

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, 3 April, 1985.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Education has a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce a series of new initiatives today which will build upon this government's efforts to prevent child abuse and to improve its detection.

The role of teachers is crucial in the detection and reporting of suspected cases of child abuse because it is the teacher who sees the child every day, who is sensitive to changes in his or her behaviour and who, now, Mr. Speaker, is receiving the training, support and legal protection needed to take an active role in combating this serious social problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our schools have improved their capacity to detect and report suspected cases of child abuse. Last year, about 81 percent of the more than 700 suspected cases were against school age children and were reported through our schools. That means that many children who required help were able to receive it. Because of actions taken by teachers, our school system has begun to respond in a very active way.

As a result of the child abuse reporting guidelines which were announced and distributed last April, educators are working very closely with representatives from the Departments of the Attorney-General, Health and Community Services in a co-ordinated approach to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, my department has formed a network of educators from every school division in the province to provide on-going training activities for teachers on this issue. We have sponsored over 60 information sessions for more than 2,000 teachers.

The new initiatives I am announcing today will improve further the awareness and ability of Manitoba's educators to respond to the issue of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children.

These initiatives include: distribution of a draft policy on child abuse for school divisions to use as a model in the development of their own procedural policies for reporting suspected cases. Mr. Speaker, a number of school divisions have already recognized the importance of responding to the issue in their areas by adopting their own official policies on child abuse to guide

teachers. These policies are necessary to ensure that the responsibilities and roles and procedures for local school staff and administrators are clearly understood.

I am asking all divisions to use my department's draft policy statement to develop their own policies if they have none or, if appropriate, to modify their existing policies. I have asked them to do so by the fall.

Provision of a \$20,000 grant to the Actor's Showcase of Winnipeg for presentation to schools throughout the province of their preventative child abuse play, "Feeling yes, feeling no." This play has proven extremely effective in alerting children to the issue of sexual abuse. It helps them protect themselves against such abuse and it tells them where and how to get help if they need it.

My department is undertaking a co-operative effort with the Manitoba Home and School Parent Teacher Federation to educate parents on their role in dealing with the issue of child abuse. A kit is being developed for parents. The Home and School Federation will conduct courses for parents at the local school level.

Mr. Speaker, our children are our most precious resource. Their protection from harm is a major concern to us all and since most cases of child abuse are against school-aged children and are reported through the schools, it's vitally important that educators be prepared to respond quickly and knowledgeably to the issue of child abuse. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge and I thank the Minister for her statement today. I am thankful that she has given us a first-year review as to how the new program in the schools is doing. I, too, am glad to see that she is bringing forward some type of model to offer to educators within the school room, some indication where their responsibilities lie. I know that there have been many instances where some teachers, in particular, weren't quite certain as to how they were to react under certain circumstances and situations.

Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to see where the Minister in her statement is including parents. Naturally, the school is just another form of society which includes all aspects of life around us, and I am glad to see that the parents are also being included in this program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

Regional Child Care Agencies - replacing Children's Aid Society

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Community Services

and Corrections. It falls upon her announcement of the new opening of the Regional Child Care Agencies in Winnipeg. I wonder if the Minister could indicate if this means that the former Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg is now completely dismantled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Interim Board which was carrying responsibility for the CAS of Winnipeg will continue in its official legal capacity till the end of June, but in fact all the responsibilities for children have been transferred to the other agencies. There are some issues which need to be tidied up, so the Interim Board will remain officially there to conclude all of that business.

MR. G. FILMON: Does that indicate then that all the employees of the former CAS of Winnipeg have now been transferred to the new regional agencies?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I take the detail on notice, but my information to date is that redeployment has been completed. There remain the child care workers who were not, strictly speaking, employees of the CAS which I will have to look into in greater detail. But all the main workers that worked under CAS Winnipeg have been transferred to the other agencies.

MR. G. FILMON: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the new six agencies replacing the former two CAS of Winnipeg and eastern Manitoba have a greater staff complement than the former six agencies did separately.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, there were in effect three groupings. There was the CAS Winnipeg and CAS Eastern. There was also CAS Western directly operated by the department.

The total staffing is similar. There were some vacancies that had developed and were deliberately held in order to give the new agencies some leeway in hiring new people.

The precise numbers, though, will evolve within the budgets that the agencies have been given - I say I can get the more detailed information about the status as of today, but in future the total staffing complement will depend on how those agencies spend their budgets.

MR. G. FILMON: I wonder if the Minister could indicate what provisions are in place to ensure that in cases of crisis intervention for either health care or law enforcement or social services that after hours the proper social work contact and the proper file information is available for these emergency services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, in the process of the transition there has been an implementation working group that has had many subcommittees dealing with just such issues. They've had wide participation and made recommendations which function should be completely decentralized to the agency level and which should have a degree of co-ordination, either at the city level or in the provincial department.

Again, it's my understanding that the crisis work is co-ordinated, but I'd like to take it as notice and bring back a progress report on which functions have been agreed on to date, and which are still being examined.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in the instance where a ward of the Children's Aid Society is transferred from a foster home in one geographic area to a foster home in another geographic area, does that . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: . . . mean that the ward will then automatically have to have a new social worker and be transferred into the new agency's regional area?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to clarify that process. The ward would belong, in a sense, or be the main responsibility of the region where they first came into contact with the agency. Because the distribution of foster homes doesn't completely jibe with the distribution of need, the process is, although there is a central licensing function at the provincial level of all foster homes, in fact the procedure that would be followed by a regional board would be to contact the boards of the neighbouring agencies and see if each one will have their foster home lists, the ones that are currently occupied and the ones that are available. There will be quite a lot of lend leases that were of this resource across the boundary, but the prime responsibility for the youngster for the case will rest with the region where the youngster and presumably their home setting was.

MR. G. FILMON: I wonder if the Minister could indicate if concern has been expressed by people working with this system that it's very cumbersome and bureaucratic and may, in fact, have adverse effects on crisis intervention and emergency services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the criteria that we have been following all along in working through the system is that from the provincial level would come clear legislation and guidelines, clear rules for resource allocation and a clear set of standards and method of monitoring.

At the local level, the criteria we've been following is who is best involved in making a decision about a particular youngster. How can, for example, in the case of Native youngsters, we ensure that there is some involvement of people sensitive to the Native culture and how, if there is any disagreement as to whether either side is working in good faith or finding a resolution in a reasonable time frame, either party can refer the case to the Director of Child Welfare, who will appoint an arbitrator to resolve the situation quickly. We feel the best way to overcome bureaucratic red tape is to have these very clear guidelines and a clear process close to the delivery of service level for resolving the issue again with a quick, clear appeal process should there be disagreement.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate whether or not such a process and such a cumbersome

system was necessary before when there was one Children's Aid Society for Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question tends to be argumentative. Will the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre - review of funding

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community Services. On March 8th, she responded to my letter of support for the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre and indicated she was seeking Treasury Board approval to immediately grant the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre \$25,000 and develop a plan for funding for 1985-86. My question to the Minister is did Treasury Board and Cabinet approve funding for the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the plight of the Resource Centre has certainly been under active review by the government, but the problem is one that is related to a much broader problem, and that has been the abrupt discontinuation by the Federal Government of a great many social programs in the province with no notice or ensuring that there is planning for some kind of alternate plan.

Mr. Speaker, what we are reviewing is how best to deal with that situation, acknowledging the need of the groups but also the fiscal capacity of the province. We believe that our first line of action must be to call the Federal Government to account and hold it accountable, either to continue the programs it's been funding or to explain why it is not continuing the funding.

Schwartz, Betty settlement re wrongful dismissal

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Community Services. Is she now in a position to inform the House as to the costs of the settlement with Betty Schwartz, the former Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society, and to be able to inform the public of Manitoba as to how much of the taxpayers' money is going to be spent to compensate for the wrongful actions of this government?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is no. The answer to the second question is I disagree with the assumption in the question.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a government doesn't pay out over \$100,000 because it's not at fault in some way.

Perimeter Highway Overpass - review of design by engineers

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Highways and Transportation. The day before yesterday a Gulf Oil tanker truck overturned while turning off the Perimeter Highway at Pembina Highway, fortunately with no loss of life. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this overpass was, I believe, the first overpass constructed in the Province of Manitoba and has been criticized because of the tight turns on the overpass and the design of the overpass, would the Minister undertake to review the accident record on that overpass and have the design reviewed by traffic engineers either inside or outside the government in order to determine if some further safety measures should be taken to protect the public while travelling on that overpass, and particularly large truckers?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Speaker, soon the Handling and Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations that the Federal Government has announced recently will be coming into effect, I believe next year and they will designate certain routes, and that is one area that will be covered.

However, to answer specifically the question that was asked by the member, I can say that we will look at the situation in terms of the number of accidents. Of course, the member will have an opportunity to discuss that further with me during the Estimates process.

Manitoba health care system - adequate abortion facilities

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health, and ask him whether the present Manitoba health system can accommodate those women in Manitoba who require an abortion?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I think on many occasions I have announced the policy of our government and the department on the question of abortion. First of all, we have started a counselling service to try to prevent as many unwanted pregnancies as possible so there won't be a need for the abortion. Then, because of the fact that some people had to go to the States to get a legal abortion where they could have received a legal abortion, this was rectified in improving facilities and, I believe, there are close to 30 percent more abortions this year than there were last year done here, not on residents of Manitoba, but done in Manitoba instead of going to the States.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I am not clear on what the Minister said. It sounded like he indicated there was a 30 percent increase in relation to people leaving for the United States.

Could he clarify then and indicate, in terms of numbers, what the difference in capacity of the present system is this year versus last year, and could he also indicate what his ultimate goal is in terms of capacity?

What is he aiming for? What level, in terms of numbers, is he attempting to reach?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: What I am aiming for, what I would like to see is be successful with our first program and we would have no need for abortions at all, that's what I'm aiming for. Now if there has to be an abortion, and if it's according to the Criminal Code, it is legal. I feel that we have to provide these facilities so the people would not have to resort to methods that are certainly not to be recommended, or to have to go to the United States, and this is what we are doing. As I say, there are close to 500 more abortions this year than there were last year.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister also indicate what percentage of those women applying are being turned down?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There isn't one single one that was turned down that came to my attention. You are talking about a legal therapeutic abortion committee, through the committee; I have never heard of one being turned down. If the time has been too long, I mean that it's a little too late, and the medical profession here has pretty well set 12 weeks as the date, and it might be that it's too late and it's not safe.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the next member, may I direct the attention of members to the gallery. We have 25 students of Grades 9 and 10 standing of Quebec exchange students. They are under the direction of Mr. Locomy and Miss Adams.

On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

Livestock Inspection - Drought areas

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to be in Angusville to meet with farmers and municipal leaders in the western part of the province, Mr. Speaker. I regret that the Member for Arthur who raised the question last week is not in and I am responding to it.

He raised with my colleague, the Minister of Housing, the Acting Minister, a question whether or not we are hiring livestock inspectors to count livestock herds in the drought area where drought funds were provided last summer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to that question and indicate, no, we are not, there are no new inspectors hired. The two livestock technicians who we have in the department, who worked jointly with our department, and the Manitoba Beef Commission are doing the inspections in the field.

The second question that he raised is whether or not we could provide numbers of people who are not

keeping sufficient numbers of cows as of April 1st; and also how many people have not met the requirement and if they have not met that requirement, will they be forced to pay that drought money back this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the random inspections have been carried on, on approximately 12 percent of the herds, and approximately half-a-dozen have been found not to be keeping herds sufficient to the amounts that were required; and yes, they will be required to pay the difference because the federal-provincial agreement stipulates that it is a herd retention agreement.

However, there is consideration given that if the losses are due to bankruptcies and foreclosures or losses are as a result of nature, that in fact consideration would be given to looking at those kinds of circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind all members that they should not comment on the presence or absence of other members of the Chamber.

