inspector, if they inspect the entire area, may be able to say well what's in there and if the individual who owned that particular establishment said I don't know what's in there, then the inspector might therefore seek further investigation. But I would believe the case would be that that might happen on occasion but if we use the example of Canada Packers, where the PCB's allegedly stored up on the roof, where an inspector would probably not have gone to, and where probably the management level at which he was speaking probably would not have known they were there or may not have known they were there, we would have the same problem.

In other words, even with the inspection services we are not going to see any sort of a comprehensive inventory develop very quickly, and I'm not certain whether we will ever see a complete . . . As a matter of fact, I think I can categorically say that we would never see a complete inventory, because of the extensiveness of the problem. So I am concerned that the Minister has recognized the problem but still has not been able to convince me that the methodology they are following is going to deal adequately with that problem.

That's one reason why they may not find out that a toxic chemical is stored on a site and that's because of ignorance; and I don't use that term in the negative sense, I use it in the literal sense. But the other reason could be . . . In order to lay the base for the argument, let's follow this from the start. We know that PCBs, and let's use that as an example, are banned. We know that we are not encouraging their storage in the province, in any place, especially in unsupervised storage areas. We know that we are going to be seeing legislation that may in fact necessitate the removal at the expense of the owner of that chemical or other chemicals coming from the Minister's department. We have a fair indication that they're going to try to deal with that problem in some way or another. We know that it's very expensive to remove just a small number of barrels of PCB because of the procedures that have to be followed, the very strict procedures that have to be followed in transportation of it, and we wouldn't want to see those procedures weakened. So now we know that it's a small business owner that is not working on the high level of margin of profit that they are feeling the cash squeeze for whatever reasons and they have PCBs in storage, and they know that if it is found out that they have PCBs in storage that they are going to have to spend fairly extensive money without any sort of reimbursement from anywhere to get rid of those PCBs, and that they are going to find themselves in a bind and there is going to be a hesitancy on their part to come forward with that information, because you're putting them in a very difficult spot.

Has the Minister given any thought to how to deal with that very real problem, and I'm not trying to say that the owners are in any way being malicious about their efforts. They are just trying to stay in business and that's an important goal to them, and we may differ as to how they should do so, but I do recognize the fact that they are going to fight very

hard to stay in business and could anticipate this sort of a process taking place. So I would ask the Minister if he could just indicate how they are dealing with that particular problem, if they have run across it in the past, and if they have developed ways and means of dealing with it in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, in the case of PCBs themselves, as my honourable friend is aware, that part of it was banned by the federal government. And in our meeting of the Ministers of the Environment in Edmonton earlier this year, we discussed this particular subject and we feel that the federal government has some responsibility in assisting in this particular area, since they are the people that banned the product. We will be having further meetings along these lines in the hope that we can come to some agreement as to how we can avoid the very problem — and which we have recognized — that my honourable friend outlines: the hesitancy on the part of the small owner to confess that he has the product on his premises.

The other manner in which that particular problem can be dealt with is contained in the plans of Kinetic Contaminants — it's the company that I spoke of that applied for a licence for destruction of PCBs in Alberta — and that is the setting up of temporary storage in each of the provinces so that the cost of hauling it in a small amount would not be proportionately larger, but a truck that picks up the PCBs would come only when there is sufficient quantity to make a load that can be economically possible to take out. And that will in effect reduce the individual costs and spread it over the entire load.

So we are conscious of the problem that my honourable friend speaks of and although we've come to no firm conclusions as yet, we do intend to have further meetings to raise the matter with the federal government to see if some arrangements can be made to ensure that the problem that my honourable friend anticipates, and one that we anticipate, will not materialize.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister, Mr. Chairperson, if he has given any thought or his department has given any thought to initiating a super-fund concept which has been discussed in other jurisdictions, particularly south of the border, by which there are assessments against businesses using toxic chemicals, primarily in the event of an environmental accident whereby damages have to be paid, but where there is an assessment for those companies — it's a form of an insurance, but it's insurance not for the companies, it's insurance for the public, so that they are not forced to pay for the removal and for damage that is created by environmental accidents and especially in reference to spills of toxic and hazardous chemicals and waste products. So I would ask the Minister if his department has given any thought to that super-fund concept, and if they haven't, then I suggest that they can because it is one way of taking the financial responsibility for individual actions out of the public's

area and putting it into the hands of those who are responsible for the actions in the first place.

Now there are a couple of concepts and perhaps I can anticipate or try to anticipate some of the discussions, and one is that, well, it doesn't matter because it's going to be tacked onto the cost of the product anyway to the public, that somewhere this money has to come from and as long as the company is in the business of making profit, it's going to have to come not out of their expenses but out of their total financial picture so that their profits stay the same. So that is one problem that would have to be faced up to.

The other solution that the Minister indicated was that perhaps the federal government, because they banned the product in the first place, had some responsibility in assisting to rid our province of this product or rid the country of this product, would do so. But the fact is that's our money also and the Minister know that's that an argument they have used on us on a number of occasions, so I don't feel uncomfortable in addressing myself to it right now, that it's still taxpayers money and what we're trying to do is get the responsibility, the financial responsibility for dealing with these problems, back in the hands of those who created the problems. So I would ask the Minister if he could comment on that super-fund concept and what work his department has done towards examining it to see if it is a viable possibility.

MR. JORGENSEN: The suggestion that is now being made by my honourable friend is one that is contained within the programs for waste disposal that are in existence in other parts of the world, Germany in particular, and I think I mentioned yesterday that my idea or concept of a waste disposal program would involve the generators of the waste as most assuredly being responsible for its disposal so that burden does not fall upon the public generally; at least pay their proportionate share of disposal. They don't create all of the waste. I think it's an objective. Whether or not it can be applied as early as this date or until a comprehensive waste disposal program is in place, I'm not too sure; I'll have to examine my honourable friend's suggestion to determine whether or not that may have some merit.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. When the government does complete its inventory, or even while it is in the process of adding to what is a known inventory already, is the government then going to make that information public as to where toxic chemicals are stored?

MR. JORGENSEN: I would expect indeed it would be a recommendation on my part and I'm convinced that is perhaps the only way that you're going to get the kind of co-operation that we would like to have from the public is if they have full knowledge of the extent of the problem that they're faced with in the question of waste disposal. So making those figures available I think would be necessary in order to make the public aware of what they're facing and what measures may be necessary in order to implement a waste disposal program.

MR. COWAN: Would the Minister be prepared to make it public on a specific basis? And I would not suggest that for every five-gallon can of PCBs that there need to be a public advertisement to that effect; but that where major contaminant sources are found that they do make that public, and there's a reason for this, not to embarrass because I don't think any embarrassment is necessary in this regard, but to enable people living in the areas to understand that there may be a specific problem in regard to the area they live in.

Also the more the public knows, I'm thinking now from the workers vantage point, if the worker knows that a particular operation is using a particular toxin then they can make a better decision as to whether they want to subject themselves to potential risk by working at that operation. And this is a very major problem now in that workers don't know the risk they face and they are not fully informed of all the risks they face; I know it's not the Minister's jurisdiction but I think that the Minister can help in that problem by making this inventory as public as is possible and also ensuring that it is known to people who may have a very vested interest, such as living in close proximity or working in that particular area, to know what toxins are there and what toxins they're being exposed to.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe that public knowledge of the nature of the problem and the extent of the problem is a prerequisite to successful co-operation amongst all people that are going to be concerned.

MR. COWAN: So the Minister would then have no hesitation in making known specific sources of toxic and hazardous wastes?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, I certainly would have no hesitation in making known the quantities that we're faced with. I'll have to give some thought as to whether or not it would be advisable to pinpoint every particular area in the province. But if they have some general idea of the amounts that are involved I am convinced that it would be very helpful in dealing with the problem.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well, the more information the better and I can only encourage the Minister to give some very serious thought to also making the sources known because I believe that it will enable both the public and the workers alike to better manage their own lives, and I think that's what we're after here is better management of our own lives which increases in a higher standard of living.

In regard to a specific problem of PCBs, and that is Canada Packers in Winnipeg, I wrote to the Minister on December 18, 1979 in regard to an incident involving polychlorinated biphenyl contamination of inedible oil products that may have originated at Canada Packers in Winnipeg — and I think we can pretty well determine that it did originate at Canada Packers in Winnipeg now — and I asked the Minister to immediately implement a number of recommendations; and one was to make public the results of any previous present or future testing for polychlorinated biphenyl's contamination of products

from Canada Packers. Now, of course that I believe to be just a very common sense approach to the problem. While we were dealing with inedible oil products in this particular instance, it is a possibility that we could in the future, or we could have in the past, been dealing with edible oil products because they're both produced at the same operation. So I'm not suggesting that is the fact but I'm suggesting that could have been, and may still, well in the future, be the fact and yet I can't recall, and perhaps I missed it, but I can't recall any public documentation as to that. I'd ask the Minister if he followed up on that recommendation and if so, how, when, where and why?

MR. JORGENSEN: As my honourable friend is probably aware it was Agriculture Canada that took the lead in, first of all, the discover of PCBs in the non-edible tallow and all subsequent testing has been done by the Department of Health (Canada) and the Department of Agriculture. Our people were acting in an advisory capacity to them and worked in co-operation with them. Subsequent tests, following along the lines of the suggestion made by my honourable friend, no PCBs were discovered in any other product other than the edible tallow. Tests that have taken place since that time have showed diminishing quantities of PCBs in that No. 2 tallow. For some time now it has been below the acceptable levels so it appears as though the problem has removed itself, although unless there is some later information on it, I don't think they ever did find out where it originated; that remains somewhat of a mystery.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Well, I can't say as to where it originated if the department has not been able to exactly determine but I do think there were several general theories that were floating around at the time and perhaps none of them had been entirely . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: None of them could be traced down with any definite conclusions so the situation remains there. We still are puzzled as to where they came from.

