

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 14 May, 1985.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order.

We are considering Item No. 1.(b)(1) Administration and Finance, Executive Support: Salaries and Wages, 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures - Mr. Minister.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Before supper, the Member for Swan River asked some questions about the sewage and water system tenders from last year. I said I would find out what the low tenderer's name was, it was N.D. Gunn Limited, and his tender price was \$1,194,386.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I'd like to ask the Minister what discussions he has had with his colleagues regarding the concern that has been expressed from many in northern communities regarding the quality of education and the problems that many of the people are running into when they graduate from high school, come into the city to take trade school training and then find out that they are set back to Grade 10 standard and have to take a couple of years upgrading before they can get into their courses.

These kinds of situations have been brought to my attention, not only on a recent tour I had with my colleagues through some of the northern communities, but other residents have expressed concern about the lack of quality education in many of the northern schools, and I'm wondering, as the Minister of Northern Affairs, whether he has dealt with this question, whether it's been brought to his attention and whether he has had any input into dealing with this concern.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: In our travels throughout the province, we have had some of the areas express a concern about the quality of education being delivered by Frontier Schools and yet in other communities they are very pleased with the quality of education that is being delivered. The Minister of Education has recently made some changes to make it possible for greater community participation, and I think since that has happened there has been more parental involvement, and I think it has already resulted in some improvement in the quality of education.

I know in the area of Grand Rapids, a couple of years ago, there were some concerns that the children coming through the school system did not have a suitable quality of education to participate in technical training that is required. I know that there have been improvements in that area, so now they are putting out graduates who can move on to training with Manitoba Hydro.

I guess there is also, in local controlled schools as well - I know in the area of Easterville, there seemed

to be some concern with the community on the quality of education being delivered, and in a particular case the Director of Education was let go and there's been a new Director of Education hired with that school system and I believe that there is going to be an improvement there. There's a need there for co-operation between the council and the band, because the community is not large enough to support two school systems. It cannot really support one entire educational system from kindergarten to Grade 12; there just aren't enough students in those areas.

I think we have to be aware that in most of these small communities, there aren't enough students in order to offer the number of choices that people would like to see. You just can't do it when the students aren't there. The Minister of Education has received some comments that the quality of education was lacking, and I believe that she is prepared to have a good look at the quality and see if it can be improved in any areas.

MR. D. GOURLAY: In spite of the Minister's answer, Mr. Chairman, most of the problems appear to be coming from the larger centres in the North, where there are a goodly number of students and good facilities - I don't know whether this is the situation the Minister is running into, but the questions that brought it to my attention have been coming from those areas where surprisingly, there are larger centres and they do have good facilities.

However, I am pleased to hear that this Minister has had discussions with the Minister of Education. They are aware that there is a problem in the northern communities, and of course it has been expressed to some degree throughout the province from time to time and from location to location.

Moving on to another area, some of the northern communities have indicated to me that recently they have been allocated funding for various projects in the community, sort of short-term projects to create jobs. In some cases they say that they will have to wait until after April 1st to get funding; in other cases, this was not indicated to me. Was there a situation where some funds would otherwise have lapsed in the department and have been converted into say, the Jobs Fund, or whatever fund to provide some kind of funding for various communities for projects of various natures?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, there were several communities who received funding under the Northern Community Assets Projects and they were running into problems because of when the construction season was starting, that they could not complete it by the end of the fiscal year. So we have made some changes in the program this year where we're allowing the funding to continue. They will be going through the fiscal year so the program won't be coming to an end, I believe it's at the end of June. So it gives the communities more time to complete their projects because the way it was set up before, if you had to be completed by March 31st because of the severe

winter conditions, especially when there was some outside construction necessary that they could not get started - they were running into a time problem, so that's why we extended it to the end of June.

MR. D. GOURLAY: So this money was through the Community Assets Program under the Jobs Fund?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That's correct.

MR. D. GOURLAY: And was there a situation where money that otherwise may have lapsed within the department was diverted into the Jobs Fund?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No. They are separate . . .

MR. D. GOURLAY: This money was all budgeted for that purpose originally and for other reasons or whatever, the projects were delayed?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That's right. It's two different projects. The Community Assets projects are different than the ones that are through Northern Affairs, Capital projects.

MR. D. GOURLAY: With the block funding that the Minister indicated in his opening remarks now going to several communities, this has changed the format to some degree with respect to training of clerks. I understand that clerks in those communities that are getting block funding are being provided with extra advisory capabilities from the department?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We are providing more training for all of our community council clerks, but the communities that are going into block funding would be given advance training beyond the bookkeeping type of training, more sophisticated training, so that they can participate in the delivery of some of the programs that are being delivered by the program.

MR. D. GOURLAY: So this isn't being done at the expense of clerks in other communities that are not under block funding?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No. We are doing our best to encourage greater participation - communities go into block funding, so we want to encourage the people and show them how much more autonomy they really have by going into block funding, so we're making that as attractive as we can. It's had some very positive results in the communities we have been in - Duck Bay, for instance, which is in your constituency, there have been some real positive changes in that community council because of their having the ability to make some decisions locally and deliver some of the programs.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Under the block funding to the communities, there's sort of an indication from the Minister that this would result in less demands on Northern Affairs staff to work with those communities. There has been a change in the departmental structure, I believe. However, it would appear that there is more emphasis being placed, more back-up advisory staff to assist those communities that are in block funding;

I think it is important that they be given encouragement and good advice at this stage.

However, in earlier questions, I gathered from the Minister that because of closing the office in Swan River, for instance, and there was a change in co-ordinators and where they'd be working and because of block funding, there wasn't the need for the kinds of offices. So, to me, there seems to be a problem in understanding just where the department is going with this program.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Because of the number of communities that are going into block funding, we found that there was less of a need of local co-ordinators, but there was more of a need of specialized training, so we had to make a readjustment in the staff, so there were four people - I believe three of them were co-ordinators before - who went into the specialized areas. In order to facilitate this, we found it was necessary to make some shifts in the delivery and that's why the area that you're referring to now that previously the co-ordinator of Swan River covered - that part of your constituency will now be covered out of Dauphin - but that co-ordinator who was located in Swan River has now moved to Thompson as one of the specialists in delivering training for the communities that have gone into block funding.

MR. D. GOURLAY: One of the four - was it four? - there are four specialized co-ordinators that deal with the . . .

HON. H. HARAPIAK: They're called local government advisors.