School of Psychiatric Nursing, Portage Closure of

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community Services. The Minister of Community Services has indicated that the closing of the Psychiatric School of Nursing in Portage will save between \$100,000 and \$125,000 annually. My question to the Minister, is she including in that alleged saving figure the staff saving as noted in Page 11 of her recent March Impact Study indicating a \$99,000 saving from three staff positions?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think questions of that detail should be dealt with in Estimates, but I can say in general the study that the member opposite keeps referring to was one of three preliminaries done by each of the institutions and then there was a combination analysis done overall. I think the figures I gave earlier still stand.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I am quoting from the last report referred to by the Minister, the compilation of the three reports. My question to the Minister is, that if she cannot confirm today that part of the savings are from staff layoffs which she has said cannot happen and which the recently negotiated contract with the MGEA disallows, would the Minister table her information by which she can prove her alleged \$100,000 to \$125,000 saving and disprove what her last report indicates will only be a \$24,000 saving by the closing of the school at Portage?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the saving is the net saving to the system. There will not be layoffs. People who will not be redeployed to the other two schools will in fact be absorbed in the Development Centre where we do have a degree of attrition going on all the time and therefore the capacity to re-employ. Again,

I would be more than happy to answer the detailed questions at the time of Estimates.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then as a final supplementary, is the Minister now saying that the saving is only \$24,000 since those staff will be redeployed at the Centre?

Imported elk from State of Missouri - permit for, livestock disease bluetongue

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Apparently over 50 elk have been imported into Manitoba during the past winter from the State of Missouri. Can the Minister indicate whether his department issued a permit for the importing of these animals? Can he also indicate whether over 30 of these animals have been confirmed to have the dreaded livestock disease called bluetongue?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it is correct that elk have been brought into Manitoba from the U.S. I believe that's pursuant to federal regulation, because it is interprovincial migration of live animals. I am not sure whether it is our responsibility to issue or not to issue permits in that regard.

It is also correct that there is a health problem with respect to that particular herd and the Federal Government veterinarian has seized upon that problem and has dealt with it effectively, as far as I'm aware.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate why his department would not issue a permit to have the elk caught in Manitoba as it has been done in the past instead of taking the chance and importing elk from out-of-country to eliminate the possibility of disease?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether changing policy will eliminate the potential for disease. I will say that that's a reasonable question, however, which I have raised myself with my own staff, and we will be looking at that as a matter of policy discussions.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: To the same Minister, can the Minister indicate what has happened to or what will be happening to these animals that have been confirmed to have contacted the disease of bluetongue?

HON. S. USKIW: It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that there will be salvage value as a result of the disposal of meat and fur, if you like, or hides. The Government of Canada of course is in charge of that and we are not certain what that is going to amount to. But apparently the meat will be consumed or offered to people who are feeding other animals; and it is, in other words, an animal feed byproduct.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: A final question to the same Minister. Can the Minister indicate because of the

tremendous or large expense that has been involved in importing these animals, whether there is a compensation that could be looked forward to by the individual who brought them in?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Government of Canada is responsible for compensation and I believe has agreed to compensate. That is my information based on the fact that it is bluetongue that they have diagnosed the disease as being.

Firehalls - Inwood and Fraserwood - telephone hookup

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening the Member for Lakeside rose in the House and expressed a concern about telephone service to fire halls at Inwood and Fraserwood. He indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the telephone system had denied hookup to these two fire halls. I indicated that at my first opportunity I would answer his concerns in the House and I'm doing that, Mr. Speaker. The assertions that the Member for Lakeside makes are false. The Manitoba Telephone System has not refused to provide telephone hookup to those fire halls.

What it has refused to do is interconnect another system to the telephone lines because that is in violation of the act that was the act when the honourable member was Minister.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please. I am informed that particular matter was raised during a time when the House was in committee. It seems it might be an abuse of question period for that time to be used for answering matters raised during the committee.

Bluetongue disease - effect on exportation of livestock

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that we may have a case of bluetongue involved in the Province of Manitoba, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture, and ask the Minister what assurance he can give to the livestock producers of Manitoba that this isolated incident of bluetongue will not have any detrimental effect on the exportation of livestock from Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm given to understand that the flea outbreak is as a result of, as I understand it, a sand fly which was not detected at the border through the inspections that are conducted by the U.S. and Canadian authorities of the Federal Government, an inspection team. When those animals were inspected that disease was not detected. It was subsequently detected on a further check on site after those animals came on site. I'm not aware, and I will take the specifics as notice, whether or not there is great concern as to the contagiousness, as the member suggests, or if he's suggesting, of that disease. But, I understand, as the Minister of Natural Resources has pointed out, the federal veterinarian is on site, and I'm given to understand that the situation is in hand.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I thank the Minister for his answer, but I would ask him a further question relative to that same problem. Has the Minister had any direct contact with officials from the Federal Department of Agriculture, the Health of Animals Branch?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have not directly, but I will check with my officials at the vet lab and see what consultations and discussions they have had. But, really, the whole question of health of animals coming across the border is of the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, and our people would play a role if they are asked, in terms of the use of the facilities through our vet lab, and we certainly would be co-operating in that endeavour.

Grand Valley Park, Brandon area - construction of water slide

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Natural Resources. It relates to the proposed water slide being constructed in the Grand Valley Park, Brandon area. I wonder if he could inform the House if the impact study has been undertaken in the park area and if that has been completed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that we're doing an impact study. I know that we have given up some of the wayside park that we used to operate for the convenience of the motoring public toward the person that is operating, or will operate, the new water slide. There is another component to that park and I believe it has to do with heritage aspects and that is something that is not going to be involved.

MR. D. BLAKE: A further question, Mr. Speaker, and I may have to preface it a bit, maybe he could confer with his seat mate. The report in the Brandon Sun says, "However, there is some controversy over the proposed water slide," Mr. Speaker, and the article goes on to say, "However, Brandon East MLA Len Evans said the Provincial Government is taking precautions to ensure

heritage will be protected. He said the Provincial Department of Natural Resources will do an impact study on the entire park before construction begins." I understand construction is to begin in April, and it's getting a bit late to do an impact study.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I believe that has to do with the consideration that had to be given to some of the other historical aspects of that particular site and what we have undertaken there is a study to determine whether or not there would be adverse results from that operation. We have concluded that we can co-exist and, therefore, a lease has been entered into with the entrepreneur from the Brandon area.

MR. D. BLAKE: A final supplementary then. Contrary to the report that the study is being done, if the study is going to be done it'll be done on the historical site of the artifacts left by the Black Duck Indian tribe. I take it from the Minister's remarks then, if he could confirm it, that construction will be proceeding on the site very shortly.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that there are no bounds that are going to delay that construction at this point in time.

Tax rebates - farm trucks using unleaded gas

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took a question as notice several days ago from the Member for Roblin-Russell with respect to farmers who have trucks which burn unleaded gas, and the farmers are unable to obtain the purple untaxed gas. And, in response, Mr. Speaker, early last month the petroleum industry were requested by my department to make tax-free unleaded coloured gasoline available to farmers where there is a demand for such fuel. I've been advised that tax-free unleaded coloured gas is now available at one rural bulk plant which happens to be at Killarney, Manitoba, and that greater availability of this fuel is expected in the near future.

Further, Mr. Speaker, officials from my department and the Department of Agriculture are endeavouring to meet with representatives of the Prairie Petroleum Marketing Association and the agricultural industry to attempt to resolve this unleaded coloured gasoline supply problem.

School Division meetings re workplace and safety regulations - compensation costs

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, on February 8th, the Minister of Education wrote a letter to all school divisions directing those divisions to implement regulations under The Workplace Safety and Health Act that applied to

schools. This new legislation called for the formation of committees that were to meet four times a year. The committees were to consist of three teachers, one teacher's aide, one custodian, one bus driver and other people. The total cost of each meeting to some divisions was in excess of \$1,700.00. My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared to compensate each division for the costs associated with these committee meetings?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also communicated to the school divisions about the application of The Health and Workplace Safety Act to schools by suggesting to them that, while it does apply, and it should apply, and I have recently I think in the last two or three weeks had come across my desk information about accidents in two or three schools that could have been serious that dealt with large equipment or with science materials which can be dangerous, so it's clear that it should apply. The interpretation and how it is applied may not be strict application to the schools, and since they're having some difficulty understanding how to interpret it, I have indicated to them that we will be putting on workshops over the next few months where we talk to them about how to apply the application of the workplace and safety regulations. I am not sure that the costs of . . .

A MEMBER: You forced the expense on them, are you going to pay it?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I'm going to get to it, just a minute, I'm getting to that.

A MEMBER: This is a nuisance. What's the point, Mr. Speaker, some of them aren't even going to pay? It's very simple.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: There was a point to what I was saying, Mr. Speaker. If they would just give me a minute, I would tell them what it was. It was to say that because we haven't yet had the meetings to determine exactly how it should be interpreted or applied, it's not clear, I think, what they're going to go through at the school division level and what the cost would be. The \$1,700 sounds like a very large amount of money, but if that is the case I'm sure it will come out in the meetings that we have with them.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I remind members that a question should not be a speech, however brief, and that answers should also not be a speech, however brief.

School Division meetings re workplace and safety regulations - action re divisions not complying

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, I'll pose another very specific question. I believe the other one was that way

and, hopefully, the Minister will provide a specific answer.

Mr. Speaker, how many divisions are not complying with the regulations at this point in time, and what action will the department be taking with respect to those that do not comply?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: That was my answer. In fact, he's interested in having that information, and I tried to give that to him in the first part of my answer. We are talking to school divisions and going to have orientation and workshops to tell them how to apply the act. I'm not aware of any that are refusing to apply it; I am aware that many school divisions are having trouble knowing how to interpret the act and how to apply it, and we're going to help them do that.

Red River Community College - Mental health workers' course

HON. M. HEMPHILL: While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer another question that I took as notice yesterday from the Member for Pembina.

He was asking me about a program that he called a letter of intent for a worker development officer training program at Red River Community College. I took that as notice because I had not heard the name of that program before; that is, because that program does not exist presently, Mr. Speaker. But I think what he was referring to and what he wants to address is the Mental Retardation Worker Training Program which I am quite prepared to provide information on.

The training and employment agency presently does have a program under the Core Area Agreement for training entry level workers for the Mental Retardation Worker Training Program. There are 40 people in training, it's an excellent program and it's a two-year program.

The Letter of Intent that he made reference to is a Letter of Intent to give consideration to whether or not this program should go beyond the bounds of the core and be offered in Red River. It is simply a Letter of Intent. It's a two-year program. It has completed its first year. When we complete the second year we will evaluate it and then the decision will be made on the Letter of Intent.

School Division meetings re workplace and safety regulations - compensation costs

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, I never did receive an answer to my question with respect to whether the Provincial Government is prepared to underwrite the costs associated with these committee meetings throughout the school divisions of Manitoba.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, clearly the purpose of setting up meetings across the province with every school division is to help them learn how to apply the Act and also to provide us with information about any difficulties they're having. I cannot predetermine what they're going to tell us. I await, and we're quite prepared to have any representation made.

**Limestone Generating Station -
awarding of order to CGE**

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Deputy Premier concerning the General Electric contract with Hydro that was released without a tender, and in relation to a booklet associated with that project called the Limestone Purchasing Policy Booklet which states, "Manitoba Hydro is committed to an open competitive tendering system."

Mr. Speaker, given that the government is telling businessmen and firms across the country and around the world that they're committed to an open competitive tendering system, do they now intend to recall and revise that booklet?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Acting Minister of Energy and Mines, I think it would be appropriate for me to answer that question.

I would ask the member to recall back to the salad days when he was a member of a Cabinet; he was occupying the penthouse suite across the street here, possibly a little bit too busy fondling some of his golden taps.

But at that time the Schreyer Government entered into an agreement. He was a member of the Cabinet which did so and I'm quoting from that agreement: "Manitoba undertakes, as a condition of this agreement, to make every reasonable endeavour to support Canadian technology through maximizing Canadian participation in the supply of turbines and generators for the Limestone Hydro-Electric Generating Station and will make every reasonable effort to complete negotiations" - not tenders - "negotiations for the purchase of said equipment from Canadian suppliers."

And while the Schreyer Government was in office there were negotiations going on between that government, Manitoba Hydro and Canadian General Electric in order to conclude an arrangement. Those arrangements were continued on until August of 1978 when they were terminated. They were continued on again, as the Member for Rhineland knows, as a result of a meeting on approximately January 19, 1981, when he was a member of the Hydro-Electric Board at which time they decided after — (Interjection) — I have a copy of the minutes of the meeting handy, as it so happens, Mr. Speaker, and it indicates . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. order please. Order please.

The time for Oral Questions has expired.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege and I will follow my matter of privilege with a substantive motion.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity that I've had to peruse the Hansard from yesterday's Question Period in which yesterday was, should I say, the culmination

of a series of questions to the Minister of Community Services regarding the closing of the School of Psychiatric Nursing at the Manitoba Development Centre at Portage la Prairie.

Mr. Speaker, in trying to elicit from the Minister an answer as to the government's intention and whether in fact they were going to close the school at Portage, we found the Minister either unable or unwilling to answer the questions that were posed over a number of days. But that, Sir, is not the matter of my privilege that I am posing.