MR. COWAN: Well, I'd ask the Minister then if testing of the sump areas in that particular facility had not shown traces of PCB after this initial testing was done and that on a number of occasions the test did show PCB contamination in the sump areas which may or may not have disappeared at this point.

MR. JORGENSEN: I believe that the suggestion made by my honourable friend, or the assumption made by my honourable friend is correct. I believe that there was but I would hesitate to give my honourable friend any figures on it. That would have to be checked out with Environment Canada.

MR. COWAN: Well, could the Minister then indicate if, to his knowledge, that contamination is still being found in the sump areas at Canada Packers?

MR. JORGENSEN: It's below the acceptable levels. Now, I don't know how recently the tests have been made. I understand they're still being made every month. Now whether the latest tests have indicated a complete removal of the product, I will have to find out; I don't have that information right now.

MR. COWAN: But there still is, to the Minister's best knowledge at the moment, at least in recent months there still has been some PCB contamination found at Canada Packers?

MR. JORGENSEN: Slight traces of it, yes.

MR. COWAN: I would just like to comment on that. When dealing with PCBs some traces are a matter of grave concern because of the fact that they tend to follow the food chain up and tend to accumulate at the highest level in the food chain, which is fortunately, or unfortunately as the case may be, the Minister and myself and others of the human species are affected in the end run by PCB contamination. It may start out at a trace level but if you did enough trace contamination sources it's going to accumulate its way up the food chain. In that same letter I asked the Minister to initiate a comprehensive survey of other possible contamination sites in Manitoba and we are now to believe that is in the process of being developed and they are trying different avenues and different strategies as to how to do that. I asked the Minister to ensure that the PCBs were isolated and removed from the Canada Packers' site. I had opportunity to visit the site myself and know that they were, at the time of this incident, were taken from the roof area. That's my understanding, they were stored on the upper levels of the facility, not the roof area but upper storeys, and that they were transported to a shed outside of the facility itself, outside the packinghouse facility and that there was a cautionary label, Danger PCBs label, on the door and that they were stored in a tank or a number of 45-gallon drums inside. I'd ask the Minister if they're still being stored there or if they have been removed entirely from the site.

MR. JORGENSEN: No, they were moved out on the 18th of January. I'm advised that upon further inspection, because Canada Packers seem to be pretty concerned about it as they might well be, they discovered further quantities of it and that has also been shipped out. I believe now that they have satisfied themselves that there are no more PCBs in their plant.

MR. COWAN: I'd ask the Minister to elaborate on the further sources. Did they find further 45-gallon drums?

MR. JORGENSEN: No, it was in the equipment, hydraulic equipment.

MR. COWAN: The Minister indicates that it was in the equipment, do we have any idea as to the quantity in regard to gallonage and, also, do we have any indication as to whether or not it has been removed from all the equipment to date, so that there is none left in the equipment?

MR. JORGENSEN: It hasn't been removed from the equipment. The equipment has been removed.

MR. COWAN: The equipment has been removed. So that there are no other sources, to the best of our knowledge, of PCB contamination at Canada Packers.

MR. JORGENSEN: No.

MR. COWAN: In that same letter I asked the Minister to ensure that the public storage of PCBs is carried out in accordance with commonly accepted practices and to make public any inventory of known PCB storage in use throughout the province. Since that time the Minister has indicated that they have conducted somewhat of a survey, or they are in the process of conducting somewhat of survey? Have they found other areas where it is being stored outside of the Werier's incident which the Member for Selkirk, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, has brought forward? When they did find those, have they found that they had been stored in accordance with commonly accepted practices?

MR. JORGENSEN: Outside of the quantity of PCBs that are stored at J. Werier and Company, the only other source that keeps turning up from time to time is from Manitoba Hydro and they are disposed of on a regular basis.

MR. COWAN: In that case, Mr. Chairperson, the Minister has led me to another area that I am concerned about and that is Manitoba Hydro. It's my understanding that PCBs are stored here in the city in regard to Manitoba Hydro at the Waverley Street service centre, it has a storage compound. Can the Minister confirm that is indeed the case and perhaps indicate how many gallons or how many 45-gallon drums are being stored there?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, I believe that my honourable friend is correct, I just have to get the details. My answer to the previous question applies in this instance; they are stored at the Waverley Street site and removed in quantity from time to time by Kinetic Contaminants who they have contracted with to remove them out of the province.

MR. COWAN: Does the Minister have any indication of how many are there presently and how much PCB is actually in use throughout the province at Manitoba Hydro installations?

MR. JORGENSEN: No, we don't.

MR. COWAN: That would appear to be a good place to begin an inventory? Can the Minister commit his department to immediately beginning that particular inventory?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, that will be part of the inventory that we'll be attempting to compile during the course of the next year or so.

MR. COWAN: Well, then, and also in regard to Manitoba Hydro, I've been informed by a constituent and I have no way of confirming this at the moment

so I'll ask the Minister to investigate it without prejudice; in other words, I would not want to be interpreted as saying this is actually the case but I'm passing on to him information that has come to me which I believe is of a serious enough nature that the Department take action immediately, and that's in regard to Gillam, Manitoba, and the Radisson and Henday DC converter stations where PCBs are quite extensively used in the operations there. It's my understanding — perhaps I can just read a portion, a pertinent portion, of the letter to the Minister:

It is my understanding that this oil contains PCBs. Every so often one of these canisters ruptures spewing forth its contents over the reactors and adjacent areas of the ground below, etc. When this occurs the corporation ensures that the reactors or other electrical equipment in the vicinity that may have been showered with PCB laden oil are cleaned, and that the can is transported to Winnipeg for disposal. However, the corporation does not ensure, and again I am reading from a letter without prejudice, the corporation does not ensure that the gravel covering the ground at the two northern converter stations and at the single inverter station, the Dorsey station, located at Rosser, Manitoba, northwest of Winnipeg, that may have been contaminated by the ruptured cans are scooped up and disposed of in a thorough and comprehensive manner. Instead the PCB laden oil is allowed to sink into the ground and thus entering the environment. The justification suggested is that where PCBs drain into gravel-covered non-agricultural-use land, no damage can occur because the areas are not intended to be used for any purpose other than the site of a Manitoba Hydro installation. That, to me, is a very serious allegation that was forwarded to me at the beginning of this year and I have, in the past couple of months, tried to determine as to whether or not that information is essentially or even partially correct. Because even if it was partially correct it would be a serious matter. We cannot allow PCBs to enter the environment in that way, whether it be at a site that is going to be used in perpetuity for a converter site, or whether it be a site that is not going to be used in that manner. The recent example of the spill in Saskatchewan only points out very eloquently the problems that are associated with PCB getting into the ground-water systems, PCBs getting into the general environment and that we cannot allow that to happen. So I would ask the Minister if he has been informed of this in the past and if so what actions have been taken and, if not, can he commit himself to investigating this serious allegation as soon as is possible?

MR. JORGENSEN: I'd certainly be interested in investigating that allegation and I wonder if my honourable friend — I don't ask him to reveal the identity of that person — but if he would send me a copy of the contents of that letter I would appreciate it.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I certainly will and I will make certain that to the best of my ability there is no identification of the individual and I would assume that the Minister would not be so interested in who the individual was as to the accuracy of the individual's observations.

MR. JORGENSON: I'm not concerned about that.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. If that is indeed the case that it may well explain why we are starting to find traces of toxic chemicals, especially environmentally long-standing chemicals, such as PCBs, that just don't disintegrate very easily or very rapidly into other elements in compounds but stay in that form and then do work their way up the food chain and present a problem in the end; why we are finding those sorts of chemicals now in our testing of ocean waters that should be relatively unpolluted. In this case, I've read indications of where they have found trace samples of such pollutants in the Arctic Ocean; in areas where one would not expect it to be and that may be because of operations such as this who are not dealing as adequately as they should for whatever reason, and I don't imply any malice in this regard, for whatever reason they are not dealing sufficiently with these problems. The fact is and it was I think pointed out, or I attempted to point it out in the Chambers this morning, that the public awareness of these problems is becoming much greater and as the public awareness becomes greater, and the Minister is encouraging that process, also the awareness of the corporations and the users of these products become greater. They will, when they have the full information available to them and they do feel that public pressure and the government pressure exerted upon them, they will deal with them in a more comprehensive manner. We won't see these sort of abuses if this is, indeed, an abuse that is occurring, happening in the future. I would ask the Minister to keep me informed of that and if there is a spill there to very comprehensively deal with cleaning that particular site up. I believe the Member for St. Vital has some questions, so before proceeding on to another specific area, I would ask if he wants to.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister about landfill sites in the province as it relates to the problem of the production of methane gas. I understand that there has been a problem of late within the city of Winnipeg. It has over 30 old landfill sites that it has identified, some of which have been quite considerable producers of methane gas. I understand that the city of Winnipeg has paid out over 4 million in purchasing buildings from private owners that were threatened by methane gas. They've also had problems with schools that were built in proximity of certain sites. It would appear from what I've found out that it's been entirely the city of Winnipeg that has been dealing with the matter. They've shown considerable concern and responsibility in handling the matter and quite probably they do have the legal responsibility in the matter. I further learn that in a number of other jurisdictions that more senior governments have become involved in the matter and have shown interest and input, including financial input, into relieving some of these problems. It would appear in Manitoba that there has been very little input, if any, by senior government into Winnipeg's methane problems. I would like to ask the Minister what the involvement of his department has been in this area and what sort of checks or inspections is the province involved in or is it being left entirely to the

city of Winnipeg and if so, is there any financial help given to the city.