MR. D. GOURLAY: With respect to the Northern Preference Clause for hiring in Limestone and the Northern Affairs boundaries - I believe this question came up last week and it was explained that there is a difference in the boundaries because of the agreement that was signed, the Nelson-Burntwood Agreement signed in '72 dealing with the Limestone project at that time, it established boundaries that are now different than the Northern Affairs boundaries and it's creating a problem with many of the people, failing to understand why they are not included in the agreement. When they seek information about jobs through Limestone, they're advised that they don't come under the preference area. I'm wondering if this Minister has endeavoured to make these two boundaries synonymous and to eliminate this problem, which is very difficult to explain to people who are looking for a job, especially.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I am the first to admit that the two boundary systems are causing a lot of confusion out there and if I had any way of changing it, I would change it right now. Unfortunately, we, as a government, did not have any input into the location of this boundary line; that was a negotiated agreement between Allied Hydro Council and Manitoba Hydro. We were not a party to the negotiations of that line.

It would make it a lot simpler if it was the same line, but unfortunately at this time, it doesn't look like it will be changed in the next little while. There are organizations that are lobbying with the unions and

the Manitoba Hydro to try and change the location. I guess no matter where you would locate the line, there would still be people inside the line and outside the line, but I think if we could call it a Northern Affairs boundary line, it would be less confusing. It is leading to quite a bit of confusion out there, but just on that Northern Preference Clause, the reason that we felt it was necessary to have that Northern Preference Clause - and the unions, I want to give them credit, because they recognized that there was a need for it as well. They were party to the negotiations and they negotiated that Northern Preference Clause, because they recognized that people living in the areas close to development sites, in the past have not been given an equal opportunity to gain employment on those work sites.

It's fine to say that there has been a Northern Preference Clause in the past, but it didn't really work, but I guess it's hollow words, because we know that these people require the training. In past construction years, the training was not made available to the people and that's why we have created the Limestone Training Authority, which is going to be delivering training for the people to be sure that they have the necessary qualifications to gain employment at the Limestone site.

There are a lot of expectations out there and there's a lot of interest. I think that it's going to be a very successful program, the training program.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Has there been any attempt, Mr. Chairman, on the part of this Minister to negotiate a change in the boundaries?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We, as a government, were not a party to the negotiations, and having been a part of a union in my past experience, I know that negotiations take time, and it's between the two people that are part of the agreement. It's up to these people to negotiate that line. All we can do is encourage them to make that change.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Could not the province show some initiative by raising the question? Because, back in 1972, I don't know if there were any Northern Affairs boundaries. I'm sure there probably weren't. I don't know just how the province was divided at that time, but I think the Northern Affairs boundaries, as we know them today, came in subsequent to that agreement, and I would think the various unions or the parties that made up the original Nelson-Burntwood Agreement would appreciate the situation that we find ourselves in today, to say nothing about the southern part of the province where people are anxious to find jobs too, whether they be in Limestone or whether it be another project in the North.

Certainly, it's almost impossible to try and explain that there are two boundaries in existence when it comes to hiring at Limestone - or more than two, I should say.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We have maps, which I find very helpful when I go out. It's helpful, but yet it causes some bad feelings when you get out in the communities, because the line, unfortunately, runs right through some communities. Crane River is a good example, where

the community is on the outside of the line, but the band is on the inside of the line. It's causing a lot of hard feelings in that community as well as others.

It is the same line that was in existence during the last construction period. There was an effort to negotiate that line to a different area. Some wanted to tighten it up and make it the 53rd Parallel. That would have been easy to implement, but there's another group that wanted to extend it beyond the Northern Affairs line, but finally when the negotiations were completed, the line that's in place now was finally found a sort of middle of the road.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that as far as this government is concerned that that is a dead issue as far as looking at a change in the boundaries, that it's a fait accompli, and that we're going to continue to have this situation?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We are saying that it would be up to the parties who are subject to negotiations to change it. All we can do as a government is to encourage them to look at it and extend it to the Northern Affairs boundary, but at this time it doesn't look very promising.

MR. D. GOURLAY: It brings me back to my original question. Is this Minister or this government formally approaching the parties to make this encouragement something that can be realized?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We have had consultation with the people involved and they realize the dilemma that it's causing us as a government. I guess they haven't made any promises, but they're going to be looking at it. I know the partnership, which is playing a very big part in the Limestone development and in all parts of it, the training and also the delivery of some of the other programs are wanting to have the line moved as well, so they're also trying to set up a meeting with the parties involved.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I notice in the Research and Planning there is quite an increase in the funding this year over last year, almost double. I wonder if the Minister can indicate the kinds of Research and Planning that is being undertaken this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we prepared to pass Item 1.(b)(1) and 1.(b)(2)? Because I haven't called the next item yet.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I just have a few questions and then maybe we can pass that whole section — (Interjection) — I haven't got many more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions on Item 1.(b)(1) and 1.(b)(2)?

The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I listened to the Minister explaining to the Member for Swan River and I found it very hard to believe when the Minister said that they had no input whatsoever into the planning of these boundaries. Does the Minister not realize that - is it the Allied Hydro Council that is

telling the government what they have to do? Is it the Allied Hydro Council that is telling them that, yes, you've got to build Limestone now? Is it the Allied Hydro Council that is saying, no, we don't want too many people inside this area, because too many of our union men will be cut off work? Is that what the Minister is telling us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that a question?

MR. H. GRAHAM: I'm asking the Minister. Is that what you're telling us when you say you have no input into it?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I would like to tell the Member for Virden that the Allied Hydro Council had a very big part in the negotiations of the Northern Preference Clause. They, as in a union, agreed that the people of Northern Manitoba did not have an opportunity to participate in previous construction years so they negotiated the Northern Preference Clause, knowing that they would assist the people of Northern Manitoba because they hadn't had an opportunity before; but we did not have a part in those negotiations. That is a negotiated agreement between Allied Hydro Council and Manitoba Hydro. No, we did not have a part in that negotiation.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, did the government tell the Allied Hydro Council that they wanted preference for the northern people to work on the job?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, we did.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, if the government had told them that there had to be participation by the northern people, would the government not tell them which northern people they wanted to take part in it? I find it very difficult for the Minister to say that he had no part whatsoever in any of this boundary business. That is almost incredible.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That was a subject of negotiations and we were not a party to the negotiations.

A MEMBER: Well, why weren't you?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Negotiations take part between . . . There's an agreement in place between Manitoba Hydro and Allied Hydro Council. I don't think the members have had very much experience with union membership.

A MEMBER: We haven't been pushed around by them like you have.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We haven't been pushed around either. They've been very co-operative and they've assisted us in putting in the Northern Preference Clause and I think they've been very co-operative. They've set a heck of a good example which many of us in this province could follow.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, it sounds to me as though the government has announced that they're

going to build Limestone and they have then turned around and they've said to Hydro and to the Allied Hydro Council, we want no further part of it; you fellows go ahead and do whatever you want because we're not going to get involved. That's the way it sounds, from what the Minister has been telling us. Is that correct?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The Member for Virden should realize that we're still living in a democracy and not in a dictatorship. We're not going to dictate to anybody what is going to be going on.