The Minister has demonstrated in attempting to duck the issue, a lack of understanding of the problem that has been caused in the mental health community by the closing of the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Portage. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, if the Government House Leader would just have a little patience, I will explain the matter of privilege to him.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not undertaken the matter of consultation. She appears to be a captive of her department and has not been provided with proper information in terms of the ability to make the proper decision.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

The Honourable Government House Leader on a point of order.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I have not heard nor I believe has anyone in the House heard the matter of substance relating to privilege that the member is raising, and if the member purports to make a speech first and then raise the actual matter of privilege for you, Sir, to adjudicate upon as to whether or not it has substance, then the member has placed his argument before the House without, Sir, your clearance that it is a legitimate matter of privilege. I think it's only fair, Sir, that he be asked to state his matter of privilege before he makes his speech in support of the motion he would then move.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Opposition House Leader to the same point.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, you know that the member has to make a prima facie case before you, Sir, and it involves the conduct of a particular Minister, and it's the conduct of that particular Minister that brings about the point of privilege being raised. I suggest to you, Sir, that the member was in the process of doing precisely that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no idea what the matter is that the member is trying to raise. I am anxious to hear what it is.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will very quickly proceed with establishing my case of a matter of privilege.

Contrary to answers given by the Minister over the past several days that there is an alternative to the mental health training for psychiatric nurses at Portage, namely at Brandon and Selkirk, indicates that she does

not understand the situation, and the closing in Portage will be another substantial blow to rural Manitoba with another closing by this government.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister has not understood the issue, has not listened to expert advice, or sought expert advice on the matter of the closing of the Portage School of Nursing, and has failed to comprehend fully the issue involved in the closure of the School of Nursing at Portage, I would move, Sir, seconded by the MLA for Portage la Prairie, that since the Minister of Community Services - pardon me, Sir - I missed the important part of the matter of privilege and I'm very sorry about that.

In the questioning yesterday, the direct question was posed to the Minister about the government's intention to close the School of Nursing at Portage. The Minister responded and we'll quote from Page 535: "But with regard to the other question about the decision, I will be going to Portage tomorrow morning to give the decision." Meaning that today she would be giving the decision in Portage.

Subsequent to that, the Minister abused the privileges of this House by stepping outside in the hall and announcing the closure of the School of Portage Nursing to the media, prior to going to Portage, as she said she was going to do in question period in response to questions.

Therefore, Sir, I move, seconded by my colleague, the MLA for Portage la Prairie

THAT since the Minister of Community Services has demonstrated a total lack of compassion and concern by announcing the closure of the Portage School of Nursing; and

1. Has betrayed the trust and confidence of the staff and students of the school;
2. Is jeopardizing the care offered to the mentally-handicapped residents of the Developmental Centre;
3. Has betrayed the trust of the concerned citizens of Portage la Prairie;
4. Has betrayed the trust and confidence of the members of this House by making this announcement outside the Legislature.

And further, that this Minister's actions clearly demonstrate that:

1. She has lost control of her department;
2. That she has failed to consult with those people knowledgeable on the effects of the closure.

And I move, Sir, that this Minister now tender her resignation as Minister of Community Services.

SPEAKER'S RULING

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. One of the requirements in rising on a point of privilege is that the matter be brought to the House at the earliest opportunity. I will accept that the honourable member has done that.

I listened very carefully to his remarks and read the text of his proposed motion, and I see nothing here which would indicate that the regular business of the House should be suspended to allow this matter to be debated at this time, particularly when the House is in Interim Supply or the Committee of Supply - order please - and gives the honourable member ample

opportunity to debate the matters that he brings forward.

They might have to do with his confidence in the Minister's performance or the Minister's handling of the department. It does not appear to me to be a prima facie case of privilege as it affects the Legislature. Since there seems no case for dealing with this matter with priority to anything else, there appears not to be a matter involving the House.

The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, we, of course, cannot take issue with your ruling, but the difficulty and concern that I have with respect to precedent is that there seems, at least to us, that some of the comments that you have made with respect to the ruling that you have just given have indicated that my members, or my colleague, was looking for an emergency debate, which he certainly wasn't.

We believe, Sir, very seriously that a very serious breach of privilege was undertaken by this Minister when, in a direct series of questioning - and I'm trying to say this as politely as I can - misled the House, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The honourable member will recall that I sent to all members, not four weeks ago, a description of the procedure to be followed when a matter of privilege is involved. The Speaker does not decide whether or not there is a matter of privilege; that is for the House to decide. The only decision put to the Speaker is whether that matter shall be debated immediately and shall have priority over any other item of business.

I have ruled that there is not that prima facie case that it shall be so. The honourable member may take whatever action he considers fit; he may not debate the matter.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, with request, I do challenge that ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. The question before the House is shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained? Those in favour, please say, aye; those opposed, please say, nay. In my opinion, the ayes have it, and I declare the motion carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health, 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 to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY INTERIM SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee, come to order. We are considering the resolution with respect to Interim Supply.

The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the other night there was a query made by the Member for Virden in respect to government policy, the policy of the Civil Service Commission in respect to transfers of staff. There is a general manual of administration; it's a very long document.

I don't believe that it is a matter that I can answer in a few words. I think the honourable member will have an opportunity during the Estimates of the Civil Service Commission to go into detail in connection with any query he has. The generality of the answers I made were correct the other night. If he has a specific, I will be happy to deal with the specific case that he has concern with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I wish to condemn the Minister and the government for making the totally political move with respect to the Psychiatric School of Nursing in Portage.

This is a centre that deals with people who are very severely mentally handicapped. The nurses at this centre get training in a way that they will never be able to get it at either Brandon or Selkirk. The centre is a great resource and while they are training they are working with all aspects of mental retardation. There are hydrocephalus, spina bifida, Rubella syndrome, profound birth defects and the Down's syndrome.

Now today many of the Down's syndrome are staying in the community and will be part of the Welcome Home Program. But at this time there are people in the facility that are up to 60 years of age, and the fact that this government would take a nursing program when there are over 700 people in that facility and move it into constituencies that are held by this government, and for no other reason, this is not an area where they are saving near enough money if there was to be a saving that it would count. I really feel that the Minister is to be severely condemned for listening to political people other than people that understand the situation there.

I would like to read into the record after a minute the letter from Mr. Doug Dorsey that he presented to Peter Warren. Mr. Dorsey has got a daughter in the centre at Portage. She's been there for over 20 years. He - and I'll quote, because he calls it a "rotten political move."

This is a man who has been involved in the Portage Centre and he's been involved with mental retardation at all levels, at the community level, at the provincial level, and at the national level, and these people are crying for help.

Not only do the nurses work in the centre but they work in the community as well. They don't just help the people with mental retardation; they are helping the families. It's a crying shame that this government at this time would make such an out-and-out political move in this area.

The nurses, when they graduate, 80 percent are at Portage la Prairie or the St. Amant Centre, but the majority stay at Portage. Many of them come from the Portage area; they live there. This School of Nursing is an important part of the Portage la Prairie community.

I really feel that this government should take a second look, and it's time that if the Minister won't take a stand on this that the Premier and the other members of the Cabinet step in and do something about it. It's a disgrace because they are not going to get the same kind of training. Here they have the most natural resource in the world where all the residents are in Portage and they are moving this out of the area. It's not right.

I would like to read into the record the letter that Mr. Dorsey sent to Peter Warren. "Dear Mr. Warren: This morning I read in the Winnipeg Sun that Mrs. Muriel Smith, Minister of Community Affairs, has announced the closing of the Psychiatric Nurses School in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

"To say that I am upset at this blatant disregard for the residents of the Manitoba centre is perhaps the understatement of the year. If I were an MLA, I would call for the resignation of not only Mrs. Smith but the entire government.

"One certainly does not require the services of a swami or own a crystal ball to realize just how very political this measure is." — (Interjection) — I'm reading a letter into the record. — "The Premier's home riding is Selkirk and, of course, Len Evans comes from Brandon. The incumbent at Portage, Mr. Hyde, is of Conservative political faith. One does not have to be a graduate of Political Science to see through the facade being put forth by the NDP unless it is, of course, of expediency to their party.

"The courses at all three locations . . . "Now, Mr. Chairman, I know the members on the other side think this sort of thing is funny, when maybe somebody makes an error, but this isn't a funny subject and it's not funny to the people in Portage and it's not funny to the many families that this is affecting. I would just like to see a little bit more seriousness on this particular subject.

I am back to the letter. "The courses at all three locations - Brandon Mental Health Centre, Selkirk Mental Health Centre and the Manitoba Development Centre - are of two years duration. It is interesting to note the student nurses at both Selkirk and Brandon spend a mere six weeks at Portage out of two years. It is inconceivable to think they would close the Portage facility when it is the only school geared to have the students interact with the residents on a continuing basis and to help increase their level of adaptation and independent functioning to assist in reaching their highest potential, whatever that level might be.

"Certainly, psychiatric nurses, with a great deal of experienced members, are going to be required to assist in the Welcome Home Program being sponsored by the government. This is not a job of aides or graduates of a six month course at Red River Community College.

"Finally, if one thinks things are as bad as reported at the Selkirk Mental Centre, then they have enough to do to clean house there without trying to run a psychiatric nurses' school.

"Mr. Warren, you have always said that if one is not happy with government, one should go to the polls and change things. I pray that Mr. Pawley will realize the

error of his ways and call an election. Then I am certain many many parents of retarded siblings or children will not turn the other cheek but will rectify this grave injustice. Yours very truly, Doug Dorsey, parent of a retarded child."

Now, Mr. Dorsey is pleading with this government to change its mind on the School of Nursing. I can't believe that a government that is so caring would take such a political move, and I would suggest that the Minister take another close look because this is an issue that will blow up right in their faces. I think it's time that they got down to brass tacks and stopped interfering and stopped being so political and pay attention to the retarded persons in the facility at Portage who need this help and which helps the nurses with the background that they are going to need to go out into the community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that the Minister of Community Services is here and listening, because the Minister of Community Services, I have to tell you, does not understand what she has done to the Portage School of Nursing. She demonstrates from her answers in question period that she has no concept whatsoever of the role and the purpose and the function of the Portage School of psychiatric nurse training. She is getting bad information from departmental staff or someone and when she does get information, Mr. Chairman, she refuses to accept it. She keeps trying to say, Sir, the report that I quote from in question period is not the most recent report. That there has, in fact, been a compilation of three reports and the most recent one changes the whole picture.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to assure you I have all three initial reports. I've got Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C, and from these reports drawn up by the departmental staff, comes the report that was delivered to the Minister last week on about the 25th of March. It is the last report. It is the one on which she based her decision to close the Portage School and this report in no way, recommends the reclosing the Portage School of Psychiatric Nursing.

Mr. Chairman, I posed to the Minister today in question period because this final report clears up an error - and I will point out this error to it and put it on the record because it's worth repeating. On page 7 of her final report it says: "A notable change in this report occurs on page 4, first paragraph. Total operating budget savings were projected at \$132,500 per annum and this figure has now changed to \$24,000 per annum".

In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, later on in the report there's an identification that three surplus instructors will also net the government a \$99,000 saving.

Now, I presume that when the Minister steps out of the House and makes the irresponsible statement she did yesterday afternoon, after telling us in this House that the Portage School, the announcement would be made in Portage this evening, and steps out into that hall yesterday afternoon after refusing to answer the question in this House and abusing the privileges of

this House, steps out and says, it's going to be closed and furthermore, that there's a saving of between \$100,000 and \$125,000 annually.

The Minister does not even know what the report says. She doesn't understand what's going on. She doesn't know the savings. She has no concept of what she has decided. Because, Sir, in this same newspaper article she said there will be no layoffs. In other words, Sir, the additional \$99,000 of staff saving will not occur because those staff, she said this afternoon, will be redeployed. There is no \$125,000 saving, there is a \$24,000 saving, an amount not even equal to the daily advertising budget that this government has put forward to polish their sagging image.

And who are they collecting the money from? They are collecting the money from possibly the most disadvantaged group in our society, those being the developmentally handicapped children, the Manitoba Developmental Centre and those who are in the Welcome Home Program and in residence throughout the community. Those are the people that they are cutting this program from, at a saving of \$24,000, Sir? That is the most irresponsible action that any government in the history of this province has taken. And how they can do it is beyond me.