MR. JORGENSON: As far as the city of Winnipeg is concerned, they exercise their own authority in dealing with these matters. We keep abreast of them and we act in an advisory capacity to them. But we have been carrying out a fairly, perhaps it's a slow-moving and perhaps it's not a spectacular program, but we have been attempting to convince or to work with the municipalities of this province, to advise them of the problems that could result from improper use of landfill sites. We are attempting to provide as much help and advice as we can to the municipalities to ensure that the only product that goes into landfill sites is inert material and ultimately, when a comprehensive waste disposal program is in place such as I outlined yesterday and earlier this morning, that will not be a problem any longer. There will be a classification of waste and it will all be dealt with in such a way as to not produce the harmful affects such as methane gas and as such hazardous waste that is allowed to leech into the soil, and consequently into the underground aquifers that produce problems in water supplies in so many of the rural areas of this province.

These are all problems that are now coming to be realized by the public and by the municipal corporations and are becoming of great concern to them, and we provide as much help as we possibly can to encourage municipalities in the proper use of landfill sites, products that should not go into them, and products that can be more properly disposed of. We are particularly concerned about hazardous waste material being dumped into landfill sites.

So I don't see any quick end to the problem but I think in the long run, if we develop — and I am convinced that it will not be done overnight because there has to be public acceptance and a recognition of the reasons why you have to do certain things. Once that acceptance is there on the part of the public, then it becomes possible to rationally explain to people the reasons why certain things are done in a certain way and why some changes have to be made. Sometimes it's just a question of getting rid of a habit that has grown up over the years and people have not recognized the problems that they have created as a result of, say, throwing everything including the kitchen sink into a local landfill site.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't here when the Minister spoke of a comprehensive plan for waste disposal and it obviously makes sense to develop a comprehensive plan. The subject matter that I mention I realize is only a very small part of the problem but it is one that presents, perhaps, unforeseen difficulties. It wouldn't be inaccurate to call it an explosive situation. I understand that in attempting to deal with one of the problems that it has made the problem of methane much worse, that methane is a gas that's produced by decomposing organic material. I further understand that in sealing off and finishing a landfill site, that in order to prevent rainwater and melting snow from getting into the landfill site and leeching out chemicals and other

materials into ground water, that it's a practice to cap a landfill site with a fair thickness of clay so that the water will run off rather than run through it. This doesn't prevent organic materials from continuing to decompose and produce methane, and rather than simply migrate up through a porous soil, the gas is trapped by this very cover that's put on for protection and tends to build up a pressure which then causes the gas, because it cannot escape vertically, to escape horizontally, which it will do so along the path of least resistance along a hydro or telephone trench or some other geologic fault, and that the gas can travel quite a considerable distance from the site.

A couple of questions that arise from the Minister's remarks when he says that the department is trying to give help and advice, I believe were the terms he used, to municipalities. Can he expand on the meaning of the word help? Is this financial assistance as far as the city is concerned and other municipalities in coping with the problem? Does the department have monitoring and testing facilities and do they carry out independently any testing throughout the province? I realize I have spoken mostly of Winnipeg because that's where the problem has developed or at least received attention over the last couple of years, but the Minister has a provincial responsibility and not just a municipal responsibility, and it would seem that similar problems are likely to arise or could well arise in other cities in the province and other municipalities as well. So can he first of all tell us what responsibility he feels for landfill sites and particularly methane gas throughout the province, and does the department have gas testing equipment and is there any financial assistance being given to other municipalities in the province?

MR. JORGENSEN: No financial assistance. Our assistance up to this point has consisted of lab services, technical services, engineering and inspection services. The university has been conducting a series of experiments on methane gas and that expertise is available to municipalities. It's used to transfer organic material into methane gas and then find a safe disposal method of the remaining material.

I think that perhaps what is necessary at this point is to, instead of considering garbage as garbage, we should start considering it as a resource to be used. That type of material contains a considerable amount of energy value which can be used, and I don't suggest that it can be transformed into a source of energy without some cost. As a matter of fact, it could well be that the cost will be greater than the original energy source, such as coal or something of that nature. But it does provide a means of disposal that does not carry with it the after-effects of present systems of disposal.

So as I said earlier, I hope my honourable friends don't expect that overnight suddenly there is going to be an end to this matter, or indeed that it can be done by passage of laws and regulations. I am convinced in my own mind, as a result of experiences that I have — not personal experiences that I've had but experiences that have been held in other countries — that until you have the total co-operation of the public at large, the generators of

waste and the municipal corporations, all levels of government, that the problem is going to be remaining with us for some time to come. But it does seem to me, as was mentioned yesterday and an observation with which I concur, today there seems to be a growing awareness of the problem and a great desire to do something about it.

There is only one difficulty that I foresee in that growing awareness and that is that everybody wants to transfer the — want to get rid of the problem — but their method of getting rid of it is to transfer it over to somebody else's bailiwick or to somebody else's doorstep, and sometimes that's a very difficult thing to do. We discovered that experience in Ontario and particularly the Mississauga affair and the effort on the part of the provincial government in Mississauga to conduct an experiment to destroy PCBs, that they were simply going to run a test burn in a cement kiln which happened to be located near the town of Mississauga. They simply wanted to determine whether or not it would be possible to destroy them completely in this kiln. The Mississauga municipality countered with a by-law preventing them from doing that, which then moved the provincial government into challenging it in the courts, so the matter rests there. Sometimes there are very honest efforts to get rid of a problem but public opinion has been aroused to such a pitch that even your best efforts are met with opposition, and that's one of the dangers that I see if the matter is dealt with on an emotional rather than a very pragmatic and rational basis. Fine, I agree that there is a great deal of merit to making sure that the public are aware of the problem, but there is also a great danger that you are going to thwart your own efforts if you become too enthusiastic about outlining that problem, if there is exaggeration. Ultimately you get the public reacting in a way that you don't want them to react, and once you have an aroused public it's very difficult to bring any sense of rationalism to a given problem.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is right in that there are no overnight or magic solutions to the problems. He's touched on two aspects of the problem — the future and what has happened in the past. He's correct in talking about the use of garbage as a fuel and I think it's well recognized that natural gas is largely composed of methane. It's a fuel very high in natural gas.

MR. JORGENSEN: What does my honourable friend mean by natural gas?

MR. WALDING: I am speaking of natural gas from oil fields, Mr. Chairman. I'm informed that the composition varies but it's usually in the range of some 50 to 90 percent methane and a little propane and a couple of other gases there. But its energy content is higher and it becomes explosive in very low concentrations in air, something like 5 to 15 percent of methane in air is actually explosive; concentrations above that, it simply burns.

The possibility of using organic materials to produce methane as a fuel is under investigation and experimentation, as he rightly says. In fact, I'm told that there is a farmer in England who, for several years, has been driving his car with power from

methane produced from decomposed chicken manure; that in various parts of the world there are schemes available. I'm trying to think what they're called, fermentation pits, I believe is the term; that animal wastes are put into these pits and they're allowed to ferment over a time and they produce quite large extents of methane. However, those are problems for the future and the matter of public information and assistance to municipalities are matters again for the future.

The problems that I raised with the Minister have to do with problems of the past where, for decades, municipalities have been simply digging pits and dumping in garbage, filling them over when they're finished, forgetting about them and finding that the problems of methane gas and the migration of this gas surfaces many years later. That is the problem I'm outlining to the Minister is to what his involvement is in identifying these landfill sites, and what steps are being taken to correct any production of methane or the migration of methane from those sites.

I realize that the Minister is not responsible for those landfill sites in the past but I'm told that methane can be continued to be produced from those sites for 50 years, 100 years, even longer than a century although the production of the gas tends to taper off after it reaches a maximum after some 10, 15 years afterwards.

My own interest in the problem came about through education when I learned that there was a school in the city that was built directly on top of an old landfill site and that there was considerable amounts of methane being produced. I learned afterwards that there are other schools within the city of Winnipeg that are built quite close to methane-producing sites — let me correct that and say, old landfill sites — whether they are in fact methane producers is a subject of a 5-year investigation by the city. If those things can happen in the city of Winnipeg, they can happen in other municipalities as well, who might not be so aware of the problem or might not have the equipment or monitoring and testing instruments to do their own tests.

It would seem, Mr. Chairman, that the situation is quite critical in Winnipeg and one reason why it's taking five years to conduct this monitoring is a financial reason, that the city does not want to put out a million dollars, I believe is the approximate amount, in one year to test all of these sites in one year. So they have attempted to estimate which are the most critical areas and they are testing so many this year; I believe it's six sites and a further 10 next year and so many each year.

What consideration has the Minister given to providing the city of Winnipeg with additional funds so that it can compress that 5-year testing down into one or perhaps two years to enable at least the city of Winnipeg to assure the citizens of Winnipeg that either there is no hazard or the hazard is known and recognized and that the city is taking steps to protect citizens against the hazards of explosive methane gas?