There's a negotiated agreement out there between the Allied Hydro Council and Manitoba Hydro. We are not going to dictate to them where the line will be located. That's a subject of negotiation.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Is that the same policy that applies to all other departments of government? Because I didn't get that impression from other departments of government.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: All the departments believe that we're living in a democracy, we're not living in a dictatorship, and I guess maybe that's the strength of our government - the democracy.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that he had maps of the boundaries. Can the Minister provide us with copies of those maps?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, we can provide you with copies of the maps.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, a further question. He can provide them. Will he provide them and will he do it while we're still in committee, Mr. Chairman?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We'll try and get them for you this evening.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. I find it somewhat hard to believe as well, when earlier in the comments the Minister made, he made a statement or comment that he's unhappy; as Minister of Northern Affairs who has the jurisdiction for Northern Affairs and the activities and the goings-on in that jurisdiction, that he said he was not happy, that he was having difficulty - he left the impression that he was having difficulty with where the boundaries were - and now he's saying, he refers to a democracy. His job is to make the overall policies in the North fair. I haven't seen that coming from this Minister.

In fact, he is being pushed around by the Allied Hydro workers. It is his responsibility, as Minister of Northern Affairs, to be fair to all the people of the North. If he's going to have a northern hiring preference, it is he and his government's policy that should provide that fairness, not the Allied Hydro workers. Do you not realize, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, does he not realize that he has a responsibility to those people who are left out to make the changes so that they are treated fairly?

He talks about democracy. Heck, that's not a democracy; that's dictatorship by the Allied Hydro workers. That's where the dictatorship comes. He's allowing the unions to dictate to the people in Northern Manitoba who's going to be employed on the Hydro projects. That's where the dictatorship is and he is shirking his responsibility, Mr. Chairman, as a Minister of the Crown, as a Minister responsible to all the people of the North, in his duty as a Minister to be fair to everyone.

I ask the Minister, why would he turn complete responsibility over to the Allied Hydro workers to select the boundary as to where the people were going to be working from on northern projects? He cannot, Mr. Chairman, tell us that's democracy. What he is doing is turning the total responsibility over to a group in society who have a vested interest. If he doesn't know it now, he should pretty soon, that it's his overall responsibility as a Minister of the Crown, to be fair to everyone in the Province of Manitoba; but he has allowed the union to push him around. I'd like his response, Mr. Chairman, to those comments.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I would like to tell the member that I am proud of the negotiations that went on with the union and Manitoba Hydro. If you want to talk about fair, then you should have a look at the agreement that has been negotiated with the Allied Hydro and Manitoba Hydro. It is the fairest agreement that has ever been negotiated. The people of Northern Manitoba are getting a fair share to participate in the work that is going to take place. They have never had that opportunity in the past and Manitoba Hydro, even though it was going to be eliminating many of their workers, were part of those negotiations that were giving the people of Northern Manitoba an opportunity to participate at a higher level than they have ever had an opportunity in the past.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, what he says is "some" are getting a better opportunity, not "all" people of Northern Manitoba. By his own statement, he said he wasn't happy with the boundary. So it's the Allied Hydro Workers Union that have established who's going to be employed and they've left out a lot of the people of Northern Manitoba.

He makes reference to the Hydro agreement, the workers' agreement. Is the Minister prepared to table that agreement in this committee?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: If the agreement has not been tabled till now, we have no hesitation to table the agreement.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to leave this point until I get an assurance that the Minister is going to exercise his responsibility and reconsider the boundaries that have been drawn. Will he do that? Will he make the changes so that all the people in the North can have the employment opportunities on the work that's going to take place? Will he muscle up and stand up for the rights and the opportunities of all the people of Northern Manitoba when it comes to the hiring preference? Will he do so?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess we can sit here all night and argue about the line. I guess what

we should be talking about is this is the first time that there has been an order of preference clause negotiated which is going to be giving . . . I know we would be happier if we could include all of Manitoba and we could have employment for all of Manitoba. I think there's going to be an opportunity for most Manitobans to be employed by the time we get finished with the construction of all the hydro sites that are going to be constructed. I think it will be an opportunity for all of the people who are interested in going to work between the construction site and the spinoffs that are going to be created with the Limestone construction, and most of them that want to work, will have an opportunity to work.

They may be missed on the first time around, but there is still going to be an opportunity for the people who follow outside in line to gain employment as well.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is making a lot of statements. Is he able to back up what he's saying? He's saying that everybody in Manitoba will be able to - we'll go to a zero unemployment situation - is that what he's saying?

I want to go back to this point. He talks and wants to keep steering away from the fact that he and his government have allowed the Allied Hydro workers special privileges to select who is going to be working on northern projects. It's not the government, Mr. Chairman, who have selected an area and who have given special privileges to the people of Northern Manitoba. They've given the authority to a union to select who is going to work on the Northern Hydro projects. — (Interjection) — As the Member for Virden says, they have shirked their responsibilities.

The Minister talks about a democracy. He isn't running a democracy. He's allowing the unions to dictate and give them the full authority who is going to be employed on those jobs up there, not the government. He has taken the total responsibility away from his jurisdiction and given it to someone else. I ask him again will he review the line of who is going to be employed in the North and given preference? Is he prepared to stand up to the union, the Allied Hydro workers and tell them that he is not satisfied as he admitted 10 minutes ago, as he admitted on the record in this Legislative Committee that he is not happy. He is not happy and said he would like to redo it. Why doesn't he redo it, Mr. Chairman? He is the Minister; he has the power; he has the authority; he has the majority in the Legislature and it is his responsibility. Why won't he do it, Mr. Chairman, why won't he? — (Interjection) — No. It's a problem with this government and this Minister.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Arthur is saying that he wants me to take a look. I want to indicate to the Member for Arthur that we have been looking at the line. You're saying we're unhappy with it?

MR. J. DOWNEY: I want you to take action.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I think if we could extend the line as easily as you indicate you can, then we would do it, but I don't think it's that simple to say okay

there's negotiated agreement, that we're just going to dictate to the union or the group that was involved in the negotiations, that we are going to move the line. The line was in effect when your government was in power with the Long Spruce construction. Did you remove the line at that time if you thought that there should be no line? Why wasn't it removed completely at that time?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister and the government had the opportunity to say that the northern hiring can take place in any area of the province. If they want to go to the 49th parallel it's within the Minister's power to do so. He is the Minister. It's his jurisdiction. He doesn't need to be dictated to by the Allied Hydro Workers. He could encompass The Pas if he wanted to. He could put the line wherever he wants. It isn't a big problem. That's his responsibility.

I plead with him to not just look at it, but if he's not happy as he indicated himself, then take action. Draw an Order-in-Council and go to Cabinet and get the authority and support of his Cabinet colleagues to do so. Does he not have the desire? He said he did have or does he not have the courage to stand up to the Hydro Workers Union? Is he continually going to be pushed around by the unions in this province, Mr. Chairman, that's really the bottom line question? Is he going to continually be pushed around by the union?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we are not being pushed around by the unions. Neither are we dictating to the people in this province what's going to be happening.