The advice from those in the department that have been asked to report are saying, there are problems with the closing of the Portage School. This final report identifies many problems with the closing. This Minister has refused, Sir, to even consult with Dr. Glen Lowther, the gentleman who has had 35 years' experience with the mentally handicapped people in this province, a man who is very familiar with the Portage School and the school training function, a man who is this Minister's chief medical adviser. She did not even ask his opinion nor did her departmental study group ask his opinion.

The Association of Registered Psychiatric Nurses were contacted late in the game and told that there's going to be a closing, take it or leave it. There was no consultation with them and they are the people by legislation who must give opinion and look after the education of Psychiatric Nurses in this province and they were not even consulted.

Now, Mr. Chairman, why is this government closing the Portage School? It is not because they are saving a lot of money; \$24,000 they will spend in 12 hours of advertising, a half day's advertising will be the amount they're saving in the closing of this school.

The First Minister in his Estimates this year has \$261,000 of increased budget to hire five political apple polishers, while the Portage School is being closed to save \$24,000, not even one-tenth of the political hirelings cost in the Premier's office in this year's budget. Where is this government's priorities, Sir?

This government when it was elected in 1981 said it would be a caring government and look after its citizens. This government elected in 1981 promised to deliver additional services to rural Manitoba and what are they doing? They've cut the Land Titles Office out of Boissevain and now they're cutting the School of Psychiatric Nurses in Portage la Prairie, another rural community. What communities are they not touching when it comes to psychiatric training of nurses? The Premier's own constituency in Selkirk and the MLA for Brandon East constituency in Brandon. This move, Sir, cannot be justified in terms of cost saving. This move

cannot be justified in terms of program improvement because both Brandon and Selkirk offer training, dealing with patients of mental illness. Only Portage la Prairie offers training and clinical experience with developmentally retarded individuals; in other words the mentally handicapped of this province.

The Portage School is the only one that deals with developmental retardation. The Portage School is the only facility that gives Registered Psychiatric nurses experience in training and working with those individuals, not only at the Developmental Centre but within the Welcome Home community where those individuals will be placed into the mainstream of community life. That Portage School offers the unique training opportunity.

Brandon and Selkirk offer training in mental illness. Why did this government close the unique school and leave Brandon and Selkirk open when there's not a dollar saving that's significant? It is pure and simple politics, Mr. Chairman, the crassest kind of politics that we have ever seen demonstrated by any government in this province and it is being demonstrated by these gang of New Democrats that claim they care about the little person in the Province of Manitoba. I ask you who else, Sir, deserves protection and assistance and the support from the government and from the taxpayers than our mentally handicapped citizens in this province? They are the people, the mentally handicapped if anyone, who need help, assistance and support. But what have these people done? I'll use the timeworn phrase, Sir, they are kicking out the crutches from our mentally handicapped citizens in this province with this closure. And why are they doing it? I'll make a speculation and if I'm wrong, I'll apologize.

But in these reports, it says No. 1, if the student count goes above 36 in Selkirk they may have to hire an additional staff to instruct them, which means the redeployment of teaching staff will be down to two. Well, Sir, I just want to read you some of the student placements that have taken place in Selkirk over the last couple of years because I think you'll find it indeed very demonstrative of the kind of poor decision-making process this government has entered into.

In the fiscal year of 1982 there were 39 students at Selkirk started the course. There were 50 in 1983. There were 41 in 1984. Already they are over the 36; already they're going to have with the closing of Portage additional students, and they're going to have to hire more staff. And furthermore the reports indicate that if the student numbers go up, they may have to move to a new facility, which to me means that they are going to have to spend capital dollars to improve the training facility at Selkirk. And at the same time they claim to be saving \$24,000 in Portage?

Sir, there is no other motive that can be attributed to this Minister and this government, other than a purely political motive to close the Portage School and to leave Brandon and Selkirk in place. And, Sir, the tragedy of it all is, that this Minister of Community Services has a very bad record in not being competent in the administration of her department. She has created chaos in the Children's Aid Society with her ill-conceived and ill-starred plans there.

Sir, now that she has embarked on the closing of the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Portage la Prairie she has embarked on another fiasco, another

departmental - I'm looking for a word that describes it adequately, and I can't think of anything that's parliamentary, Sir, and I apologize. This is a debacle, that's all it is, Sir.

This Minister is out of touch with her department; she has been taken down the road where she was too late to reverse the decision. The department and staff, some of her political hirelings that are very politically oriented to the New Democratic Party, have gotten her in this position, and she cannot get herself out of it, other than to close the Portage School. It is a wrong decision, it is based on bad advice from departmental staff. It flaunts and flies in the face of professional advice she has gotten in her departmental report, and it has not taken into consideration expert advice that's available to the Minister.

This Minister is out, her department is out of control. She is incompetent. She is going to ruin yet another service delivery program to the citizens of Manitoba and, on that case, Sir, she should resign for the benefit of those Manitobans that rely on the services provided by the Portage School.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, a question to the Minister of Education, could she indicate if there will be an increase in funding for independent schools in this fiscal year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, that question was asked in a previous question period and I answered it. I said that grants to other outside organizations or institutions would be announced during Estimates.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the government is seeking Interim Supply. The whole purpose of this is to obtain information from the government on its spending plans, and it's incumbent upon the Minister to answer questions. She can't ask us to wait until her Estimates, which are scheduled to be the very last in the House, Mr. Chairman, which will be frankly some time probably in July or August. Frankly these schools also have to do some budgeting for next year and are entitled to that information now.

So I repeat the question to the Minister. Could she inform the House as to what the increases will be in funding for independent schools?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I'm quite aware that they have to prepare their budgets. They had to prepare their budgets last year, and last year they got the information when the Estimates were tabled, as they did the year before, and the year before, and as they will this year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Estimates were all completed. All of the Estimates of the government were completed before the end of June last year. We have started extremely late this Session, Mr. Chairman. The Education Estimates are scheduled to be last.

MR. C. MANNES: They were completed the middle of April last year.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Member for Morris advises me the Education Estimates were done in the middle of April last year. This year they will not be done until July or August, according to the schedule of the government.

I think the schools are entitled to have that information. The Minister is obligated to provide that information to the House when the government is asking for Interim Supply. I ask her, once again, to supply that information to the House now.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I repeat, I will provide that information to the House when my Estimates are up.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that answer is just not acceptable to members on this side of the House, nor to the people who are to be the recipients of this funding.

You know, we're not here, Mr. Chairman, to accommodate some public relations program that the Minister of Education wants to carry out during her Estimates. We are here to serve the people of Manitoba, and she is here as a Minister of the government to serve the people of Manitoba. She has no right, I say, Mr. Chairman, to withhold that information from the House, particularly when the government is here asking for Interim Supply to pay their employees. The public and the members of this House are entitled to this information now. I ask the Minister to stand up once more and supply that information to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just on that last point, I'm going to say to the Minister, from the other side of the debate, that she is in fact in a dilemma. She is getting pressure from the Conservative opposition to increase aid to private and parochial schools and to announce it now. On the other hand, I think that there are a substantial number of people in society who do not believe that is the right course of action.

I have to remind the Minister, if it's necessary, but simply jog her memory, that she represents a political party and a government which, for 50 years, has indicated that they do not support the enrichment or extension of aid to private and parochial schools, so she is on the spot.

I hope that she will not do what she did a couple of years ago and simply decide to make a decision to put more money into private and parochial schools without the support of her own caucus and her own party and the majority of the people of this province — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear that question. I don't know where that came from.

A MEMBER: What do you think she did?

MR. R. DOERN: What do I think she did? Mr. Chairman, I know what she did. She gave an increased amount of funding to private and parochial schools without the support of her own political party and her own caucus.

The decision was made, and then the members were expected to support that decision.

Mr. Chairman, that is not the way to operate if a government wants to get re-elected. If the government wants to go out on its own recognizance and then find out that its own members are not supporting it, both inside caucus and in the party, then they're free to do so. But I am simply cautioning the Minister and the government again on this issue, because the official opposition, for whatever reasons, has reversed its position in the last few years and decided to support aid to private and parochial schools. The New Democratic Party has for five decades not been in support of that particular policy.

I say to the Minister that it is her responsibility to defend and protect the public school system. That is her responsibility, anything she does above and beyond that is not a first charge on her time, her ability, her budget, etc.

I want to say to her, as well, without getting into a big debate on the Education Estimates which will be coming up in a couple of weeks, that the public school system is in a bad state of affairs - declining enrolment, a lot of bilingual nonsense, a lot of busing that is going on in our community, and school closings, Mr. Chairman.

Well I'm saying to the member who will shortly be replaced by Eldon Ross that I would be very interested to hear him get up in this debate and give his position on the question of aid to private and parochial schools, because my impression is that he would in fact be opposed. Now he may have changed his position recently; you can't be sure, but I would suspect that his position is the same as mine and that many other members in the caucus and members in the Cabinet would share a similar position.

So I am simply saying to the Minister, in addition to all the problems going on - and I see things, Mr. Chairman, in the public school system that I am very concerned about. When I see little kids who are telling me that they don't go to their neighbourhood school because they have to get on a bus and go a couple of miles away because the school that's in their neighbourhood is French Immersion, or it's closed because of declining enrolment, then I'm concerned. I'm also concerned about the fact that if monies are diverted to the private and parochial school system, then that may, in fact, partly erode the public school system.

So, I'm saying that, just as the Attorney-General is in a tough position when it comes to the question of abortion - and I wish he'd turn up in the Legislature so we could raise some of these questions with him. Mr. Chairman, I simply say that, just as the Attorney-General is in a tough position, I say that the Minister of Education is also in a tough position, and I don't want to see her blowing with the wind, and I don't want to see her suddenly feel that half the Chamber is for aid to private and parochial schools, so the ready-fix quick position is, let's do the same so that the Conservatives won't have one position and we'll have another. Let's get on the same issue, the old Brian Mulroney position where you take every position identical with John Turner, and then there are no issues other than personality; where you try to make no distinction between the two parties.

Mr. Chairman, that's a dangerous and a slippery slope. That is not the right position because, I say to

the Minister, that sitting right around her, including the Minister of Labour, are people who do not believe in aid to private and parochial schools. — (Interjection) — Who am I to tell them that? Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I know. I served the New Democratic Party longer than the Minister of Health - far longer. He served the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party; I have only served the New Democratic Party. Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that I have a pretty good idea of what the position of the party is on that issue.

I also want to say to the Minister of Health that I congratulate him, a sort of backhanded congratulation, that he is the one who snuck through the aid to private and parochial schools a couple of years ago. It was his efforts in Caucus, in Cabinet, that got that through; that is a fact, Mr. Chairman. So, we'll see whether he is successful again, and we'll see how many members of the New Democratic Caucus are prepared to stand up and to, because of fear, not motivated by principle, but motivated by fear, that there may be some public support for a position of the official opposition on his question.

Mr. Chairman, I say that the public does not support the Conservative Party on this issue; I say that the New Democratic position on this issue is much stronger and has more public appeal, and is politically more astute than that of the official opposition. But I watch with some trepidation and nervousness the position of the Minister and her colleagues as to whether or not they're going to throw in the towel, chuck out the 50-year position of the party and decide to go with the Tories on this particular issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think I've heard everything today with the last speaker - somebody that's talking about changing their mind on something. When he first broke in here as a rookie he was one of the best supporters of the French fact in bilingualism; he was going to do everything he can. Now, all of a sudden, he's talking about swinging with what he thinks is popular in Manitoba and he's going to lecture us. It's the first time - sit down, sit down. You've had your chance, sit down. Sit down and listen, you've had your chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

The Member for Elmwood on a point of order.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health is stating a false position. Mr. Chairman, he is making an untrue statement. He is correct in saying that I have

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. Order please.

A difference of opinion does not constitute a point of order. The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, talking about opinion, he gave his opinion a while ago, and I certainly intend to give mine now. Now, he's stated that the policy for the last 50 years of the New Democratic Party was against aid to private schools; that wasn't an issue.

This issue that came in was after the McFarlane Report at the time, and all parties of this House were against it for some reason or other. To say that the party was always against it is absolutely wrong.

In fact, that is the reason why I crossed the floor in 1969; it was because I felt that there were enough members of the party that would promote this, and it was only kind of a fluke that it didn't go through at that time because the members of the opposition then played politics. — (Interjection) — Yes, they played politics, but they weren't all against aid to private schools. There's no way that they were against aid to private schools. It was a Session at the time that Schreyer made a faux pas and said that he would quit if he didn't get it. Of course, Green went out and organized, and these people figured we can kick the hell out of Green, we can't beat Schreyer; that's exactly what happened and everybody knows it. Unfortunately, they're suffering since then. If this was a policy of this government and this party, that they are definitely against it as adamantly as the member said, I wouldn't be sitting in this seat and he knows it. There is no doubt about that.