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): The Honourable Minister.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to tell my honourable friend what consideration is being given to this because it would be a matter that would have to be discussed with the city of Winnipeg and the provincial government, and I presume through the Department of Urban Affairs. I'm not sure whether that has been brought to the attention of the Department of Urban Affairs as yet, I will have to check on that, or whether any consideration has been given to assisting them in this project. Certainly my department has not been involved in any discussions with them with respect to funding.

MR. WALDING: Further to the problems in other municipalities outside of Winnipeg, is the Minister's department or his inspection staff, or whomever in the department, bringing to the attention of municipalities the sorts of problems that Winnipeg has been involved with? Are municipalities being encouraged to investigate their old landfill sites for this problem? Are they being made aware of the problems that can occur with buildings, schools, homes, within their own municipalities? Are they being encouraged either to do their own testing or to get consulting firms in that can do this form of testing and monitoring for them?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, we do the monitoring for them. As I said, we have, over a period of years, been working with the municipalities in the development of landfill sites, providing engineering services for them, technical advice, etc. I think my honourable friend would be aware that the magnitude of the problem in a rural municipality is pretty miniscule compared to the problem that is being faced by the city of Winnipeg. So the difficulties that he perceives in this question in the city of Winnipeg do not arise in that extent in the rural areas. But it's a problem nonetheless. We feel that we've been quite successful in removing the worst hazards of what has been the practice in the past of the use of landfill sites.

As I said earlier, in my view the problem will not be totally eliminated until a comprehensive waste disposal program is in place and that will be a costly program and it will involve not just various levels of government but it will involve everyone who is a generator of waste, and that is everybody.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister says that he does the monitoring or his department does the monitoring, is he indicating that his department puts in place monitors or probes into the soil around landfill sites and physically records the levels of methane being produced or escaping from the site?

MR. JORGENSEN: Our program does not consist of just simply the monitoring of methane. What we are attempting to do is to remove that problem. We periodically inspect their landfill sites and advise them of problems that they may be encountering and how to avoid those problems. Municipalities are advised not to project uses of abandoned landfill sites, for example, landfill sites that have been filled, until we've cleared them, until we have declared by testing that they are safe, for example, for other uses.

It is not so much a program of setting out regulations and then having people live by those regulations; it's a question of working with these people who have as much concern over the problem as we have and assisting them in ensuring that their methods of disposal of wastes are methods that will not lead to problems in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 12:30 having arrived, I am leaving the Chair for Private Members' Hour.

SUPPLY — HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to page 61 of the Main Estimates, Department of Health, Resolution No. 77, Clause 3, item (h) Pharmaceutical Services, (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, it's somewhat unusual for us to be dealing with estimates in the absence of the Minister. If you feel it advisable or necessary to proceed in his absence, I guess we could all make speeches but maybe we should . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can wait if you like. I thought there was some disposition to get started and so . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Disposition by whom, Mr. Chairman? I would like very much to get going on this but not in the absence of the Minister, who has to produce his estimates. I am sure there is a reason for his absence and I would expect he'll turn up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He'll be here any minute, I understand.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, it's okay; there must be a reason, no question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The committee will come to order. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I was just standing sorting out my papers. Nevertheless, I do have a question I would like to ask the Minister. Has he already tabled a report or a summary of a report which he had received from the Manitoba Society of Professional Pharmacists on their self-investigation of standards?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, if we get speeches like that from the Minister, we'll be making progress. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, the Minister on April 14, and it's quoted on page 2353 of Hansard to the effect that, dealing with — let me first precede it by saying — dealing with a report which had been prepared and made public on professional standards of pharmacists in Manitoba where he indicated and I quote: I have in fact heard from the professional association itself on the subject and in addition to that we asked the Drug Standards

and Therapeutics Committee, the statutorily empowered committee appointed by government in that field, to look at the survey and the methodology of that survey. The Manitoba Society of Professional Pharmacists has investigated themselves and have responded with a very lengthy report which I certainly cannot capsulize at this juncture, Mr. Speaker, although, and this is the relevant part of the quote, although I would be prepared to tempt to capsulize it and bring that form of answer into the House within the next day or two. That was April 14th. The Hansard reads: I would be prepared to tempt to capsulize it, and I don't know whether he really wanted to tempt us by suggesting that he would or to attempt to do it, but in any event, he concluded by saying, I can deal with it during my estimates which I believe are due to be called fairly shortly. Would the Minister then please deal with that report?

MR. SHERMAN: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated on the date mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Johns I would do. The Manitoba Society of Professional Pharmacists has assessed and evaluated that particular media report of the results of that particular research project and, as I think I indicated to the House at the time, our provincial Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee have similarly, at the request of my office, assessed and evaluated that report and the conclusions carried in the particular media report which generated the honourable member's concern and interest and the anxiety, concern, and interest of a great many of us.

The results of those two investigations, Mr. Chairman, would indicate that the conclusions arrived at by the newspaper in question in its story in question, were facile and highly provocative, that they do not represent or reflect the true and valid findings and conclusions of that particular survey, nor did the survey project, in its own right, reflect or portray accurately and entirely validly the situation that it is purported to portray in the newspaper stories. The newspaper articles indicated that Winnipeg pharmacists fared poorly in a research project conducted by the Canadian Conference on Continuing Education in Pharmacy.

The Canadian Conference on Continuing Education in Pharmacy is a voluntary association. It's comprised of nine provincial regulatory organizations as members and the supporting membership of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. It acts as a national accrediting agency for Continuing Pharmacy education programs. One of its primary goals, sir, is to identify pharmacists continuing education needs and then plan appropriate resource programming.

In 1977 that particular conference, CCCEP, approached the Non-medical Use of Drugs Directorate of Health and Welfare Canada with a number of topics for action research consideration. The relationship of alcohol and drugs was identified as an area of interest to both parties. The Conference provided the input on pharmaceutical and continuing education needs while Dr. G. Barnes and Dr. N. Chappell, assigned National Health Research scholars, provided assistance in the area of

sociological demographic and attitudinal requirements.

The results were made available to the Canadian Conference on Continuing Education in Pharmacy and on the basis of them, newspaper reports, media reports, were carried that indicated that Manitoba pharmacists fared extremely poorly, were at the bottom of the list, or close to the bottom of the list in terms of education and maintenance of continuing education is concerned and in terms of their knowledge of the interaction of drugs and alcohol and their capability to impart that knowledge and that information to their own customers and clients.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the study's aims were to evaluate pharmacists' knowledge in a very narrow field, the field of alcohol and drugs, that is medical drugs, drugs of medication, to measure professional attitudinal scales and then to determine the types and levels of continuing education required to alleviate any perceived weakness. A study of this type, Sir — and I'm quoting from a response to me and a report to me from our Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee — A study of this type was therefore not designed to ensure that everyone receive some form of passing grade or some other standard normative measurement, but rather the knowledge portion of the study was structured to identify strengths and weaknesses in chemistry, pharmacology and pharmacy practice-related areas. This information was then to be combined with other information and other results to help in designing new approaches in the field of continuing education programming. That is to say, the study's design was extremely limited; it was purely diagnostic; and it was action orientated.

Following the data collection phase, Drs. Barnes and Chappell received a grant from the Manitoba Medical Services Foundation to undertake an analysis of their raw data. Continuing education needs of practising pharmacists is the analysis of the questionnaire data and it was submitted by the authors to the Manitoba Medical Services Foundation.

The report was given to the press by Dr. Barnes, I am advised, without any explanatory comment as to the study's objectives, findings and limitations. For example, the measures of professionalism used were developed for this study and do not have a wide acceptance, nor have they been subjected to rigorous validation. Again and throughout I'm quoting the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee.

The original intent of a study to assess pharmacists' need for continuing education programs seems to have been lost by the newspaper reports, as have the results of the study, which were limited to a very specific content area and cannot be generalized to other areas of pharmacy practice.

In 1977 when this study was first considered, the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association had just introduced mandatory continuing education requirements for annual relicensure. At that time only two continuing education units were required annually. Now that requirement is 15 continuing education units per year, with most pharmacists participating in far more than the minimum required.

The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, in conjunction with the National Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and the Conference

referred to, is pursuing national standards of pharmacy practice and methods of evaluating competency.

In summary — and the executive secretary of the committee makes this statement to me — I believe the pharmacy profession in Manitoba is continuing to work to maintain appropriate professional service to the community. My office will continue to work with the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association to assure the protection of the public's health.

The report from the Manitoba Society of Professional Pharmacists Incorporated, Mr. Chairman, is similar in vein, and points out that the survey utilized pharmacy students and focussed on the continuing education needs of practising pharmacists in the area of alcohol and drug interactions, but that the newspaper article did not emphasize the narrow confines of the study and implied that local pharmacists showed an overall lack of professionalism, knowledge and responsibility. In fact, the average mark on this questionnaire that was circulated to pharmacists in, I believe, six cities, the average mark in response to this questionnaire, was 46 percent, Mr. Chairman. The fact of the matter is that it was narrow and limited in scope; it was designed to focus on the kind of current knowledge and practice in terms of imparting that knowledge on the part of pharmacists in the drug and alcohol interaction field; and that it was, as I understand it in any event, administered and assessed differently in the different regions, the different cities, in which it was applied. So it's very difficult to compare the results in one city with the results in another because of the application of the questionnaire itself and the interpretation of the questions and the answers by those utilizing the questionnaire, or those directing the questionnaire to pharmacists.