The Member for Arthur should know that there in the first year of employment there is only going to be about 400 jobs, so they will not be able to — (Interjection) —

MR. J. DOWNEY: Not near as big as your advertising is then, eh?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Oh yes, it will be eventually. We have to go through the first year. We've indicated all along that the first year, there will be 400 jobs. So it is impossible to give everybody a position that is looking for employment at this time.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Co-operative Development. I recognized the Minister of Co-operative Development.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I had some more questions for the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, I'm still not satisfied. The Minister hasn't answered the question. Is he going to take into hand his responsibilities and redraw the boundaries so that all the people of Northern Manitoba can have the opportunity to work on the northern projects? Is he going to do that?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It appears that the Member for Arthur is trying to dictate to me what my responsibilities are as a Minister. I don't think that you should be dictating to me anymore than I should be dictating to the Allied Hydro Council of Manitoba Hydro where the line should be.

I indicated in the past that it's a negotiated agreement and we are working in co-operation with the Allied Hydro Council and Manitoba Hydro to make sure that development goes along in an orderly process and that's what's happening.

The member says that guys from Flin Flon can't get work. Well, I'd like to inform the member that Flin Flon falls within the Northern Preference Line.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'm not dictating to the Minister and I wish he would withdraw that. All I'm doing is asking him a question if he is prepared to take into hand his responsibilities and redraw the boundaries which will include more of the people in Northern Manitoba in the northern hiring preference? That's not dictation. That's asking him a straightforward question.

He earlier said he wasn't happy. He earlier said he wasn't satisfied. Now, I'm asking him will he take on his responsibilities and change the boundary to satisfy himself and the people of Northern Manitoba who feel they have been betrayed by this government?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I will tell the Member for Arthur that I will take it under consideration to try and encourage the Allied Hydro Council and Manitoba Hydro to change the line so it would follow the Northern Affairs boundary.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister if he would go to Cabinet with his recommendations rather than the Allied Hydro Workers first? Would he go to Cabinet to do it first and get support from his Cabinet colleagues rather than getting permission from the Allied Hydro workers? Will he go to Cabinet and get the permission?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I have told the Member for Arthur that it is a negotiated line and we are not about to start dictating to anyone where the line will be located.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Co-operative Development.

HON. J. COWAN: Well, Mr. Chairperson, what we've heard tonight shows a total lack of understanding in the way in which the hiring for major Hydro projects is undertaken. I think that the record should be quite clear in respect to the role of government, the role of Manitoba Hydro, the role of sub-contractors and major contractors and main contractors and the role of the different levels of government.

Hiring for the Limestone Project as has been hiring for the major Hydro projects that have been completed most recently is provided for under the Nelson-Burntwood Collective Agreement. That agreement provides for a Northern Preferential Hiring Clause. The members opposite suggest that is selected by the Allied Hydro Council and the union, or the unions involved in it.

What it in effect it is is a negotiated settlement between the Allied Hydro Council and the Allied Project Management Committee which is a committee comprised of the sub-contractors and Manitoba Hydro. The agreement calls for a Northern Preferential Hiring Clause, which is then used for hiring purposes by the Employment and Immigration Commission of the Federal Government. CEIC are the ones that are responsible for ensuring that the hiring provisions are implemented in the way in which the contract calls for them.

The member has tried to slur the government through slurring the union by suggesting that we are being dictated to by big unions, in this sense being dictated to by unions represented by the Allied Hydro Council. I don't believe that that type of misrepresentation and slur on the union or the government should be allowed to remain on the record unanswered when, in effect, the union and the Allied Hydro Council and the Hydro Projects Management Committee and Manitoba Hydro have worked together to provide for hiring procedures, which will ensure that northern Natives and Northerners and beyond that Manitobans, have preferential hiring as part of the project.

Wherever one draws a line, and that seems to be the basic point of contention, there are going to be, as the Minister of Northern Affairs said, people on one side of the line who are going to be upset and people on the other side of the line who are not going to be upset, because they are included within the preferential hiring area.

In this instance, the line which is drawn has been there since 1972 - I may stand corrected, maybe a year or two one way or the other, but it's my recollection that it's 1972. This member who is now so concerned about it had a number of opportunities when he was in government to ensure that that line was changed if in fact it was such a concern to them. Obviously, it was not enough of a concern when they were government to provoke them to any sort of action. It's only enough of a concern when they're opposition to provoke them into misrepresentations and attacks on people, who I believe, have honestly and sincerely acted in the best interests of Northerners and northern Natives by sitting down and negotiating a preferential hiring clause that is probably the best in the country.

It is not without its imperfections; it is not without things that one party or another would like to see changed. The line that was used was one established in 1972, and it is one that could, in fact, be a subject of further review. As a matter of fact, there have been discussions with different parties as to the effect of that line and how it might be amended if, in fact, it were amendable.

That's not saying that whatever line we come up with in the end will be the perfect line and it's not saying that the Member for Arthur won't have opportunity to suggest that people on one side of the line are being unfairly dealt with, no matter where it is, because even if one chooses a Northern Affairs boundary, there are groups on one side of that line that would be excluded, and the former Minister of Northern Affairs, myself, the present Minister of Northern Affairs all know that the drawing of any boundary is a difficult process, because it does tend to exclude people. But you do need to set parameters in place, and that is what this negotiated agreement does.

Let us assume, and let us agree that the line should be reviewed. I don't think that's an unreasonable request and the Minister has indicated that it's one which he has taken into consideration previously, and will continue to attempt — (Interjection) — No, I'm sorry. The members opposite say that the Minister did not say that. The record is very clear, perhaps they chose not to hear him say that, but, in fact, he did very clearly say that and the Member for Arthur at that time indicated that he was pleased with that answer. He said, "Now we're getting somewhere." So that fact is that he has chosen to forget what has already been said just a few moments ago, but in fact, the record will indicate clearly that it was said.

Let us talk about some of the other things that have happened under this government and under the leadership of this Minister in respect to ensuring that Northerners gain more access to the opportunities that will flow from Limestone and that they have a better chance to participate in that economic development which is taking place right in their own backyard than they have ever had before.

The Minister responsible for Northern Affairs has been a party to a number of working group meetings throughout the province, which have sat down with Native organizations, with organizations such as Norman, with LGDs and councils from Lynn Lake to The Pas to Leaf Rapids to Churchill, and talked about how, as a government, we maximize the benefits for Northerners that can arise out of Hydro construction.

What did they say to us? They said to us that the previous time for locating workers of 48 hours was unacceptable; that it was too short. We asked them what might be a more appropriate time; they suggested 72 hours might be a more appropriate time. Well, when the unions sat down and negotiated the agreement, they, with the Hydro Projects Management Committee negotiated a 72-hour time period on the basis of the best advice that we could get from Northerners themselves.