There is a diversity on this side, the same as is on the other side, and I don't care about the next election and so on because I believe in parental rights in education, and I believe in equality of opportunity for all the kids. That is what I hope guides everybody. I don't give a damn about the Member for Elmwood, but all the members out there who won't play politics, who feel that this is important, I hope that this is what they let guide them in this vote, and I hope there is some correction for the injustice that has been perpetuated on these people for a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't had an opportunity to get into the Budget Debate. So I want to make a few remarks on Interim Supply with the government asking for almost a billion dollars - \$956 million. As the Member for St. Norbert said, I think we have some opportunity to find out just what they're going to spend it on. I know they're not spending very much on highways. We've seen the increase in the Highway's Budget, and we'll get into that very shortly, probably Monday when we get into the Minister's Estimates, so I won't waste the House's time on talking about highways, or the jobs' program, or the advertising budget on Limestone that the government is proposing, because that has been done before and will be done from time to time as we get into other stages of the Estimates Review, Mr. Chairman.

But I wanted to relate one particular problem that I have in my area-, and I'm glad the Minister of Education is here - because the Town of Rivers, which is in my constituency, during the 50's when the air base was going at full speed, there was a large increase in the enrolment in the schools there. It was necessary to build another school in Rivers and also to enlarge the elementary schools, so they built a collegiate and put a substantial addition, over the years, onto the elementary school.

Well, with the subsequent closing of the air base there and the failure of the site to become an industrial

park that provided employment for a large number of people, there has been some declining enrolment in the schools in the Town of Rivers. The heating system in the collegiate now has deteriorated to the point where it must be replaced, and the Department of Education, the finance section, the finance department, has told the Rolling River School Division that there are not enough pupils now in the collegiate to justify them paying the cost of the heating system, and they will only pay 60 percent of it, and the taxpayers of the school division must pick up the other 40 percent. But, if they transfer the Grades 7 and 8 students from the elementary school into the collegiate, then there will be sufficient numbers of pupils in that school to justify them paying the whole cost of the new heating system.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you don't have to be an economist to figure out that the elementary school still has to be heated, the system in the collegiate is going to have to be replaced at some time or other. The Minister has had letters and various briefs from the citizens and the parents at Rivers who are extremely upset over this disruption of the children, moving Grades 7 and 8 into a collegiate atmosphere that they don't feel they are ready for. It upsets the intramural sports program. It puts some of the younger children in with the senior students, which they don't feel is a good environment for them to be in.

The costs are continuing. They have to heat both of those units. It seems a logical decision, Mr. Chairman, to provide the cost of that heating system in the collegiate, to have the government provide the full cost. The heating unit is going to have to be replaced some time. If they don't transfer Grades 7 and 8 into that school, they could probably close off a portion of it and maybe the heating system would be adequate for that, or they could renew half of the heating system and use it until enrolment either comes up, or if enrolment stabilizes at a decreased rate in the Town of Rivers, the collegiate institute would probably handle all of the students and they could completely close the elementary schools.

So the citizens out there are at wit's end. They respect the school division's decision because they are concerned with another burden on the taxpayers of having to pick up 40 percent. So they propose to transfer Grades 7 and 8 into the collegiate so they can recover 100 percent of the costs, and it's creating a disruption in the town with the parents and with the school division that it seems to be absolutely unnecessary.

Now I know there has been representations made to the Minister. In fact, there's a letter from a group of concerned citizens dated March 8th from Mr. Richard Dyer, Concerned Parents and Citizens of Rivers, which she has. I know there have been some meetings with Mr. Frechette of the Public Schools Finance Board.

Mr. Chairman, if she would just take the time to look at the situation and look at the logical conclusion that could be drawn very very quickly and provide that extra funding that's needed to replace the heating system in the collegiate, leave the elementary school as it is and in time when enrolment stabilizes, which it appears to be doing reasonably quickly, the collegiate at that time may handle all of the students and then they can incorporate a kindergarten or a 1-12 education facility and they could close the elementary school completely.

But in the meantime both of those units have to be heated; there is going to be a new heating system required in the collegiate eventually; in fact it's required now; and it seems logical that the funds should be provided to put that heating system in now and then it will be ready to accommodate those students when the time comes.

There are quite a number of other things that I could get into, Mr. Chairman, but I won't take the time. I know there are others that have concerns they want to express here while we are in Interim Supply.

I might just add that I fully support the position taken by the Member for Pembina with regard to the closing of the Portage School. I have had the opportunity to have constituents go through that training program there, and I also had the opportunity to work in Selkirk and see the training program there.

As an uneducated observer of the psychiatric nursing training, it seems that they are completely different courses and they gain completely unrelated training in the two different settings that they operate under. So I support what has been said by the Member for Pembina and other members on this side.

I would urge the Minister to just back off and take another hard long look at what she is doing because it's going to create a bad atmosphere in Portage la Prairie that's not going to bode well for the government. I know they may be saying well, that's fine, we are not going to win that seat anyway, but we've got Selkirk and we can save Len Evans in Brandon East by doing something for him. — (Interjection) — I am not criticizing the water slide, Mr. Minister, because it's in my constituency.

I was merely just worried about the archeological, or the artifacts there from the Black Duck Indian Tribe, that I wanted to be sure they were preserved and not disturbed. I know there is also a great concern with the residents of the Grand Valley area there with the extra traffic that's going to be created - children and very narrow roads - so the Minister of Highways is going to be hit with a proposal before long, after the slide is in operation, to rebuild that Grand Valley road to accommodate the additional traffic.

But I would just urge the Minister of Education to take a look at the concerns of the people from Rivers and I am sure when she looks at all of the facts there and the presentations that have been made to her, that a satisfactory conclusion will be drawn and everyone in the Rivers area and the Rolling River School Division Board will be happy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Health spoke just a few minutes ago and the Member for Elmwood interrupted him and indicated that he had not changed his position with respect to language rights in this province over the last number of years.

I want to refer to Hansard of April 16, 1980, where Mr. Doern is quoted as follows: "Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 2 is a significant bill. It is one that has already had some interesting debate and no doubt we will hear from more members of the government and of the

opposition parties. One of the things, I think, that we have to realize when I speak directly and narrowly in the framework of the bill is that the measure before us is, in fact, expensive and costly, and I think some of us have not yet fully realized and certainly the public hasn't fully realized that it will cost a great deal in terms of millions of dollars for such a simple measure as to bring Manitoba back to perhaps where it should have been some 90 years ago. Because since 1890, in effect, Manitoba has been officially unilingual and now, I suppose, from this point on, we will become officially bilingual. And the task, in the narrow sense, is formidable."

He goes on, on Page 2577 in conclusion, this is Mr. Doern speaking on Bill No. 2, An Act respecting the operation of Section 23 of The Manitoba Act in regard to Statutes, or as it was known, The Official Languages Act. He ended up: "So I say, Mr. Speaker, in a sentence, I believe that Bill 2 is a step in the right direction, and as it has been said, a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. But there are many more steps that must be taken and there must also be, as we advance along the way, appreciation for the multicultural diversity of the people of Manitoba and Canada."

So I say that it is true that sometimes members do change their positions apparently over the years and I believe that it's very clear that that particular member hasn't.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just a brief reply. I look forward to reading to the Minister and to the government the letter of one Howard Pawley when he was Attorney-General; a famous letter that I think someone on this side has about how he carefully explained to that person how, dear me, there is no way we could possibly provide French services in Manitoba because of the multicultural makeup and mix. That letter has in fact been and I in fact have that letter and I, of course, will be happy to read it.

So I simply say at this point, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, and I've heard that statement before that I have always stood for rectifying the situation. I have made that statement many times in this House. I have not been in favour of official bilingualism. I have been in favour of the original 1870 agreement, the restoration of rights in the courts and the Legislature. That is how far I believe the government should go and I believe the government should not go beyond that. I have said that many times and I will say it again.

I have also, Mr. Chairman, never been opposed to the French language or French-Canadian people or people who speak French - never - but I am against massive amounts of government money being poured into the community, poured into a lot of artificial organizations that couldn't last two seconds without the big bucks that are sent into them. So speaking languages and treating people as equal, I don't have any problem with that. I have a lot of problems and will fight to my last breath, Mr. Chairman, trying to make Manitoba officially bilingual.

Mr. Chairman, I will also say this, for the benefit of members opposite, there is only one province in Canada right now that's officially bilingual, New Brunswick. If

you want to see a society that is being torn to shreds and ripped apart, go there and see the "good work" that was done by somebody named Richard Hatfield - remember him? - and how he made his province officially bilingual, and how there is nothing but strife and serious social problems in that community today, and how people are leaving that province, are finding it hard to get employment and are at their wit's end trying to decide what to do when they have a choice between a peculiar and bizarre Premier and a Liberal Party which is weak. They are in a real dilemma in that particular province.

So if the Minister of Finance wants to get up and start the French Language Debate all over again, well, let him continue. Let him revive the issue; let him reintroduce legislation. Let him go before the people of Rossmere, who will throw him out on his ear, and tell them that he is going to run on that platform, that he's going to ram the French language question down their throats. Mr. Chairman, he won't be around, and I am telling the Honourable Minister right now.

He says, I'm in danger, Mr. Chairman. Well, we'll see, I say I'm not in danger. I say he's in danger. I say that in his riding and in River East and in other ridings that are traditionally New Democratic that they do not have the support of their own members, let alone the people of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education is not in her seat, but she hopefully will be listening in a minute to what I have to say. — (Interjection) — Okay, perhaps the Minister of Finance or the Acting Government House Leader will tell her.

I have asked her a question four or five times, and she's refused to answer. I think it is incumbent, Mr. Chairman, upon a Minister to answer that type of question in Interim Supply. I'm not asking to get into a debate over the particular subject, I am asking information about what the government intends to do in the financing of independent schools in the next fiscal year. I do not accept her answer that we have to wait until Estimates which will be sometime in July or August.

I want to say to the Minister of Finance and the Acting House Leader that unless she supplies that information in the next short while, I am giving serious consideration to standing up and debating the Interim Supply Bill to ensure that it will not pass today.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, the situation that Manitoba Hydro and Provincial Government has put this province into, because they have absolutely thrown out the bidding system which has always been regarded as something that was almost sacred in the Province of Manitoba, is one that is going to put the province in a very difficult situation.

Mr. Chairman, the Province of Manitoba is an export province. We are only a million people. We manufacture a tremendous amount of products here for our size.

Mr. Chairman, if we go away from the tender system that we have stuck to all these years, we could have nothing but consequence because we will lose in that particular battle.

I'm well aware of the fact that in Quebec we have a hard time floating, and other provinces do have some protective measures when they're calling tenders which is not a good situation but, as my leader mentioned the other day, the Canadian Manufacturers Association is absolutely opposed to moving away from the tender system within the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, let's go down memory lane, as the First Minister mentioned the other day, sometimes it's a very good habit. I refer to the Jenpeg generators that were purchased from a Russian manufacturer. If you refer to the dialogue and the absolute statements that were made by people to the Tritschler Commission, you'll find on Page 156 regarding the term of generator contract that was for Jenpeg, that there was a situation there that the engineers in Hydro could very easily have turned down the lowest tender on the basis of performance of those generators in other areas. Certainly nobody has to accept the lower tender, and in this particular case there was every reason and documentation to show that there would be problems with those generators and that the parts would be hard to get after it was built. I think they're still having problems. Warranties would be bad; and the performance of those generators in Norway had not been good. But, Mr. Chairman, Manitoba Hydro and the Provincial Government at the time insisted that the tender system be preserved in this province and insisted on purchasing the lowest bidder, the Russian generators.

Mr. Chairman, the situation arose again. During the time that Manitoba Hydro was asking for bids on the contract for the direct current line from Kettle Rapids to Winnipeg, there was no question that there was a bid that came in. The lowest tender was Brown Boveri, a European company, and the European company was the low bidder against CGE of Canada.

The Federal Government at that time refused to supply the money at the low interest rate or finance the money at no interest rate on the Brown Boveri part of the contract, because it did not have Canadian content. The Provincial Government stood to lose a considerable amount of financing money from the Federal Government. Mr. Chairman, also in that contract that CGE had told the Premier and the Schreyer Government of the day that there would be a \$6-million plant built in Brandon, Manitoba.