In any even, the average mark was 46 percent. Manitoba's marks generally, in terms of its pharmacy students in national exams, have been exemplary. Students of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba regularly stand first and second in national exams, and I think that the graduates of our School of Pharmacy need defer to no one in Canada in the area of pharmaceutical knowledge.

But this was a study, Sir, that was academically structured and applied; that certainly has some merit in identifying for us the needs as we pursue with the pharmacists the whole field of continuing medical education, identifying for us an area in which great emphasis has to be placed and must continue but, certainly, to leap to the kinds of conclusions that were implied in the newspaper articles that appeared at the time, particularly in one newspaper, was a distortion of the situation and I think a disservice to our School of Pharmacy and our profession of pharmacy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, would the Minister please indicate who are the members of that committee which did the study from which he was quoting so extensively? While he's looking it up, Mr. Chairman, not only who they are but what is their expertise?

MR. SHERMAN: If the honourable member will give me one minute, I think I can give him the names of the members of the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee, Mr. Chairman. The chairman is Dr. Ian Innes, who is head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Manitoba, and members include Mr. R. Bigelow, B.Sc. Pharmacy and Mr. R. Cairns, B.Sc. Pharmacy. Mr. Bigelow is a community pharmacist in Winnipeg; Mr. Cairns is a community pharmacist in Grandview; Mr. Harvey Cantin, a community pharmacist in Winnipeg; Mr. H. Chunick, a community pharmacist in Thompson; Dr. M. Cole, a Winnipeg pediatrician; Dr. Paul Mitenko, clinical pharmacologist at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg; Mr. W. Reimer, a community pharmacist in Steinbach; Dr. Ken Simpson, a general practitioner in Teulon; Professor John Steel, PhD, pharmaceutical chemistry in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg; Mr. O. Wagner, a community pharmacist in Portage la Prairie; and the pharmaceutical consultant and secretary to the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee is Mr. Kenneth D. Brown of Winnipeg. That is the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, just the last name, Brown, what is his expertise.

MR. SHERMAN: He is a pharmacist, Mr. Chairman, and he is the pharmaceutical consultant and secretary to the committee. He is in fact, Mr. Chairman, the director of our Pharmacare Program. The former architect and director was, as the honourable member knows, Mr. Rene Chartier. Since he left to take on new assignments in Ottawa, Mr. Ken Brown has been directing that program.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's report or the report which he dealt with is a pretty devastating attack on the responsibility or lack of responsibility of the newspapers whose reports were, I think, very damaging and to the extent, as indicated by the Minister, are distorted, would indicate a lack of responsibility on the part of the newspapers which could have a serious lasting impact on the appearance to the public of the pharmaceutical profession. I've never myself had occasion to doubt the general competence and I believe that the School of Pharmacy in Manitoba is a good one, only because the people I've known and the pharmacists I've known, almost all of them seem to show not only competence in advising me as a lay person but also have always impressed me with sincerity and a desire to serve the public in the pharmaceutical field.

It's always, I believe, a pity that pharmacists trained with many years of study and with many tax dollars are spending a great deal of time marketing goods that have nothing to do with their training and that is the trend that has taken place all over this continent. I think it's an unfortunate trend and I, personally, am happier to see that more and more pharmacists are working in the dispensaries, rather than are up front running big retail operations of a chain store or a supermarket nature. In saying that, I feel that a professional, as the pharmacist is, trained to serve

the public in a particular way ought not to be involved in merchandising but ought to be practising his profession.

I do believe that most of those I've dealt with do indeed show a concern to maintain their own standards and that's why I was really upset when I read the newspaper reports of March 22 and 24 last. One headline is, Local Pharmacist get Worst Rating, and proceeds to quote, directly and summarize indirectly aspects of the report. I think that what the Minister read and I'm trying to listen carefully, although some of it seemed to be sort of uncertain or vague in certain respects, that there was criticism also against the two people: Two University of Manitoba health researchers seem to be critical of the way they presented it. The quotations are certainly a matter of concern because the first article starts with a quotation about Winnipeg pharmacists that they are, the least professional, the least knowledgeable and the least responsible among those in major Canadian cities. That's a direct quote and although it may be that it was confined to a narrow field, such as was described by the Minister, if it's true relating to any field at all, it is a serious accusation.

So I would like to think, Mr. Chairman, that the responsible newspaper — and I mean responsible in a sense that it ought to be responsible — which has heard the Minister's comments, and to which the Minister ought to forward copies of that report should then proceed to review carefully what was said and make corrections so that the public is properly informed. I think it's very important that the public should know and I think it's the responsibility of the Minister of Health of this province to make sure that the public does know. Therefore, I would like to think that it is not too late to have corrections made in the, I think, damaging information that was given to the public.

I think, too, Mr. Chairman, that we have to recognize on the other side of it, that all professions have a conflict within themselves of being required to serve the public in the interest of the public and concurrently have a selfish, self-serving interest to maintain a certain standard in society, to maintain a certain income, and from the standpoint of each of them, the higher the income the better. There can be that conflict, and therefore when Legislatures give to professions self-licencing and self-disciplining powers, which they do, and to a large extent have to do because the professions themselves are the most expert in the field of judging their own peers and their own actions. The public, and that means the Legislature, and that means really the Ministry of Health, in the health field, must be ever alert to make sure this self-serving interest which is in all of us does not over-ride in any way the dedication to public service, which is one of the prime requirements of a professional.

So I am glad that the Minister did not rely only on a self-examination by the pharmaceutical industry, but did go outside to another committee which still consists of pharmacists, but nevertheless is appointed by government, is accountable to government and therefore presumably is expected to be much more objective. I would hope that is the case.

Mr. Chairman, we had occasion yesterday and the day before to deal with a survey on the dental program, which as far as I'm concerned is inadequate and not sufficiently supported to the extent of the direction given to it. That's why I tried to listen carefully to what the Minister said in this matter of the pharmacists, and it would appear they did make a pretty thorough review. It seems to me that almost every report one receives in government should be looked at objectively by someone else to study the objectivity of the persons presenting the report.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased the Minister did present that. I hope that his presentation is valid and that therefore the public of Manitoba has a right to continue to rely on the ethical and competency standards of the pharmaceutical profession. I have to say I am sorry the publicity given to this other report was given in a distorted fashion, assuming what the Minister has read to us is correct, and that's why I would really urge the Minister, and I think it is his responsibility as the person charged with health care in Manitoba, to make sure that the report he has read is given to the media and directly to the newspapers which presented this adverse light on the pharmacists so they have the opportunity, as responsible reporters to make the corrections which appear to me now to be necessary. I believe it is important we attempt to maintain high standards of confidence in the professions, and in doing so one must see to it that there is publicity given to both adverse and favourable reports made on these standards.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, just to underscore what the Honourable Member for St. Johns has said, and to reassure him, I would like to advise him that Dr. Innes, who is the Chairman of the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee, to whom I've referred, states that as a knowledge test the questionnaire has been considered invalid by the committee itself — that is the Canadian — as a knowledge test the questionnaire has been considered invalid by the committee itself, which is the Canadian Conference on Continuing Education in Pharmacy.

If I might just take one more minute, I would like to advise the Honourable Member for St. Johns that the evaluation and report forwarded to me by the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee also contained this paragraph:

The data collection fees received funding under the non-medical use of drugs directorate summer student program in 1978 and was conducted by third and fourth year pharmacy students during that summer. While the project was conducted under the direct supervision of the National Canadian Conference on Continuing Education in Pharmacy office, and the supervision of the member provinces Continuing Education Co-ordinators, the data collection nevertheless may have suffered to some degree, simply because it is being collected by six different people, in six different locations. 312 Canadian pharmacists participated in this study, 51 of these were from Winnipeg, the rest were in Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Toronto and Montreal. While every attempt was made to control

student interview or variables, subtle differences in interpretation and recording may have been present. For that reason, and others, the Conference itself did not accept the questionnaire as a valid knowledge test and the co-ordinator who lives in Edmonton, I am informed, is apparently writing, or has apparently written a letter to the Winnipeg newspaper in question, protesting that the report was not accepted as valid by the Conference. Whether that letter has ever been received, and whether it has ever appeared in that newspaper, I can't tell the honourable member, I haven't seen it, but that doesn't prove that it hasn't appeared.

The problem obviously, Mr. Chairman, rests in the fact the information coming out of that questionnaire and being interpreted locally, was not explained to the media by the researcher. I don't know that, you know I subscribe to the concerns raised by the honourable member, but I was in the media for a long time myself and I know these things can happen, and it's not always the media at fault. The information was not explained to the media by the researcher, and that led to real problems. At the annual meeting of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Education Committee, these news reports were a source of major concern to them; they expressed their displeasure at the interpretation and their concern with the public dissemination given to that interpretation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I wanted to ask the Minister if he has anything to add to what has appeared in the news media about the drug Darvon and the concern expressed by some doctors and some pharmacists, both through the media and to me personally, about the danger particularly of interaction between Darvon and alcohol.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. SHERMAN: I haven't, Mr. Chairman, but I can certainly search that out for the honourable member. In this whole area of continuing medical education in the pharmaceutical field, that is the type of problem and challenge that is being identified for the purposes of addressing those problems. For example, one of the major concerns has been the interaction of alcohol and Valium, and no doubt the honourable member is quite correct when she raises the question of the interaction of alcohol and Darvon and other medications of that type. This really was what the questionnaire exercise was all about, so the Conference on Continuing Education could design and develop better methods for zeroing in on that particular problem, and I'm sure that Darvon would be included in their area of concern. But I will investigate that further and report to her outside committee.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Chairperson, I wonder if consideration would be given to giving some responsibility to the pharmaceutical profession in allowing them to, I don't know what the correct wording is for this sort of thing, allowing them to use

their judgement in the filling of prescriptions where they sense abuse or potential abuse in a drug such as Darvon, Valium as well, and particularly when used with alcohol. In considering this, I wonder if he would also consider the possibility of requiring some precautionary note be added to the medication when it is delivered from the pharmacy to the patient.