They said that there had to be provision made for training. Just recently we have announced the Limestone Employment and Training Agency in Thompson, the opening of that office, as well as training programs equalling millions of dollars that will provide access to training that is so necessary, so that Northerners and Natives can have the type of experience and skills which will enable them to get jobs on the site.

Manitoba Hydro has indicated that its tendering and purchasing policies have been revised so as to provide better opportunity, not only for the small businesses and the communities economic development organizations located in the North, no matter which side of the line or whatever line is in place, they may be on, but for all Manitoba businesses. They have indicated very clearly that there are provisions in place to ensure the maximization of Manitoba participation by small businesses in the construction activities surrounding Limestone.

They have also indicated, very clearly, that they will sit down with the hiring agency that is responsible for implementing the Nelson-Burntwood Collective Agreement hiring procedures, CEIC, and they will establish a system that identifies available workers, that identifies the skills of those available workers, and

provides quick access to them when their skills are required on the job site.

Unfortunately, I don't have enough time to go through all the major changes that have been implemented in order to maximize northern participation in Hydro development, but I think the ones that I've put on the record - and if time permits, if the discussion continues I'll have opportunity to put others on the record - show very clearly that this government has gone farther than any other government in the history of this province, and farther than any other government across the country in respect to ensuring that the benefits that flow from Hydro development flow to Northerners first.

We'll make no apology for the fact that we have sat down and negotiated and consulted and discussed and worked together to reach consensus, and that implies give and take so that we, in fact, can have in place the practices and procedures that will enable that participation to take place.

For the Member for Arthur or any other member of opposition, who in their tenure, a number of years ago as government, who did nothing, to suggest that we have not done enough is ludicrous. — (Interjection) — Well, the Member for Ste. Rose suggests that it's something which is unparliamentary and I therefore would not want to put it on the record. However, it certainly borders on something that is unparliamentary.

For them so suggest in the House, stand up day after day, that we are not providing for the type of hiring procedures that will enable Manitobans, as a whole, to enjoy the benefits of Hydro development and to reject and speak against the Northern Preferential Hiring Clause, and then come into this committee and suggest that it doesn't go far enough, may not be hypocritical, but it certainly is inconsistent. That sort of inconsistency is seen very clearly.

If the member is interested in understanding more about the policies and the procedures that have been put in place to ensure that Northerners gain that maximum participation, I'm certain we can provide that information to him. But no one on this side will stand silently by when they, after those comments they have made in the House rejecting everything we have done in order to increase that participation, come to this committee and suggest that we're not doing enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I, too, want to participate in this debate in that there's a very clear misunderstanding on the part of members of the opposition regarding the Allied Hydro Council Agreement and the Nelson-Burntwood Agreement, when it was established and what the clauses were.

The Northern Preference Clause, as the Minister of Co-operative Development indicates, was put into the agreement some time in the mid '70s - it might have been '73 or '74, I can't remember my exact dates - to try and achieve a greater northern involvement in hydro development. The experience was that that clause that existed at that time didn't work that well. When the northern working group toured through the North, when I met with northern groups, they pointed out that that preference clause didn't work that well and needed to be improved.

You had an agreement in place that's in place until 1995. That's an agreement in place, valid by law. The Allied Hydro Council was approached, the management group was approached with this information with the indication that government policy was that we wanted to try and ensure greater northern involvement in hydro development, pointing out the very valid grievances of people from the North with respect to past developments.

One could, I guess, use the heavy hand of State to intervene in bargains of that nature . . . (inaudible) . . . agreed to until 1995, and I'll certainly check because I believe that the agreement was, indeed, established to 1995 during the term of the Conservative Government between '77 and '81. So, it was negotiated at that time in place.

I say it's because of the foresight and vision of the Projects Management Committee plus the Allied Hydro Council that they voluntarily opened up an agreement during periods of higher unemployment right across the country at a time when, obviously, people are coming back to Manitoba from places like Alberta and Saskatchewan and elsewhere, looking for work because they know that there are probably some better opportunities in Manitoba than might exist in Alberta, B.C. and other places.

They opened up that agreement and they improved that Northern Preference Clause, taking into consideration the points raised by Native groups and communities and individuals in discussions with them. I pay tribute and I commend them for doing that. In that process of negotiation, the same boundary that had existed in the past, the people had not complained about it in the past - at least, not to my knowledge, during the term of the Schreyer Government, the term of the Lyon Government or the term of the Pawley Government.

People, since that time, have raised concerns about boundary edges. — (Interjection) — No, raised concerns about the boundary edges and we have said that we will put in place a system of monitoring and evaluating the overall program with a view to reviewing this probably on a yearly basis, and making changes within that context - part of a rational, reasoned approach on trying to achieve this objective.

The Northern Preference Clause is but one instrument. Another instrument, as the Minister for Co-op Development indicated is the Limestone Training and Employment Agency. That is another very important instrument. It is a new instrument; we hope it works well. The people who put it together are people who, I think, have done a very good job in past efforts at training and employing Native people.

I might point out, however, that the Limestone Training and Employment Agency fills a vacuum that was created when the Conservative Government between 1977 and '81 decimated virtually every program geared to affirmative action and Native development in Northern Manitoba, one of these being the Northern Manpower Corps which was decimated by the Conservative Government. That must have been done as part of policy.

There was an Outreach Program into Native communities to help identify people who might work both in northern jobs and other jobs. That whole program was decimated by the Conservative Government between 1977 and 1981. I find it rather

ironic that the people who did that, I think, dirty task, dirty deed to Northern Manitoba and to northern Natives are the ones who come here today and try and pontificate. — (Interjection) — If he calls that sleaze, Mr. Chairman, the sleaze came out of those people when they destroyed those programs between '77 and 1981. It's a fact. They call fact "slime," they call fact "sleaze," Mr. Chairman. That's their definition of truth, their definition of history.

What we're looking to do is provide training to people so that they might go through apprenticeship programs and, indeed, have skills that will last them a lifetime, become journeymen carpenters, become journeymen pipefitters, become journeymen electricians and be able to have those skills and use them in other developments that might take place in Northern Manitoba, or use them in communities where right now people are brought in from other parts of Manitoba or other parts of Canada to do carpentry work or to do electrical work or to do pipefitting work or to do plumbing work.

We've had over 100 years of history as a province and we still find that northern Native communities don't have those skills. We are undertaking to fill that void and it's a big challenge and we're going to make a lot of mistakes when we do that. That's fair ball. We will make a lot of mistakes. If you're saying one should look at the boundary — (Interjection) — No. I thought I was talking to some people who raised a legitimate concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chairman, please.