Hydro took the position that the \$6-million plant was being done on the basis of discussion with the government, and Hydro took the position that they had no alternative but to take the lowest bid. The Government of the Day fought off all of the pressures of the Federal Government and the pressures of CGE at the time, and they stuck with the tender system. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Schreyer was quoted in the "Brandon Sun" on March 15, 1975 - when the time of this Brown Boveri contract was involved and he had just been to Ottawa to have discussion with the Federal Government in February, found out that he could not get any financing for that particular part of the job - as saying any deviation from open bidding practice would harm the long-standing credibility of Manitoba Hydro and

then result in withdrawal of competition by companies of Canadian overseas companies in future Hydro tenders. The Premier of the day, and the Government of the Day, and the Hydro people of the day, were fighting very sincerely and hard to maintain the tender system within this province.

Mr. Chairman, I refer to a meeting of April 1, 1975, almost 10 years ago, when the Premier of the Day, in the Committee of Public Utilities and Natural Resources, Mr. Schreyer, stated, "Well, Mr. Chairman . . ." - when Mr. Craik asked Mr. Bateman a question, Mr. Bateman said I'll defer that one, Mr. Chairman, to my Minister - who was the Premier - ". . . it is something which I don't think lends itself to any particularly short answer. The fact of the matter is that the proposal that was made by Canadian General Electric was, if accepted, would have been a very real and drastic departure from the bid system and from the ethics of the bid system." Further on, in the discussion, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Schreyer said, I feel that there is a good deal involved here, which makes me wonder about the ethics that are practiced in terms of governments expressing solitude for one firm, at the expense of a whole raft or a whole context of bid systems and the ethics that surround the bid system.

Mr. Chairman, the government of the previous NDP Government used to fight and battle and stand up in this House and say that the tender and bid system was sacred to the integrity of Ontario Hydro and to the integrity of the Government of Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have a situation where we have given a \$101 million order to Canadian General Electric Company without any tendering being done by Hydro for the job. We don't have anything substantial in the way of where the \$10 million that Hydro have offered to spend in Manitoba. We don't have anything in writing that says what they're going to do. We just have a commitment that says they will spend \$10 million in Manitoba between now and 1991, a six-year period. Mr. Chairman, Canadian General Electric could spend that without batting an eye. That works out to \$1.6 million a year and I can assure you, Canadian General Electric could place that kind of an order tomorrow. Canadian General Electric is a \$30 billion organization, the seventh largest company in the world. They have a building program going on daily within their company and this government could not sit them down and make them sign on the dotted line as to what actually was going to be done in the Province of Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we heard from the Minister of Finance just a little while ago and he started to talk about the discussions that went on and the negotiations that went on when we were in government and the negotiations that apparently went on when the Member for Elmwood was in government about how we had discussions and negotiations with companies regarding the generators for Limestone. Well, Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that when we were in government, there was a committee set up between my deputy, Mr. Thompson, at the time; Mr. Blachford, the Chairman of Hydro; Mr. Anderson, the Deputy Minister of Energy at the time and they, I believe, sent out letters to many suppliers saying that when these tenders would come out, they would have to specify in their tender exactly what the spinoff in industrial benefits would be for the Province of Manitoba.

At no time was there any discussion with any supplier on the basis that they would receive that contract without a tender and I name the members of the committee of our government that were there - Mr. Blachford, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Anderson, who were part of the government committee looking at industrial benefits regarding Hydro. At no time was anybody given the impression they would receive it without tenders, and the discussions and letters were sent on the basis that if tenders came out you would have to specify which your industrial spinoffs would be in the tender in black and white.

I can clearly remember a discussion in my office with my deputy and a representative of CGE and he started to talk about how he would send his purchasing agents out to Manitoba, purchase things, etc., and he was told you put it in the tender. Certainly there were discussions.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we talk about the Hydro Board, the Hydro Board that he was referring to today. Yes, the board did discuss the best way to have the possible benefits for the Province of Manitoba, and certainly that was a discussion at all times. The Minister tries to twist these things around the same as he did the other night when he stood up and said he found notes of a September preliminary budget estimates that made a particular figure and twists that around. He knows full well that when they start budgeting, the preliminary estimates are always high and you work from there. But he wouldn't have the fortitude to get up and say it the right way. And he's got minutes there and what have you to try and twist around the fact that we were thinking of putting this out without tender, and there was at no time any supplier told that it would be done without tender. Yes, it was discussed, Mr. Chairman.

Now, the Minister wasn't here when I reread what Mr. Schreyer said about the tendering system of the Brown Boveri order. They absolutely fought off CGE and all the pressures to stay with the tender system. They fought off everybody in the Engineering Department of Hydro that recommended the problems that they would have with the Russian generators and went to the lowest tender. And I repeat for the Minister's presentation what exactly, what was done by the previous government.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Energy gets up and he says in a nice way, well, we got the generators at less than Hydro had estimated what the generators would be. — (Interjection) — How do you know? You didn't tender it. They estimated a price on generators. General Electric says this is the price, these are the industrial benefits, these are the offsets. And they said, we'll buy it.

How do you know you got the best price? As a matter of fact, as one businessman and one large manufacturer in this province said to me just last night, you know, when you offer to pay \$100 million for something, and you've got an industrial package that's worth 10 million and you didn't tender it, who's to know who's paying the \$10 million? And the people of Manitoba could very easily be because that did not go out for tender.

Mr. Chairman, they didn't have to ask for 15 tenders. They didn't have to have it wide open to the whole world. They could have specified the people that they wanted to tender. It could have been 5, 3, 10, whatever they wanted. They could have written the specifications as to what they wanted, and they would say right in

those specifications, that this is the type of generator we want. We will accept these companies. Those companies can tender and you will name your offsets right in the tender, very easy to do and as a matter of fact, has been done by Manitoba Hydro forever and was forced to do it by the NDP Government when they were in power.

So, Mr. Chairman, now we have a situation where Manitoba is an export province. We have now told people that you can negotiate a price instead of having tenders. We have now thrown that whole system out that has given us at least some protection and credibility within this province regarding the tender system, and you have done it. You have now said to people we will negotiate, and you have thrown out your system.

Mr. Chairman, this is the typical NDP Government. When I accused them of changing their policies as far as supporting and paying out money to big business, I made it very clear that this absolute hypocrisy of changing policies in the middle of the stream all of a sudden is very hard to understand.

And just on that subject the Minister of Finance - I read Hansard the other night when he spoke - when he said something about me doing things without authority, etc. I would say to the Minister of Finance, read the file - and I emphasize - read the file very carefully and then maybe you'll know what you're talking about.

So, Mr. Chairman, I will tell you, he can come up and he will stand up, and he will take away the minutes of Hydro where there was discussion among the board members, and he will talk about how they had discussion as to what was the best way. — (Interjection) — Well, he'll have discussion, and he'll talk about how the board said they had discussion as to what was the best way to have benefits for the Province of Manitoba, but at no time did the government say to Hydro they could do it without tender, that they could leave the tendering policy, and at no time was any company ever told that it would be done without tender. Now, Mr. Chairman, let the Minister get up.

I quoted the First Minister but he's going to be talking away about discussions. He's going to be talking about the previous board that my colleague was on, but he was not going to be able to produce anywhere where our government told the Hydro that they could deviate from the tender system, Mr. Chairman.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have now put this province into a vulnerable position. We have spent \$100 million of the people's money of this province, and they don't know whether they got the best price or not because you have deviated from something you believed in for years. Go ahead, read it. I know what it says.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I won't take up much time, but I do want to say that there was a decision made by Hydro - not discussions, a decision made - on the basis of a request from the General Manager of Corporate Operations who requested confirmation of authority to negotiate the supply of turbines and generators for the Limestone Generating Station from Canadian General Electric Company Limited and Dominion Engineering Works Limited which is their

subsidiary, an authority to reactivate negotiations on a schedule necessary to protect a first power date, 1987.

That wasn't exactly agreed to. The board discussed it for awhile and this is the resolve: That the corporation be given conditional approval to proceed with negotiations for the supply of turbines and generators for the Limestone Generating Station from Canadian General Electric Company Limited and Dominion Engineering Works Limited on a schedule necessary to protect the first power date of 1987 subject to discussions with representatives of the government relative to pursuing industrial offsets for Manitobans." Okay, that's No. 1.

No. 2 - that's the way the negotiations continue. There's no question, you people had your input.

No. 3 - that's what was happening in 1977, regardless of what happened with the previous turbines.

No. 4 - it was in pursuance of an agreement between the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada which stated not tendering but negotiation was required for Canadian supplied generators and turbines.

And finally, No. 5 - the price negotiated was considerably below the estimate provided by Manitoba Hydro in terms of its cost-benefit analysis of the sale to Northern States Power. There is a considerable saving there.

No. 6 - we have negotiated - now you're talking about the 10 million - what I think we should keep in mind is, there's a job for a job and that was something we never got.

No. 7 - we never got that under that tendering system. We never once had a job for a job in Manitoba, a job for every job that was created in eastern Canada or elsewhere here in Manitoba and that's what we got out of this. It's a very good deal for Manitobans.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I say to the Minister, he talks about discussion, he talks about the board having the right to negotiate. There was never any provision or final decision made not to go out for tender or break the tendering procedure that you people lived with all of the time.

Talking about job for job and your decision, I only say to the Minister, how do you know you got the best deal, because you didn't put it out for tender? You don't have to take the lowest tender. You can sit down and analyze the tenders and figure out which is the best for Manitoba. You've spent \$100 million of Manitoba money without tendering.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I point out: (1) - the previous Progressive Conservative Government continued the negotiations started by Ed Schreyer in 1977 through to August of 1978 when the item was shut down. Item (2) - of course you can always go to tender until the last possible moment. Until you sign an agreement, theoretically you can go to tender. We could have gone to tender until we signed the agreement on January 4, 1985.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, he talks about the Right Honourable Mr. Schreyer, when he said and was quoted as, "any deviation from open bidding practice would harm the long-standing credibility of the Manitoba

Hydro and then result in the withdrawal of competition by Canadian overseas company in future Hydro tenders," and you're now telling me that the Honourable Mr. Schreyer had gone back on his word?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to my colleague the Member for Sturgeon Creek because I think he put some very valuable information on the record and very important information.

Mr. Chairman, I don't want to take up any undue time, but I do want to ask the Minister responsible for Telephones, the Honourable Minister of Labour I assume it is. I really find it very difficult to believe, Mr. Chairman, and I would want to have an opportunity for him to at least prove me wrong that there are two new fire halls in my constituency in the Interlake that the Manitoba Telephone System refuses to service with telephone hookups.

Mr. Chairman, yes, you answered it. Please, I don't want him to get arrogant about this. I just want him to understand that similar equipment is operating at least in seven or eight other community districts, the most recent one being in La Broquerie.

A MEMBER: Where?

MR. H. ENNS: La Broquerie. I said it quickly. I understand, Mr. Chairman, they went through considerable difficulty again, but that community purchased Motorola equipment mobile units and it is interconnected to the MTS operations in that community.

Mr. Chairman, quite aside from whether or not MTS has its nose out of joint because they wish to promote the sale of their own mobile pieces of equipment, the truth of the matter is - and at least I'm told and I would ask the Minister to undertake to investigate - I am told that there are at least seven or eight installations where Motorola equipment is interconnected with Manitoba Telephone System equipment for precisely the same reason. I would sincerely ask the Minister that he undertake to see that the volunteer firefighters of Inwood and Fraserwood who have built their fire halls, who have their trucks ready, who have ordered the Motorola mobile communications equipment and now find an intransigent Manitoba Telephone System that says they won't hook up and they won't put telephone service into their system.

So I know that Telephones has a long held position whereby they use their monopoly rights, quite frankly, to exclude other equipment manufacturers to interconnect. I was sponsor of a bill in this House that unfortunately needed some further fine tuning and was never proclaimed and I acknowledge that. But that's all history, Mr. Chairman.

What I am simply saying is there are situations where the equipment is working satisfactorily, no difficulty, no damage to the system and surely the Minister can undertake to see that happens.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I indicated earlier that the Telephone System had offered telephone service to the fire halls, and that is not incorrect.

I am advised that the Telephone System officials met with the Council of the LGD of Armstrong on March 25th, had a full discussion with the LGD at that time, with the council; then they met with the Reeve and a councillor on April 2nd, just the other day. The council indicated that it understood its options, as the MTS reviewed the options with the council, and indicated to the MTS that it would give the matter its consideration and advise the MTS of its decision as to what it wanted to do. The council also noted that the Telephone System is willing and prepared to meet and provide mutually acceptable communication service for the firefighting facilities of these communities.