I have another question in connection with a drug known as Puva, which is a medication for the treatment of psoriasis and other skin diseases. This has been under consideration for inclusion as a medication which would appear in the Physicians Manual as an ensured — is that the word?— for the medication. The College of Physicians and Surgeons approved the procedure as to scientific merit in late 1979; it then went to the MMA for their recommendation, and as of the end of January they were discussing it and it was expected they would make a recommendation to MHSC shortly after that time. I understand it requires an Order-in-Council before it can be entered into the Physicians Manual. There are a number of people who are anxious to have the cost of this treatment, which I think is 30-something per treatment, paid by those who require it. They are anxious to know if this can be covered.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the area the honourable member refers to is a precise and specific area of responsibility under the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee, in concert with the National Health and Welfare and the Food and Drug Authorities at the federal level in Ottawa. New medications, new drugs of the type to which she has referred are tested, assessed and examined very thoroughly at the national level, and again reassessed for purposes of establishing their acceptability and their value and their safety and their effectiveness by our Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee. So that is the process new drugs and medications have to go through before they can be accepted as prescription drugs under our Pharmacare program, or in fact be used in the health care system in Manitoba.

On her earlier question, Manitoba Pharmacists have in fact been in the forefront of a move to label prescriptions with auxiliary labels that carry information relative to the dangers of interaction between that particular medication and alcohol. They have certainly demonstrated initiative in that field and in many many instances now, other pharmacists in other jurisdictions are taking the lead from Manitoba and it is becoming a much more widespread national practice that there be this kind of auxiliary labelling on prescriptions to provide that additional information regarding medication and the interaction with other foods or with other consumables, and also providing information with respect to the proper times to take the medication and the activities that should be avoided when the medication is being taken. So I think those areas of concern, although I appreciate the spotlight and the focus that the Member for Fort Rouge places on them at this time, those areas of concern are of paramount interest to our pharmacists and to our Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee. They are aware of them and are attempting to take the necessary protective action and whatever remedial action is necessary. We have, Mr. Chairman, six

specialists with PhD qualifications who are working with our doctors at the Health Sciences Centre in the field of pharmacy and identification of problems of this kind, drug interactions.

In addition to that, Sir, we have based at the Deer Lodge Hospital here, a major three-year research program under Dr Paul Mitenko which is specifically aimed at identifying the problems that arise or can arise from the use of drugs and medications in elderly persons to develop the safest and healthiest and best methods and practices and prescriptions in the medication field for elderly persons.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: I thank the Minister for his detailed answer. On the matter of PUVA, if I can go back to that for a moment, Mr. Chairperson, the information that I was given by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and was confirmed later by Manitoba Medical Association, is that once the Manitoba Medical Association makes their recommendation for approval to MHSC it then needs an Order-in-Council in order to be included; that's what I was told. If it's not true I would be glad to know and I can go back and go to someone else and question them about it, but I was told it needs an Order-in-Council before being entered into the Physicians Manual, and I have constituents who are most anxious to have these treatments covered.

My information also is that this is done in some other provinces so I presume the national precautions to which the Minister referred have already been taken and it has been approved nationally.

MR. SHERMAN: I can look into that, Mr. Chairman, but I think there may be some confusion here as to whether we're talking about a federal process or a provincial process. New drugs, medications, coming on the market either from Canadian pharmaceutical researchers and developers or those in other countries, must be assessed and tested and approved by National Food and Drug and it's quite possible that they have to be approved by federal Order-in-Council in the federal Cabinet. — (Interjection)— Well, but this is the point on which none of us I guess are quite certain. The Member for Fort Rouge says that she understands they have to be approved by Order-in-Council. If they do, it's at the federal level; certainly not at the provincial level. What I think the Member for Fort Rouge may be alluding to here is that each year a new drug formulary is developed by the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee and certainly there has to be approval by that committee of the generic drugs and the brand name drugs that are going to be included for use in our Pharmacare Program as prescription drugs in Manitoba; and new medical procedures, new surgical and medical procedures that are included under the Insured Services Program of Medicare are usually, in fact I think always, contained in amendments to regulations to the existing legislation in the province; and those regulations, of course, require Order-in-Council passage.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Chairperson, I have to apologize. I have unwittingly mislead. The approval that I've been talking about is only as to coverage under Pharmacare. The treatment is being offered in Manitoba now by dermatologists and it is a treatment I think rather than a bottle of pills or something like that. It is a treatment and you go to the dermatologist and have the treatments. And it had to go to the physicians and surgeons for approval of procedure as to scientific merit and that was given before it could be covered under Pharmacare; and then it went to the MMA and their decision was being awaited at the end of January. I still could be wrong but this is what I really was intending to lead up to; it's the coverage under Pharmacare that is the need that's been expressed to me by constituents rather. The treatment is already there and it cost — in December the figure I was given was something like 36 a treatment, weekly, which becomes rather heavy.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I think now what we're talking about is an insured service, either under Medicare or Pharmacare. Certainly any new insured services have to be approved by Executive Council and perhaps we could look at that under the appropriation dealing with the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I'll try to assist in clarifying this. I think two things have to occur here. One, the Medicare aspect of it which I suspect probably is covered because if you go to a dermatologist's office, whatever he does there is probably covered under one of the procedures. But if it isn't then that's a Medicare problem. Then the compound itself or the actual medication itself which the dermatologist may be applying; it's like going to a doctor and getting an injection or shot and the doctor is paid for the procedure but, in addition, when he gets whatever it is he is injecting into you, through the pharmacy, through the druggist, that is covered under the Pharmacare program. So you have two components here, you have the Medicare, the doctor's own procedure for the work he does plus whatever it is he's using and I suspect what the Member for Fort Rouge is talking about it perhaps both problems, one is the doctor's efforts covered under Medicare, I suspect it is; if the dermatologists are using it, they're pretty good about getting everything they do covered under Medicare. The other factor though is the drug itself which they themselves apply to the patient, that may not be covered under Pharmacare and I think that's really what the Member for Fort Rouge is trying to ascertain; can it be covered under Pharmacare? To do that it does require an Order-in-Council, in other words, it has got to be added to the drug formulary that you mentioned.

MR. SHERMAN: That's correct, Mr. Chairman and I thank the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks for his comments. I would assume that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is talking about a new treatment for psoriasis, a new injection for psoriasis which may still be in its experimental stages, testing

stage, I don't know. I will look into it but then, once approved and available, the coverage of it as a drug, as a medication under Pharmacare, would have to be approved at Executive Council level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1—pass; 2—pass; (h)—pass. Resolution No. 77-pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding 7,520,900 for Health, Community Health Directorate 7,520,900-pass.

Resolution NO. 78, Clause 4, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba — the Honourable Minister.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, as I recall, last year my friend, the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, was somewhat dismayed by the fact that I didn't make an opening statement with respect to the Alcoholism Foundation, what we are doing and where we believe and hope we are going. On the other hand, Sir, I am not unaware of the facts that members on both sides of the Committee feel that sometimes the Minister may take up considerable time in making statements of that kind and I am perfectly prepared to offer an opening statement if it is the wish of the opposition, and particularly the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, who has a considerable and ongoing interest in this subject, but if he would like to assume the floor and start from his position and ask me questions I am prepared to deal with it that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be preferable if the Minister led off because it is more important that we understand where he intends to go.

MR. SHERMAN: Good morning, gentlemen. Mr. Chairman, the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba is a body that performs a very important service to the people of Manitoba and one which I want to assure members opposite has my considerable interest and my great appreciation. I want to thank the Chairman of the Board and the members of the Board of the Foundation: Chairman Mr. Gary Miles and his very capable Board; the Executive-Director of the Foundation, Mr. David Cruickshank; and his very capable administration including Mr. Ian Puchlik and Mr. Ross Ramsey, and personnel of that quality and calibre, and their colleagues in the administration of the Foundation; and all those who work for the Foundation in the field through our treatment Programs and our education programs, Prevention and Extension Services, our Regional Services, and in contact with the external agencies. They toil in a very difficult field of challenge and one that has enormous implications and ramifications for the health care of Manitoba generally, and one which, I think, we would all concede is a battleground that must concern itself with a problem that I think could be said, without exaggeration, to have taken on something of the nature of epidemic proportions, certainly very grave proportions in terms of social cost and social consequence.