HON. W. PARASIUK: That's interesting. I thought that they wanted to hear about this — (Interjection) — That's right!

It's interesting that their concern is that maybe Limestone's a good thing. So what you have to do is try and run it down, attack it. It's an interesting approach by the Conservatives. It's interesting to know exactly where they stand on this particular issue.

We have said clearly that we are pursuing a program of greater northern involvement in hydro development. We are doing things that have never been done in this country before. We're making these improvements. We're going to review what we do on a yearly basis. We will undertake corrections on a yearly basis. We have an ongoing process of consultation, communication and feedback. We have faith in that process.

Certainly, we will be looking at things in the future to see how we can improve them; but surely we should allow the program to get a start; surely we should allow the intake to take place, the training to take place, get people in place so they can take part in the first jobs as they come forward. There'll be a big increase into the second year. We are growing to almost a thousand workers at that stage. There's a lot of spinoff activity.

Mr. Chairman, we certainly are pleased that we have been, I think, setting the policy clearly for people. We've been pleased that we've received tremendous co-operation from the Project Management Committee, from the Allied Hydro Council, from various business groups in this province, from various community groups, Mr. Chairman. There's a co-operative effort taking place out there that I think indeed will maximize benefits to

a far greater degree for Manitobans and especially northern people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm somewhat surprised to hear the bombast from the Member for Churchill and the Minister of Mines and Energy. They're somewhat sensitive to some of the questions. The Minister of Northern Affairs, I would have thought, would have possibly had a little more discussion with them at some other point and straightened them out.

I would go back to the Minister. He indicated that he was prepared to table the boundaries and all the information dealing with it. Again I ask him, as a Minister, what are his feelings, as it is his responsibility, to the boundary change? Does he believe that he has justifiable reason . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur has the floor.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does he have justifiable reasons to consider a boundary change, because he himself indicated he was not happy with it? That's really what started this whole thing, so any criticism of the other Ministers, I have to say here, is strictly directed at the Minister of Northern Affairs for not discussing with the other Ministers of his Cabinet the difficulties that he's having. So I ask him, does he now have the copies of the boundaries and the agreement, Mr. Chairman?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, I have copies of the boundaries but I haven't got copies of the agreement here. We will give you the copies of the map right now which shows the boundary line as per Article 13.1 and then we'll get you the agreement at a later time.

MR. J. DOWNEY: At a later time, meaning, when would that be?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We can table it in the House. We won't have it tonight, but later in the committee.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Okay, within a day or two, Mr. Chairman. That's fair.

Mr. Chairman, another area, and I'm not sure whether this is the appropriate spot to ask the question of the Minister, but I will ask him, dealing specifically with the difficulty at Herb Lake landing. There has been a problem there for a couple of years with some of the residents there. There aren't many people living there but there was a problem under the former Minister that he wasn't able to solve. He kept deferring the people to either the Ombudsman or someone else, but it was a dispute over the Crown land and the access to the lake. Has that problem been resolved or is there a difficulty in that area?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, I'm aware of the difficulty that was being experienced at Herb Lake. The Ombudsman was called in and the Ombudsman did an inquiry and we have still not had a report. He has not made a report to this time.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there's another prime example of the government not carrying out their responsibility. It is Crown land. It is the Crown that has to make the decision as to what property goes to either persons. First of all, the former Minister, who now I believe is the Minister responsible for Manfor, was not prepared to come to grips with his responsibility. I ask this Minister now - because I don't believe it's any of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction - will he not personally take a look at the allocation of the Crown land and solve the problem for the people who live in a very small community, who are very upset with one another? I would have thought it a good, clear-cut decision by the government or the staff of the government would have solved that problem months ago. Why doesn't he take hold of it and solve it and remove some of the problems for those people? Will he do so?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: We will await the report from the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman, who has the authority to deal with disputes of that type has gone in there, he has made an investigation and hopefully he'll be able to resolve the problem.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that as soon as the Ombudsman report is available that he would table it. I would ask him to do so and then take the necessary action to solve the problem.

A further question, Mr. Chairman. When was this map that the Minister tabled prepared?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I believe that map was prepared prior to the last agreement. That's in 1972, because that same boundary line has been in effect since that time, so there has been no change in the boundary lines. That's when the map was prepared.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have another question and I guess I might as well put it on the record right now and see what the Minister's response is.

I can't find anyplace dealing specifically with the development of northern agriculture or the North feeding the North. Has the Minister abandoned the policy of supporting any agriculture development in his jurisdiction in the North?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: On the contrary, we believe in the concept of the North feeding the North. There have been some efforts made on a small scale, and I think that's the way it has to start, the community of Comorant has cleared approximately 70 acres for gardens for the community and the Department of Agriculture has provided some assistance, along with Northern Community Assets Project to make sure that this land was prepared so the people can put the gardens in this year.

On the larger scale, there is still some studying being done on the possibility of extending agriculture in the Wabowden area and also there's a group in Cormorant who are looking at some co-operative development of some farm land. They're anxious to get some farm land in operation there and there's an application in at this time, through the Northern Development Agreement, to bring some additional land into agricultural production.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Where would I find that in the Estimates of Northern Affairs?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It's delivered under the Department of Agriculture.

MR. J. DOWNEY: In other words, what the Minister has said, he has actually got nothing. There is no initiative and it's in fact not quite correct when he said that his major ambition is to see northern agriculture developed. It would normally seem reasonable to me, if he were going to do so, that he'd have made an allocation of funds in his Estimates. It's an admission that he has absolutely no money under his authority or any staff under his authority to enhance and develop agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, he's the Minister of Northern Affairs and I ask the Minister, why he hasn't put an appropriation for agricultural development in his Northern Affairs budget.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Northern Affairs is the co-ordinating department for the Northern Development Agreement and there is an application at this time, through the Northern Development Agreement, for the clearing of some land. We don't have a special line there for it, but it is under the Northern Development Agreement that they have made the application.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, as well, possibly the Minister's answer would be the same as far as any 4-H development. Is there any policy to continue with 4-H programs in the North?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There is a 4-H program in the North, but it's delivered under the Department of Agriculture.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So there is a continuation of the program.

I find it somewhat interesting, the comments made by the Minister on block funding. The Minister fully supports the block funding concept for Northern Manitoba?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, we have had one community, the Community of Cross Lake has been under block funding for a year and the experience has been very positive. I was in the Community of Cross Lake last week and spoke to the community council and people from the community and they are very pleased with the developments that have gone on in that community. There is an additional six communities at this time who have signed the Block Funding Agreement and in preparation for it, when they were in self-administration, the people were already beginning to make more of the decisions in the community and I think that's been a real positive effect on those communities, there is greater autonomy in those communities.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister supports block funding for the northern communities. Does he feel the same about the City of Winnipeg that block funding should not be carried on here and the same principles applied in the City of Winnipeg?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I think that it's a growth process and they are way beyond the process where the communities in Northern Manitoba are.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So, what the Minister is saying after a town or a city is fully developed and grown up they don't know how to handle their money but, yet, a young and growing community does know how to handle it. That's really what he's saying?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The City of Winnipeg is self-governing and they collect their own taxes and there's complete autonomy in that area.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that he supports block funding for the City of Winnipeg the same as he does for the northern communities?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I didn't get that.