Now the Member for Lakeside quite rightly recalls that when he was Minister and responsible for the Telephone System that the same provisions of the act exist now that existed then. There have been problems about people wanting to attach sophisticated equipment, including burglar alarm systems, all sorts of devices to the telephone network. In defence of the corporation's economic interest, successive Ministers and governments have said, no, the act must be protected. The viability of the corporation requires that you can't have indiscriminate use of that electronic highway. So you cannot just arbitrarily attach things to that network without the authorization of the Telephone System. That is the act. That's the law. We didn't create it. This Minister didn't fashion it. It's there.

Now the member quite rightly points out the fact that there are different systems out there. The Manitoba Telephone System itself has a method that it's prepared to offer and a large number of communities in Manitoba have taken up that system. It's worked very well. There is a private organization that is soliciting use of its equipment, and it can work without the use of the Telephone System and that is, it's a radio network.

But what that system wants is to connect to the Telephone System, and that is not provided for in the act. It's not being recognized in the past, so that's where it is.

Now this organization has gone to some municipalities and without authorization from the Telephone System, connected to the Telephone System. Now the honourable member may say, well why doesn't the Minister take action, cut off their telephone line, do something? Well, that would create grave difficulties.

Now the difference that exists is that in the instance the honourable member refers to in the LGD of Armstrong, these were new facilities. There were no telephone hookups. The LGD was apprised of the fact that the MTS offered this service and what the requirements of the act provided, and that it wasn't open for the Telephone System to put in lines and hook up an attachment that belonged to another competing organization. It wasn't that they didn't like competition. The act and successive Ministers of the government have maintained that act in force and those regulations in force. So the MTS acted very fairly.

They indicated to the council that if the council wanted - we're waiting to hear what the council decided, they still haven't heard from the council at the time that I last called the MTS staff - but it indicated that if it were necessary they would install telephone lines in order that those fire halls would have telephone service.

But that is not what is being sought. What is being asked of the Telephone System is to install lines and

connect apparatus that is not licensed under the act and they can't do it.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. A. MACKLING: I hear chatter across the way saying they did it in other places. The MTS did not connect that equipment — (Interjection) — well either the installer connected it or some other persons, but MTS staff whom I questioned said, no, they did not connect that equipment. They did not connect that equipment is the information I have.

So those are the facts, Mr. Chairman, and I trust the honourable member appreciates what it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is 4:30, time for Private Members' Hour.

Call in the Speaker.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, could you please call the resolution one last time? I believe it may pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there leave to continue? Is that agreed? (Agreed)

Are you ready for the question?

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$956,654,520 being 30 percent of the total sums voted as set forth in The Appropriation Act (1984) be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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: Order please, order please. Order please.

The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Inkster, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hour. The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I believe there is an inclination to dispense with Private Members' Hour so that we can continue with business on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Ways and Means to consider of

the Ways and Means to raise the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS INTERIM SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee, come to order. We are considering the resolution respecting Interim Supply.

The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had problem getting my views on here this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and I want to welcome the Minister of Agriculture back from his duties as a Minister. I don't know whether he has had a chance to peruse Hansard. I raised the question last night. In view of the disaster that has hit the hog industry, I raised a question with the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Culture responded to it to some degree.

I wanted to know what is the position of this Minister in terms of what is happening in the hog industry right now, before we pass the Interim Supply here today, and whether he is contemplating making extra provisions for funding to the hog industry. The prices have been dropping 10 cents since the announcements of the Americans on an import tariff. I am not concerned and I don't necessarily want to hear from the Minister what is happening at the federal level, I want to hear from this Minister.

Negotiations are taking place here obviously. I want to hear from the Minister what he is going to do in the interim basis right now, whether there is going to be any additional funds being put forward into the hog stabilization program, or whether there is any kind of plan that he has in place to save about 30 percent of the hog fellows who are going to be going broke within the next few months if something isn't done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member makes certain assertions that 30 percent of the industry may go broke. Mr. Chairman, in case the honourable member forgets, it was this government that has put in a long-term Hog Income Assurance Program that is ongoing and any producer who wishes to join the plan may do so.

The question that he raises with respect to the national situation, or the international situation, I find very disturbing. Sir, because just several weeks ago we had the Prime Minister of this country meet with the President of the United States and there were great handshakes that the doors would be open, the borders would be open and we would be working towards free trade. Within two to three weeks of that great big communiqué, Mr. Chairman, our hog producers in this

country were slapped with a countervailing duty of 5.3 cents a pound for every pound of pork going to the United States.

Mr. Chairman, that's what we call co-operation. The meeting led us to believe that everything across the border was going to be free and open and we were going to have great things happen between Canada and the United States. We had great hopes, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that producers and Canadians had great hopes for that meeting, but boy, did we ever get it in terms of the countervailing duties from the United States. Mr. Chairman, that's what we call co-operation. That's what we call international co-operation that has happened.

We have been involved with the industry both provincially and nationally, along with the Federal Government, to put our case forward to the International Trade Commission dealing with the hog industry to try and put our case forward. In Manitoba's case, Mr. Chairman, specifically, I find it astounding that the International Commission could find that there has been in fact subsidies on the basis of Manitoba hogs that were sent to the United States in terms of the impact of Manitoba stabilization programs.

Sir, the member should know; in case he doesn't, I will remind him that approximately 55 percent of Manitoba's hogs are insured under the stabilization program. Sir, about 20 percent of our production is exported.

A MEMBER: It's more than that.

HON. B. URUSKI: About 20 percent. Well, if it's more than that, let the member give me the figures. It varies, but on the average, on the long term, when the disputes were on in this country, of course, more hogs went south of the border during the packers' dispute in Manitoba.

But, Mr. Chairman, we have contended - and I don't have my notes immediately, if the honourable member wants to know the specific provisions that we are working on, I will provide that information for him - but I can tell you that we are working; in fact, our staff were in Ottawa working with the Federal Government on Monday, April 1st.

We will be meeting with the trade people from the United States. They will be coming to Manitoba later this month to review the information that we provided them last fall and an appeal has been launched and we will have, I believe it is 75 days, in which the appeal to be launched. Otherwise, the programs that we have in place have not jeopardized and have inflicted damage on U.S. producers. In fact, Mr. Chairman, if it be known, about 30 percent of the feed stubs that Manitoba producers use come from the United States.

MR. C. MANNES: It will be the last two months.

HON. B. URUSKI: No, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Morris says the last two months. Where do we get our soybean meal? Where do we get a lot of our drugs? Where do we get a lot of our equipment?

MR. C. MANNES: Feed stubs? I didn't realize drugs were feed stubs.

HON. B. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, all the commodities needed to raise a hog is what I was referring to. The honourable member should be aware of that.

So we intend to proceed as we have to appeal this decision, but I urge members opposite to get their Prime Minister clued in on this matter and not go and handshake and say we are going to open our borders. Now, they are going to have to do something about it, Sir, because 5.3 cents of hog producers' incomes are going out the window and I think they have a lot of explaining to do as to how their Prime Minister has acted in terms of his discussion with the President of the United States.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Now I know why the agricultural community is in the kind of trouble they are, because this Minister has baffle-gabbed and he hasn't got his facts straight, because the hog stabilization program was initiated under the previous Minister of Agriculture. He is the one that initiated it and this Minister is trying to take the glory. It is for that kind of action exactly why everybody is upset with him. He did exactly what I indicated that he need not necessarily do. We know the background history of what has happened in the hog industry with the import tariff.

I wanted to know from this Minister if he is going to be putting more money into the stabilization program to keep that liquid until this thing has finally been resolved at the federal level and he hasn't got any answers on that. He says he's got somebody out there; he's talking to my Prime Minister. Fine, I accept the fact that it is my Prime Minister. If it isn't yours, that's your problem. With that kind of attitude you're not going to get any reaction from him either. — (Interjection) — Well, that's not the way you put it. You said my Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, these negotiations that he's talking about, with 75 days you're going to take a long time. There's going to be a lot of negotiations going on. What is this Minister going to do for the hog producers right now when the prices are going to be dropping possibly another 10 cents within the next week? What is he going to do with the program that he lodged as a stabilization program? It's going to be broke within 30 days, at the drop of the prices now. That is the question that he raised yesterday and the members at that time couldn't understand it. Maybe the Minister can understand what the question is. What are you going to do? Where are the funds going to come from?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, either the honorable member doesn't understand or doesn't want to understand. On the one hand they have criticized this government continually for increasing the deficit - continually - program after program. Then on the other side of the question they have members getting up one by one saying we should be spending more, we should be doing this and that. Mr. Chairman, they want it both ways, and they can't have it both ways.

Producers in Manitoba know that there is a government on this side that cares for their welfare,

that has representatives and will continue to represent them whether it be against the countervailing duties in the United States - in fact which really should be dealt with at the federal level - and we have financially supported the producers in putting their case forward to make sure that their position is heard and heard well on this very issue.

Mr. Chairman, we did not sit on our hands as the Honourable Member for Emerson suggests. I don't know where he's been in terms of his position on the hog issue, where he's been on agricultural issues. Maybe he's had his ears and eyes closed, Sir, maybe that's where he's been. The honourable members opposite want to continue a policy of trying to take the Federal Government off the hook from their responsibility.

When they were in office, Sir, that's all they did was lambaste the Federal Liberal Government because they were Liberals, they couldn't do anything right. Now everything is nice and peachy. We should not criticize the Minister of Finance for his White Paper. We should not criticize our Prime Minister for the deal that he made with the president in saying we'll open the borders. We should not deal with this question. What are you going to deal with? Now the Province of Manitoba will have to be involved in international affairs, Mr. Chairman. What is this country coming to?

The Member for Emerson now says that the Province of Manitoba will be involved in international affairs. Are we going to set up our own chargé d'affaires in the United States? Is that what he's suggesting? - to get a fair deal. Mr. Chairman, spend more money. Our Stabilization Program will be in effect. There are funds there. And if there are extra funds required, we expect that we will have their support.

But, Mr. Chairman, we didn't have their support on the Budget. We didn't have the support to assist farmers who are in financial difficulty. They're taking the attitude as the Federal Minister of Agriculture says 1700 farmers in Canada are bankrupt and that's too bad. They will continue to support their high interest rate policy as they've done in the past, Sir, and that's their position. They come into this House and say, what are you doing in international affairs? That's the kind of nonsense they're bringing into this House, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I just want to make the comment that the hog farmers of Manitoba now know exactly that this Minister of Agriculture isn't going to lift a finger on their behalf.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, S. Ashton: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to, at this time, ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he had representation made to him by the Association of Aerial Applicators within the Province of Manitoba with respect to bringing a piece of equipment in from the United States, a joint agreement between the Prairie Provinces. I believe the item was some \$30,000 in total and two other governments, namely Saskatchewan and Alberta, and made some shared commitment with the various applicators within their provinces. I am led to believe that this particular Minister has turned down a request from the applicators to share a 10,000 fee

that would be necessary to buy this particular item and also to bring it into place.

My question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister was whether or not he saw some benefit for this particular piece of equipment which I believe measured spray drift, which measured calibrated levels of application which really would provide for the first time to aerial applicators a source of confidence, I suppose, into their line of responsibility in their job.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask whether or not if the Minister of Agriculture's department did not see that this project was worthy and this equipment was worthy, whether or not the Minister of Environment also saw some application where this type of equipment and this type of procedure for measuring spray drift had some merit in being in place within this province.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to investigate the particular allegation that the honourable member makes. I believe my office did receive a letter some months ago with a request and I can't recall from memory specifically what the request was for and I'll look into the matter that the honourable member raises and respond to him. But I can't specifically recall all the details of the matter that the honourable member raises and I'll be pleased to look at that question. I can't give him any more information on that at this moment.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I won't belabour the point and I thank the Minister for his undertaking. I suppose the reason for bringing it forward at this time is that the Minister of Agriculture, if he can't find sufficient funds within his department, I would hope that he would try and approach the Minister of the Environment who obviously would have some - if not some understanding - would have some interest also within this area and hopefully that between those two departments they could share with the Aerial Applicators of Manitoba the \$10,000 fee required to buy a Manitoba portion of that particular piece of equipment.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I only want to indicate that I will look into the matter, but I know that we are not involved with any other commercial applicators, whether it be ground or for whatever kind of equipment that they would require to measure drift, because they're not the only ones that are measuring drift, in terms of damages being caused. But I'll look into the matter, Sir, that he raises. Perhaps in terms of the industry Canada-wide, I'll examine what sharing there was with Saskatchewan and Alberta and what proportional share - whether there was in fact a proportional share - for Manitoba because as the member well knows that our proportion of cropland versus Saskatchewan and the amount of aerial applicators involved, — (Interjection) — Well, it may be but the acreages certainly aren't the same and the potential is certainly not the same, we'll check that out, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. W. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have a difficult time today to support this motion

to spend some \$956 million plus for this government to carry on in the days ahead. Mr. Chairman, we were promised that this would be an open government. They have the highest number of civil servants that this province has ever seen and we have a case today, where members come here and ask how we're going to dispose of these monies and we don't get any answers.