We have in the past year been very fortunate in acquiring a new Executive-Director of the

Foundation, Mr. David Cruickshank, who is sitting on the floor with me, on my left, the successor to another very capable Executive-Director, General Stuart Graham, who retired at approximately this time last year; and under the, I might say, inspired leadership of Mr. Cruickshank working in concert with his immediate colleagues in the central office and in concert with the Board under the Chairman, Mr. Miles, have embarked, I believe, on a course and on a path that will produce for us significant and positive gains, and positive benchmarks of progress in the campaign against alcoholism and alcohol abuse in Manitoba that will be visible in a very short period of time. I think within the immediate foreseeable future we are going to be able to point to some significant gains and significant results as a result of the initiative and the ideas that Mr. Cruickshank and others have brought to the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation's budget this year is 4.8 million and it breaks down in the following categories, Mr. Chairman, it breaks down at 335.1 thousand for provincial administration; 2,409,600 for treatment programs and regional services; 757.1 thousand for prevention and extension services; and 1,388,600 for external programs, external agencies.

The aims and objects of the Foundation, I'm sure, are known to all members of the committee. Primarily they are to assist individuals with problems involving the abuse or misuse of alcohol and other drugs; to disseminate information respecting the recognition, prevention and treatment of the abuse or misuse of alcohol and other drugs; and to initiate, sponsor, conduct and promote a program of research in the field of prevention of chemical dependency and the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with chemical dependencies.

To further those aims and objectives the Foundation of course is empowered to establish hospitals, clinics and centres for observation and treatment of such individuals; to work with hospitals and other institutions respecting their accommodation; and with universities and colleges and other academic centres and institutions respecting the study of methods of treatment; to try to coordinate the efforts of all agencies in the alcoholism field, private and public; and to make grants to institutions and agencies which are in operation for the purpose of providing and carrying out an effective campaign to reduce alcohol and drug abuse.

The thrust in the year immediately ahead of us, Mr. Chairman, is one that's aimed at strengthening and developing our ability, not only to provide better treatment and a more cohesive attack on the problems of those who suffer from alcohol dependency but also to make better use of the resources that are available to us, both in terms of manpower and finances. I think that we can point over the past year to considerable progress in the areas of new planning and reorganization. In fact, new planning and reorganization were really the keynotes of the activities of the Foundation in the past year.

We can point to new approaches having been developed in treatment programs and several new programs introduced in the areas of prevention. We combined into a single directorate, known as Prevention and Extension Services, the functions of

education, community service, research and evaluation, native programs, occupational programs, training and library services. That new directorate, Prevention and Extension Services, replaced the former directorates of Provincial Programs and Evaluation and Research.

I believe significant new relationships and new calibres of relationship were forged in the past year with private agencies in the field of alcoholism treatment. They are still being developed in an effort to improve the total spectrum of care in the greater Winnipeg area and considerable new thinking and planning has been worked out with several of the agencies. Discussions have been held with persons working in the field of alcoholism in the native communities of the province and special projects have been initiated. This work is going to continue over the next fiscal year.

The two most glamorous initiatives in the past year that we can point to, I think, are the new Headingley Jail Treatment Program and a new Day Program for Females at River House, which is now known as the River House Women's Centre. At Headingley, Mr. Chairman, two staff members were redirected from the Winnipeg Region to the operation of a Special Treatment Program within Headingley Jail — that program got under way in November and has achieved very favourable results up to this time. It provides 21-day treatment programs for approximately 15 inmates in each series. Up the end of the last calendar year, December, 1979, 30 inmates had completed the program and as I say, the reports both from those taking the program and officials at Headingley Jail are most gratifying.

In addition to the redeployment of staff and moneys that I referred to, we have increased our treatment capability in Winnipeg with the introduction of new non-resident treatment programs for persons not requiring residential services. These take the form of evening programs for male and female persons and day programs for females at the River House Women's Centre. In addition we're planning to shorten the term of many of our residential treatment programs to allow for an increase in our capacity. When these programs are maximized they can have the effect of increasing our treatment capability by close to 50 percent of what it was previously. The cost of these programs is, generally speaking, not an increase over previous operating expenditures.

This philosophy, this approach, this initiative will enable us to increase our treatment capacity by approximately 720 clients per year, from 1,275 in 1978-79 to an anticipated 1,995 for 1980-81. These new programs are still in their infancy, of course, and will take several months to get to peak capability but they are on track and they are under way and the day program for females at the River House Women's Centre is certainly moving into a phase of considerable capability and efficiency.

Our Planning and Research team within the Foundation is currently at work researching or developing some other special new projects, including a new program in co-operation with the Motor Vehicles Branch regarding impaired drivers; an improvement to detoxification facilities in Winnipeg and other provincial locations; work with outside agencies to develop new half-way homes in Winnipeg, including one for women; research on

methods to improve the handling of people under The Intoxicated Persons Detention Act; development of new alcohol education programs for youth in Junior High Schools; development of closer co-operation with native alcohol treatment organizations, the federal government and local native organizations; and in this respect I might say one of our major thrusts involves a Native Counsellor Training Program.

We have opened a new office in the town of Dauphin to expand AFM services in the Parklands region. It will provide alcohol treatment education and public awareness. An office will be opened and an Alcohol Treatment worker will be hired for the town of Flin Flon for the purpose of providing treatment assistance and referrals as well as for Community Education and Awareness Programs; and a new employee will be hired at Thompson, to provide treatment education and awareness services to Wabowden and Nelson House.

Mr. Chairman, just before I sit down, I want to advise the Honourable Member for Transcona, the official health critic for the opposition and his colleagues, and in particular the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, that a further redirection of existing staff resources has been approved by the AFM Board of Governors to allow for an increase in treatment services in the Rossburn area. And I know that the Member for Winnipeg Centre, and others, will have some interest in that because there has been ongoing pressure and request for input by the government and by the Foundation in the Rossburn area. An Alcohol Treatment worker will be hired and assigned to work Rossburn and district. The appointment will be made prior to July 1st of this year.

We are, sir, embarking on a provincewide treatment needs survey, which is the final high profile initiative that I want to identify at this juncture in these remarks, for members opposite, as one of our major undertakings for the coming year. This survey will be divided into two parts which will separate the Winnipeg downtown needs from the rest of the province. Mr. James Toal will head the Winnipeg city study while the remainder of the province will be handled by the Regional Administrators in Thompson, Brandon and Winnipeg for central Manitoba, under Mr. Ross Ramsay.

In view of this study and in view of several requests for treatment facilities in such places as Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, Rossburn and Birch River-Swan River, it has become necessary to re-evaluate all of our treatment services including those provided by external or private agencies. Preliminary assessments already made by AFM staff indicate the need for a provincial treatment facility similar to ALCARE in Ste. Rose, to service the needs of the following locations: Parklands, the northern and eastern sections of WestMan, and the west central region. That is an objective in our immediate planning priorities spectrum, Mr. Chairman.

Arrangements for sub-acute detox treatment and after-care programs must be identified as part of the needs of these regions. We believe that this study can be concluded by the fall of this current calendar year and the complete AFM plan will then include recommendations for the future of all private and AFM treatment facilities.

Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to take up any more time of the committee at the moment. Perhaps I can leave those thoughts with honourable members opposite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I wonder if the Minister would tell us, please, what the amount was Recoverable from Canada in the previous year. Let's see, it's 1,350,000.00.

MR. SHERMAN: I'll get that information, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I wanted to follow up on a number of questions that were asked by my predecessor in this seat in the estimates of 1978, so that I can perhaps understand a little better what changes have been made since then. At that time the previous Member for Fort Rouge made reference to the Alcohol Foundation and to the fact that there was a declining caseload at the Alcohol Foundation, empty beds in its inpatient clinic and a severely declining ratio of staff-to-patient loads, and that the service delivery people there weren't receiving any increments, but administrative and management were. Have there been any changes in this whole service offered by the Alcohol Foundation since June 1978, Mr. Chairperson?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, with respect, it's a little difficult to get a precise handle on the honourable member's question. There certainly have been changes in redeployment of staff and facilities and direction, in treatment philosophy and approach such as those that I have just mentioned in my opening remarks. There also have been expansions of our service and treatment capability in various parts of the province. If the honourable member is referring specifically to statistical comparisons of treatment services provided by AFM facilities, and patient days provided by AFM facilities, this year as against last year, and the numbers of participants in various programs, I certainly can provide that kind of information.

I would say, to be brief about it, that the numbers of treatment services provided by AFM facilities and the numbers of patient days provided by AFM facilities, in the main, in general, are both, I think I could say, significantly higher for 1979-80 than they were for 1978-79.

MRS. WESTBURY: Could the Minister respond to some questions about the alcohol and drug education service? I noted that he mentioned in his remarks new programs for youth. In the comments of the Minister in June, 1978, he made the following statements: he said, I could say very clearly, without exaggeration, that the most effective results at the teen-age to juvenile level in the field of alcohol and drug education are achieved through teachers with whom the teachers themselves can relate, and to whom they can relate, and he goes on, after a little bit, to say, when he was 16 and the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge was 16, the best education they could receive as to whether they could stay away from drugs was from their classroom teachers,

and he was indicating that the best way was to train the classroom teachers to give this kind of education to the young people. And I wonder if any progress has been made along those lines.

And also, he was referring, quite dramatically in the same remarks, to scrambling and scraping for a few support funds to keep the educational services alive. Would he tell us, please, what the status is of the Main Street project, whether their funding has been increased in the past two years? At that time he was stating it had not been cut back, nor had the Native Alcoholism Council, and he stated at that time, however, there was a cutback to the Salvation Army, among others.