MR. J. DOWNEY: The question is does he support block funding for the City of Winnipeg as he is providing for the northern communities?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The Capital Projects are not included in the block funding, so it's a different situation than the City of Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1) - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just suggest that the Minister and his government have a double standard.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, I don't think that's true. The Capital is not included and that makes it a different process.

MR. J. DOWNEY: No it isn't; double standard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, before we get involved here on many things, I'd asked a question on Research and Planning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we are ready to pass this one we can go to Resource and Planning.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think we're just about ready to pass the whole works.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I haven't called Item No. 1 . . .

MR. D. GOURLAY: Well, we'll make special reference to that (c) then, but maybe I'll ask the Minister what research work is being undertaken this year?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The three areas that Research and Planning are going to be doing the majority of their work this year is in developing a criteria for establishing block funding. Also, we're going to be just looking into performance bonding and, also, we're involved directly in the Limestone Training Development,

the people from the department are involved in that area as well.

Also, we're looking at establishing a policy; several communities are looking at becoming members of the Northern Affairs Department - new communities coming in - and we're looking at establishing the criteria for communities moving into the Northern Affairs areas.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Some additional communities that are not now associated with the Northern Affairs Department?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, there are several communities who are making inquiries as to how they could become a part of Northern Affairs and we are establishing the criteria of how these communities would become part of Northern Affairs.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of communities that would like to apply too from my constituency.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, as a matter of fact, one of your communities in your constituency is looking for - two of them - have been looking to become part of Northern Affairs and that's Briggs Spur and Baden; — (Interjection) — just Briggs Spur.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Baden is part of it now is it not?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, it is part of it.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Are there numerous communities throughout the North that are sort of . . . There are small communities, are they?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There are a lot of small communities. Grand Rapids has made some inquiries just to see what would be a benefits for them to become part of Northern Affairs rather than being LGD. We're in the process of developing that material so they can have a good look at what benefits there would be or if there was any benefits to become part of Northern Affairs.

MR. D. GOURLAY: You say the Community of Grand Rapids?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That's correct.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Is the department actively promoting that some of these communities go from an LGD to being a Northern Affairs community?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, we would prefer to leave the boundary line where it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you finished? The Member for Minnedosa wants . . .

MR. D. GOURLAY: Go ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, where do we discuss northern housing? Have we got to that, are we past it? Are we covering the gauntlet . . .

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, it's under the Department of Housing's Budget that you'd discuss that.

MR. D. BLAKE: It's all under Housing?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Right.

MR. D. BLAKE: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, there was a question on this research and the communities joining Northern Affairs. A concern I have that has been expressed to me by some people in the Baden area - the concerns didn't come from Baden - but I understand that a number of people have moved from, I believe, National Mills into Baden. Vacated houses are still empty and they're now building new houses in Baden. I believe there's something like 17 homes now that have sprung up in Baden, a community that doesn't offer any more in the way of employment opportunities, leaving vacant houses now in National Mills and applying and getting homes through the MMF and, I guess, through the Department of Northern Affairs. I think 17 homes or something like that have been built in this community. Is this not of some concern to the Minister?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, it is of concern to me and to the department because I guess that's some of the areas that we're going to be looking at. It doesn't seem to make much common sense to have a community where all the infrastructure is already located to be moving down the road two or three miles and creating another community.

We are not encouraging it and we never sanctioned that community locating at Baden. They had asked for permission to have the surveying done - that was granted - but after that there was nothing granted beyond there. They just chose to locate there.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Where would the approval be given for the go-ahead on the construction of new homes? Would this be through Central Mortgage and Housing in conjunction with the MMF or would it be through Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There are no criteria for Central Mortgage and Housing. There is under the emergency repair of the Manitoba Metis Federation that some of these houses were being built and also most of the homes that are being built are log homes that are built out of local material.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I didn't catch the last . . .

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Most of the homes are log homes being built from local material.

MR. D. GOURLAY: But now the situation arises where these people want other community structures, a community hall and other facilities that they already left in the community of National Mills. I appreciate the Minister recognizes the valid concerns that have been brought forward and I just would hope that the

department would not encourage this kind of - or try to discourage it, wherever it starts to appear, because Baden was not a community of any consequence three years ago and today I believe there are something like 17 homes there; and it's between Mafeking and Barrows, not many miles apart, and it's very costly to the taxpayers to supply the infrastructure and whatever people require there.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That's exactly the concern we have and we have been trying to discourage them from locating in Baden because, as you mentioned, the infrastructure is already in those other communities so you cannot, as a government, afford to be having that infrastructure located four or five miles down the road because it would be a continuous line of houses and it's just too difficult to deliver the infrastructure they said they would like to see in those communities. We are doing our darnedest to discourage them from moving there, but I'm not sure how you control it when they're just more or less squatting.

MR. D. GOURLAY: With respect to Grand Rapids, are there discussions between the Departments of Municipal Affairs and Northern Affairs in the situation of Grand Rapids possibly becoming part of Northern Affairs?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There has been a comparison done as to what advantages the community would receive under Northern Affairs and what advantages there are for being under LGD and the Council of Grand Rapids is now - the information is in their hands so the decision is up to them to make the decision as to . . . They have the next step; then it would be up to Northern Affairs, once the criteria are developed, to see if they would extend the boundaries to take them in.

MR. D. GOURLAY: The Northern Affairs Department would have the final say - would they? - with respect to Grand Rapids being brought in under the umbrella of Northern Affairs?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There would have to be an O/C before they could become part of the Northern Affairs, rather than being a part of LGD, so it would rest with the government.

MR. D. GOURLAY: What has brought about this situation in Grand Rapids? I would think that Grand Rapids would have a reasonably good economic base compared to many communities that are not part of Northern Affairs communities now. For sure, if you're comparing the advantages between a community being in Northern Affairs or being on their own, there's no comparison, because it wasn't designed in that light. It was sort of a natural progression to move forward on your own economic base and to gradually administer your own affairs, just like we are talking about the block funding and so forth, and other communities that are trying to get on their own footing. So I find that there must be some serious situation that has occurred in Grand Rapids for this even to have gone this far, to be in the hands of the local council of the LGD to

decide whether they should go Northern Affairs or stay on their own.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The points that the Member for Swan River has made are fact and I think once the LGD has all the information that it has, they are going to see that they're are much further ahead by being in the LGD than they would be a part of Northern Affairs; but I think it's just not having all the information available when they made the request, they felt there were some benefits to being part of Northern Affairs and maybe it's because of the Community Assets Projects that they felt were not available to them. But now there have been some changes in the delivery of that and they could qualify for the Community Assets Projects so I think that has been removed, so I would think that once they weigh all the pros and cons, that they will make the decision to stay within the LGD.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I believe I have a number of communities that are close by Northern Affairs communities and are still incorporated units on their own, and so they become a bit jealous from time to time in seeing the kind of infrastructure that's put in through the larger Northern Affairs Department. I can appreciate where the communities are close by, where it's difficult to try and sell them on the fact that they are better off to go it alone and in view of the fact that it may take a little longer for them to get their water and sewer; but at least they're in charge of their own destiny more and they will have to gradually work back up the system again.