My colleague the Member for St. Norbert has, I think, on two or three occasions raised questions with the Honourable Minister of Education regarding private and parochial schools in this province and certainly, the Minister is a very charming lady, but how far can charm go when we're spending a billion dollars or close to a billion dollars, when we're seeking information?

Mr. Chairman, the other matter that came before the House today was the Minister of Community Services regarding the closing of the school at Portage and, unfortunately, for some strange reason, she has not responded as to what we're going to do with this billion dollars that the government is asking us to pass this afternoon. Mr. Chairman, it annoys me, because we were promised that this would be an open government, that this government would stand up and give us some of the answers to the questions that we're raising before we pass this huge amount of money. Mr. Chairman, it alarms me, because we were pledged and we were promised that all these things would fall in place and this opposition sitting over here in these benches today and we'd get some of the answers. I congratulate the Minister of Finance, he certainly has provided us with some information, the Minister of Labour has and the Minister of Agriculture who just sat down. The Minister of Health rose in his place and did respond. But these two charming ladies that hold these other portfolios are for some strange reason being silent today and have refused to . . . As I said, charm is beautiful, we like to have the ladies in this Legislature, and they do a wonderful job, but charm can only go as far as you can see it when you're spending almost a billion dollars.

Mr. Chairman, this famous document that Howard Pawley put out, let's take a look at it again and see what they promised to the people of this province before this money matter comes up that we're asked to pass this afternoon. It said, care, not cutbacks. Now, how can we justify to the people in Portage la Prairie that there's a caring government, and they have some understanding of what it's all about, care, not cutbacks?

So, Mr. Chairman, they're not living up to their election campaign as they promised. Sure, we'll likely pass this Interim Supply motion that's before the House today, but we're not getting the services to this province, nor are we getting answers to the question.

It says here, and I'll put it in the record again, Mr. Chairman, just for your interest and the committee: "Manitoba New Democrats are proud of the work they've done in making health care available to all Manitobans." And that's the hooker - all Manitobans. We're not going to be able to provide this type of health care to all Manitobans if the Minister of Community Services pursues this career that she's on now, to close the Portage school. They go on to say, "Our health care system has been allowed to deteriorate over the last four years. The Lyon Government has cut back health care budgets. The grants to hospitals have been regularly below the inflation rate. Community claimings

have been cut, and services in remote areas have not been expanded."

Now who is kidding who, Mr. Chairman, before we pass these sums of money? It's certainly not us on the opposition benches because we're pleading with this government today to try and live up to some of the things that you promised to the people across this province.

"Health care," it says, the next line, "is too important to be short changed." That's Howard Pawley that said that. He'd guarantee - he's now the Premier of this Province, said, "health care is too important to be shortchanged." Mr. Chairman, do you believe that the people in Portage la Prairie and in the surrounding areas, and the comments this honourable gentleman, the Member for Kirkfield Park put in the record, are they not being shortchanged." Are we not doing our duty in the opposition to draw these matters to the attention of this government who said they wouldn't do these type of things.

It goes on and says on the next page, "Manitoba New Democrats would restore the health care system." Not tear it apart, not tear it down, they said they'd restore it. There it is in black and white, Mr. Chairman.

It says here, "Preventative medicine will be a priority." What is the school at Portage if it's not preventative medicine, the training of nurses, Mr. Chairman? And they're asking us to support them today for \$965 million. I think it's a sham, Mr. Chairman. This government that was supposed to be so caring and going to look after the needs of the people in this province, signed by Howard Pawley, pledged by Howard Pawley, wrote in stone in this document here. They're not looking after the needs of the health care of our province, Mr. Chairman.

They're tearing it down piece by piece, and the tragedy of it all is they're trying to re-elect this Honourable Member for Brandon East and re-elect the Premier of this province. That's what it's all about. Highly political, extremely political, and that will be a sad day for our province if they re-elect that Member for Brandon East. That he has been a disaster in this House since he arrived. Every portfolio he has touched, Mr. Chairman, has fallen and collapsed on his hands. The only thing that he can do skillfully is bring in these statistics from time to time and say, "well, there are so many people going out of the province and there are so many coming in." He does that well, but that's the end of his empire. If that's the best that Brandon East can offer to this Legislature, he should be removed at the earliest . . . But he's going to try again by whatever means he can, and this is one of the other ways that he's trying to maneuver. He was in the department looking after it and now he has unfortunately moved in, and he's working in the back room with the present Minister, and we're going to lose that health care system that was so long established in Portage la Prairie, our second largest city in this province is going to lose that facility. That a tragedy for Manitoba, and I hate to see that happen. He's standing here today and asked to expend some almost a billion dollars to tear down the health system in our province. I don't buy it, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have a hard time to support this motion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee to pass the motion? Pass.

HON. A. ANSTETT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Could you please read and call the question on the resolution for Interim Supply?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Resolved that towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986, the sum of \$956,654,520, being 30 percent of the total sums voted as set forth in The Appropriation Act 1984 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund — pass. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

The Committee of Ways and Means has considered a certain resolution and directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. V. SCHROEDER, by leave, introduced Bill 10, An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money For The Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1986 and to authorize Commitments to expend Additional Money in Subsequent Years and to authorize the Borrowing of Funds to provide for Cash Requirements of the Government (The Interim Appropriation Act, 1985); Loi allouant à Sa Majesté certaines sommes d'argent pour l'année financière se terminant le 31 mars 1986, et autorisant le gouvernement à engager des dépenses pour les années subséquentes et à faire les emprunts requis pour subvenir à ses besoins de fonds (Loi de 1985 portant affectation anticipée de crédits), and be ordered for second reading immediately.

SECOND READING - GOVERNMENT BILLS

BILL 10 - THE INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER, by leave, introduced Bill 10, An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1986 and to authorize Commitments to spend Additional Money in Subsequent Years, of Funds to provide for Cash Requirements of the Government (The Interim Appropriation Act, 1985); Loi allouant à Sa Majesté certaines sommes d'argent pour l'année financière se terminant le 31 mars 1986, et autorisant le gouvernement à engager des dépenses pour les années subséquentes et à faire les emprunts requis pour subvenir à ses besoins de fonds (Loi de 1985 portant affectation anticipée de crédits) for Second Reading.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider and report on Bill No. 10, An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1986 and to authorize Commitments to expend Additional Money in Subsequent Years and to authorize the Borrowing of Funds to provide for Cash Requirements of the Government (The Interim Appropriation Act, 1985) for Third Reading.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider and report on Bill No. 10, The Interim Appropriation Act, with the Honourable Member for Thompson in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT STAGE

MR. CHAIRMAN, S. Ashton: What is the wish of the committee?

MR. H. ENNS: Page-by-page.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page-by-page? Page 1—pass; Page 2—pass; Page 3—pass; Page 4—pass - the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could just seek the clarification of the Minister with respect to the intention of Clause 10 on the Manitoba Jobs Fund. Is it the intention of the clause to indicate that, although money may be expended under the aegis of the Jobs Fund that, in effect, the money may come through departmental expenditures and projects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, Section 10 is required to permit expenditures on approved employment creation programs, and it's to be made by implementing departments from sub-appropriations established in those departments. The amounts expended will be recovered from funds authorized for expenditure under the Jobs Fund service heading. This section is required to ensure that the government has the flexibility needed to properly manage the Fund and achieve maximum employment impact.

For Public Accounts purposes, the net effect will be to show total expenditures for employment creation programming under Appropriation 29-1, Manitoba Jobs Fund, while in each implementing department the Manitoba Jobs Fund expenditure will be shown and will be offset by a matching recovery and will have a nil final expenditure.

MR. G. FILMON: In other words, Mr. Chairman, the commitment of project would be made by a department

and all of the carrying out of the project would be made by the department, and there would be a book transfer to have the money come from the Jobs Fund?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Yes, as approved by the Jobs Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, further information for the Leader of the Opposition, an example of that, in terms of last year's process, was the Municipal Community Assets Program where the expenditures, the monies were from the Jobs Fund, but the actual administration of the program was the Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security. So that the funds could be properly accounted for under the administration of each department, they are not shown in his Estimates, they're shown in Jobs Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question to the Minister of Finance on Section 9 of the bill. Is this the same Emergency Interest Rate Relief Program that was entered into some three years ago now?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: The same, and the same provision in the act.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Another question then to the Minister of Finance. If I recall correctly, on the Interest Rate Relief Program there was an outright grant and then there was an interest-free loan, is the Minister of Finance the one that's responsible for the collecting of the interest-free loan portion?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: I'm not sure that there is an interest-free loan. I believe that the administration was in Business Development and Tourism, Agriculture, and Housing. It's not a function of my department.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So then if there's any collection of . . . Unless my recollection is wrong, there was up to \$6,000 per farmer, per businessman, half of which was to be repaid at a later date.

HON. A. MACKLING: Some of it was forgivable.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's right. Half, 50 percent was forgivable, the other 50 percent had to be repaid at the end of the two-year period. What I'm interested in is to know which department is responsible for the collection of the 50 percent portion that is to be paid back by the individual applicant, whether he be farmer, businessman or homeowner?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I'd better get back to the member on that, I'm not sure. I think it's the CEDF doing it for Business Development and Tourism, and I'm not sure that the other departments are not doing it themselves. It's either CEDF or MDC, I'm told, Communities Economic Development Fund or Manitoba Development Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 5—pass - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: A question to the Minister of Education, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister of Education advise the House with respect to the question which I have asked her four or five times today, that the reason she did not answer it is because no decision has been made, and it's not her reason of the fact that she wants to wait until the Estimates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: The same answer that I gave before, Mr. Chairman. I respect the member's right to ask any question that he wishes during this period. I also expect that he will recognize that I have repeated the same answer four or five times, and that is my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 5 - the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister if she recognized that the member for St. Norbert had asked a different question this time from the previous four.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I recognize the different question, the answer is the same. I will provide that information when my Estimates are up.

MR. G. FILMON: Will the Minister acknowledge at that time that the reason is that the decision hasn't been made, not that she can't indicate the information?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, clearly it is certainly in order for honourable members opposite to ask questions, it's part of the Interim Supply process. Members are familiar with the nature of past practice with regard to that, but members are also familiar that it is common parliamentary practice that Ministers announce government policy when they are ready to announce it, either in their Estimates or in policy statements to the House and there is no obligation on the Minister to advise whether the decision has been made or not made. The only obligation on the Minister is to bring those announcements to the House when the Minister is ready.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 5—pass; Preamble—pass; Title—pass; Bill be reported—pass. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

The Committee of the Whole has considered Bill 10 and reports the same without amendment.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: The Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

THIRD READING

Bill No. 10 was read a third time and passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is available for Royal Assent.

HOUSE BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, while we are waiting for Her Honour, I would just like to advise honourable members that it would be my intention tomorrow to call bills, both for Second Reading and Adjourned Debates on Second Reading, after question period and, as announced earlier this week, we would actually begin consideration of the Estimates of departments in detail on Monday next.

I don't expect that there will be Private Members' Hour tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

ROYAL ASSENT

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (Mr. Myron Mason): Her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor.

Her Honour Pearl McGonigal, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba, having entered the House and being seated on the Throne:

Mr. Deputy Speaker addressed Her Honour in the following words:

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour.

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and Government and beg for Your Honour the acceptance of this bill.

Bill No. 10 - An Act for granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1986, and to authorize Commitments to expend Additional Money in Subsequent Years and to authorize the Borrowing of Funds to provide for Cash Requirements of the Government (The Interim Appropriation Act, 1985); Loi allouant à Sa Majesté certaines sommes d'argent pour l'année financière se terminant le 31 mars 1986, et autorisant le gouvernement à engager des dépenses pour les années subséquentes et à faire les emprunts requis pour subvenir à ses besoins de fonds (Loi de 1985 portant affectation anticipée de crédits).

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

Her Honour was then pleased to retire.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Labour, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).