Would he please tell us how that has progressed, whether Salvation Army is continuing to be cut back, or whether it has been at a standstill in its alcohol funding, or whether it has increased in these two years, please?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the scraping and scrambling for funds for the Alcohol and Drug Education Service, it was not dramatic, it was literal. The Alcohol and Drug Education Service, ADES, which is an outside agency, it should not be construed as a generic categorization, because we certainly are active in alcohol and drug education. But that outside agency is not one of the outside agencies that is funded by the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, and is not funded again this year by the AFM. I recognize that a great number of persons strongly support the philosophy and the approach of the ADES. I have no particular argument with ADES myself, but their approach to education, in the schools, at the school level, is different from the approach that is recommended to us by the board of the Alcoholism Foundation, and which appears to be the conventional wisdom in alcohol education in North America.

As a consequence, I have not felt it politic or justifiable to overrule the strong recommendations of the AFM board with respect to funding of external agencies, and whether ADES should be included in that list or not. And as a consequence of that, because I know ADES has its supporters, and I respect them, we have attempted to find some assistance out of departmental funds to help them maintain their operations. They have, at the same time, found it incumbent to seek help elsewhere, because we haven't been able to give them enough, but there is a sincere dichotomy in philosophy and opinion between the ADES and the AFM as to the best methods of carrying alcohol education to the young people in the schools.

As far as the Main Street project is concerned, Mr. Chairman, the budget on Main Street for the coming year is lower than previous year's budgets, but the reason for that is that there is a considerable evaluation of Main Street taking place at the present time, particularly with respect to the role and function of the overnight residence facility. The work of the Main Street patrol is certainly commendable and certainly highly necessary, but we have, in concert with the project's executive and administrators itself, undertaken with them a re-evaluation of the direction of the Main Street project and the place where it can best fit into the total core area spectrum of services which we are trying to

identify and develop through the special needs survey I referred to a few moments ago.

The 1979-80 funding for the Main Street project was 423,000.00. The total budget for the Main Street project — perhaps I should go back to 1978-79. 1978-79 funding for the Main Street project was 352,100; 1979-80 was 423,000; and 1980-81 will be 435,500.00. However, Mr. Chairman, that 435,500 includes a 40,000 surplus carryover from last year.

The time has come we believe, and we believe the Main Street project administrators agree with us, for the project to re-examine its concept of the outreach clinic street patrol function. We're not sure, Sir, whether that's a function of Alcoholism or a function of the police department, or other social agencies. So we recognize the very important service that is offered in terms of immediate, overnight accommodation for persons who are found in alcoholic conditions on the streets in the core area of the city, but at the same time, we have to ask ourselves, and we have asked ourselves, and we have asked the Main Street project, whether emphasis on that kind of an overnight shelter is not self-defeating in that it provides many individuals with a sanctuary when they should be facing up to responsibilities at home or elsewhere. There is a quality of negativism, unfortunately, that creeps into the operation of that kind of a shelter. It cannot be compared in any way with the kinds of shelters that are operated for women and children who suffer from abuse, child abuse and wife beating and that type of incident. Those are true shelters and sanctuaries for the victims of violence and the victims of lawlessness.

The trouble with this kind of an overnight accommodation for the alcoholic is that there is the danger that it provides him or her with an excuse, an escape hatch, an easy out to escape responsibilities at home and thus, rather than helping to get the problem of alcoholism under control, it provides them with an excuse for continuing to exploit their problem. I'm not saying that happens in 100 percent of cases or even 50 percent of cases, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, there is need for an overnight shelter, but the heavy emphasis on that kind of an overnight shelter leads to a heavy exploitation of it, and can, in fact, defeat the whole purpose of the Main Street patrol and the Main Street project and the campaign against alcohol abuse in the core area and elsewhere.

So that whole concept is being re-examined as part of the special needs study under Mr. Toal, to which I referred a few moments ago, and that explains, I trust, the reason why the Main Street budget is being held within the parameters for 1980-81, which I have given the committee.

MRS. WESTBURY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I must confess that I am rather shocked. I would think that, I can't imagine anyone being encouraged to be in a state such as these people are who are hauled off the street and given shelter in places such as the Main Street project, and I wonder if the Minister wouldn't agree that these people are, in fact, committing violence against themselves and other alcoholics as well, whether it isn't a form of violence against oneself. I don't think anyone enjoys being a broken-down drunk.

I guess I would have to agree, in a cynical way, a bitter way, that not offering them shelter might help to solve the problem, especially in a bitter Manitoba winter. Some of their problems might be solved by these poor souls being frozen on the streets, but I suggest that one of the other things that might happen when they're not taken in and sheltered might be that they'll roll some other person and get money for more alcohol, drugs, or whatever it is they seek in that way, so there is a way of saving them from further violence towards themselves, but also protecting society, other people who are out and about and who may be victims of these people looking for money to further their habits.

MR. SHERMAN: I might just say, Mr. Chairman, that is why we have the Special Needs Study and that is why Mr. Toal is looking into it, and I don't want the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge to be under the impression that we are not continuing to offer all the support we can to the Detox Centre, the Detox phase of the Main Street Project operations, which is crucial and vital. It is that street patrol that we have some difficulty with, and that comes on the expert advice of our advisors who have worked and who are experts in the alcohol field.

I assure the honourable member that operation is often used as a sanctuary and an excuse by persons who are not prepared to face up to their responsibilities. There are high levels of repetition; I can't really use the term recidivism in that context but there is a high repeater rate, and our own officials can identify the abusers who use the excuse that they can go out and get drunk and stay out, and they don't have to worry about going home and facing the problems at home because they know they can have overnight sanctuary and the street patrol will look after them. That is precisely part of the problem that we are trying to get at. We don't have all the answers, but that is one of the things that Mr. Toal is looking into.

In any event, they don't depend on us for their funding, Mr. Chairman; that operation is funded largely by the city and our course of action in this connection is simply to assess the best use of the resources of the Main Street project, physical and financial, in terms of the function of the campaign against alcoholism, not as a function that perhaps in some cases would be better handled by the police department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Trancona.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Chairperson, this morning we have had another display of bleeding heart conservatism on the part of the Minister of Health. He has got up and he has told us that we have a serious problem, which is virtually an epidemic, we have something of epidemic proportions, alcoholism, increasing alcoholism, increasing drug addiction, but the bottom line is conservatism. The bottom line is cut back, because if you look at the relative amounts of funding, you will note that last year the federal government provided 1,090,000 to this program; this year they are going to provide 1,350,000; that is an increase of 260,000 from the federal government. The provincial government, despite this epidemic that

the Minister is talking about, is going to only provide a 4,000 increase in his programming; that is the bottom line. The bottom line is that they really are not increasing a program that they say is dealing with something that is an epidemic. This also is another illustration of the way in which this government is using federal funding to meet health care commitments that it should be paying its fair share for.

Look at the alternative levels of funding or the different levels of funding: A 260,000 increase from the federal government, a 4,000 increase from the provincial government. The Minister says: Oh no, we are paying our fair share towards health care funding, we are paying our fair share towards health care funding. If it wasn't for the federal government putting the money into this program, we would have a tremendous cutback. As it is right now, the increase is only 5.8 percent; if you take into account inflation we really have an effective de facto decrease of about 4-1/2 percent. Whatever maintenance of the program exists it is because of federal efforts.

The Minister has appeared before the Hall Commission. He has appeared on television. He wants to debate the issue over and over again that this government is not diverting money away from health care, that it is paying its fair share and it is not relying on the federal government to really carry the health care load and the future health care developments in the province. Here we have graphic evidence of the provincial government shirking responsibility in an area that it itself says is an epidemic, but it is not prepared to put money into this particular program and is riding on the coattails of the federal government that it continues to vilify, and that is this particular game of opening the second envelope. But the point is, health care is a fundamental provincial responsibility, the province can't continue with these cutbacks in this area, and surely the problems with respect to alcoholism and with respect to drug addiction are such that we need an increase in these programs. We, in fact, need more effective programs in this area.

The 4,000 that the province has squeezed out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund wouldn't even cover increments of the staff. It really is not an addition, in a sense it is an insult to the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. It is an insult to all the people who in fact require this treatment; it is an insult to society, because we should be doing much more of a preventative nature in this area.

The Minister has got up again and he has wrung his hands and he has agreed that there is a tremendous problem here. He has shed crocodile tears but when it comes right down to the bottom line, when you look at the provincial input, when you want to take a look as to whether, in fact, the Minister has put his money where his mouth is, you find that there has been a cutback. It is not as if the problems aren't serious, it is not as if the problems are not growing; I think there is agreement in the House that we do have a serious problem here. We know that we have increases in drug addiction and increases in alcoholism amongst young people; we know that we have very serious problems in the inner-city; we know we have very serious problems with youngsters, the kids called the Main Street Kids; we

know that we have got serious problems on Portage Avenue. Merchants are writing saying that these young people don't have anything to do: They are turning to things like alcohol; they are turning to things like glue; they are turning to things like grass. In the midst of this, we have a province trying to make its own bookkeeping look good, so undertaking these type of cutbacks for cosmetic purposes. And I ask, what is the waste to society from alcoholism? What is the waste to society from drug addiction? That is why society and the government, as the instrument of society, can't play these bookkeeping games of making its own budget look a bit better and squeezing those types of costs onto society at large, onto the individuals, onto the families, onto other institutions and onto society at large because if you start calculating the costs to society, they are immense. If you then start looking at the downstream costs to the government itself, they become astronomical. We have broken homes. You have lost jobs; you have unemployables, unemployables because of alcoholism . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is 12:30. When next this Committee meets, the Honourable Member for Transcona will have 25 minutes. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that the report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, that this House do not adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 o'clock Monday afternoon.