Any chance I have I really discourage any of the communities from . . . it would have to be a really good reason, I would think, for them even to get this far. I'm just a little bit concerned why Grand Rapids haven't been given a little bit of encouragement to stay as an LGD.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Being a former Minister of Municipal Affairs and a former Minister of Northern Affairs, you would have a good understanding of the advantages of being in both systems, so I would hope that you would continue to encourage the people to move towards greater autonomy and point out the advantages of being within the LGD. I appreciate the fact that you're doing that and I would hope you would continue to do it.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, we're dealing with the Water Services provision. Is that what you were on, discussing at that point?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We haven't approved 1.(b)(1) yet.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, the Water Services would come under the next section. Is that where it comes under, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is the Water Services? Under Capital, Expenditures Related to Capital.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Is that where it is?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be No. 6. Expenditures Related to Capital.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I just have one more question on this first part, Mr. Chairman. I thought I was recognized, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recognition is discretionary on the part of the Chair.

The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: On the \$104,000 in Research and Planning, that provides for additional staff, does it?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, there has been a relocation of staff. There's one staff, plus one secretarial support and one analyst.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Northern Affairs fund, what is that used for?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, the Northern Affairs Fund is divided into two major portions. The one portion is dealing with property taxation and that's to maintain property tax records of all assessed properties in Northern Affairs. It also levies property taxes on all properties for school purposes and municipal purposes, and it also maintains records for the tax roll of tax collections. The second portion of the fund is the trust fund and this is a mechanism to maintain the records of all funds forwarded to the communities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Northern Affairs. It also maintains financial records to process transactions for those communities that are in a trust status, and also serves as a means of distribution of the municipal tax sharing grant to northern communities and the Indian bands. It also maintains record for job creation programs under Youth Corps and Northern Community Access Projects.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)(1)—pass; 1.(b)(2)—pass.
1.(c)(1) Research and Planning, Salaries; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures. 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2)—pass.

1.(d)(1) Financial and Administrative Services, Salaries; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures. 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.

1.(e)(1) Northern Affairs Fund, Salaries; 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures. 1.(e)(1)—pass; 1.(e)(2)—pass.

1.(f)(1) Audit Services, Salaries; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures. 1.(f)(1)—pass; 1.(f)(2)—pass.

There will be no resolution on this vote because of the Minister's Salary.

Item No. 2.(a)(1)(a) Local Government Development, Local Government Services, Northern Development Agreement, Salaries and Wages; 2.(a)(1)(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the director of this section chose to retire and then before he retired took a serious heart attack and wish to withdraw his resignation. However, I understand that the department refused to reinstate this individual? Is this the case?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, the individual had made the decision to retire. About a week after he had made

the decision and submitted his resignation, he had a serious heart attack. A few days later, he had made the decision that he would like to cancel his retirement plans and there was consultation with the unions involved and the Civil Service and legal advice was sought and they all recommended that we could not withdraw his retirement notice.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Was there no grounds of compassion considered in this case? Was the individual not in a position to fulfill the duties that would be required of him because of his health?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I am advised that he could not perform his duties at that time.

MR. D. GOURLAY: The Minister says, at that time, I would expect that he would be still in a period of recuperation, but looking at it from a longer term, was there medical advice available to the Minister or did the Minister make the decision not to reinstate him?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It did not come to the Minister's level. There was a consultation done again with the Civil Service Commission, MGEA and also the staff relations officer and they have all have made the recommendation that we should not withdraw the resignation.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Based on his apparent health or was it based on his work performance?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It was based on his health.

MR. D. GOURLAY: That he would not be able to recuperate to the point where he could handle this position?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I should tell the Member for Swan River that this is still in the grievance procedure, so maybe we should discuss this in private so we don't jeopardize the grievance procedure.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I want to hear too, Harry.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I'll discuss it with you privately as well.

MR. D. GOURLAY: In view of the fact that he was a director of the branch was there no provision for him to be offered a lesser role perhaps at reduced pay but one in keeping with his abilities to perform that work?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I am informed it was not a question of him having the ability to carry out the work. Because this subject is in a grievance procedure, all we can say is that we were advised by staff relations that we could not withdraw the resignation.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate what activities are being performed in this area at the present time.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The major activities of the local Government Services Branch are monitoring community

accounts and records and advising the community councils and local committees and council clerk on improvements that they could make in the running of their local councils; providing direction and assistance to community councils and local committees and local government; administration matters such as emergency planning, boundaries, by-laws, taxation and financial reporting, and they're also involved in assisting and encouraging communities in planning, budgeting and identification of local services needs in the community. They're also monitoring and advising the department and the community councils and local committees on items which require attention by the community, such as repairs relating to the provision of local services at the community level, such as organizations and activities of the fire department, water systems operations, maintenance of roads and maintenance of buildings.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I thank the Minister for that information. With respect to the Northern Development Agreement, I notice there's money allocated here. What program does that come under in the Northern Development Agreement?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That is under Program 13 which is 100 percent provincial funding.

MR. D. GOURLAY: What is the situation with respect to fire prevention in the Northern Affairs communities? What new additions will be brought in this current year with respect to firefighting equipment and locations of the equipment?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: They are going to be involved in training in schools in local area training courses for level 1 firefighters and for breathing apparatus and fire prevention inspection. They're also going to be involved in regional workshops for fire chiefs, council members and service officers and preparing them for emergency cases.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Are there any new fire trucks coming on force this year?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, there's a new fire truck going in for Easterville and Bissett, about getting new fire trucks; there's a new firehall water supply going into Moose Lake and Homebrook; there's a new firehall water supply going into Ilford; there's also some equipment going into Norway House which is replacing some of the existing equipment; also South Indian Lake, they're replacing some equipment, clothing and hoses.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I believe there's a similar program dealing with, on the federal part, for Indian reserves and putting in upgraded services and fire equipment in the various reserves. What kind of a reciprocal agreement is in place? In most cases, there's a Metis community next to a reserve, so has there not been a reciprocal deal where firefighting equipment was established in one centre or the other that it would cover . . .

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The program of that sort would be under federal funding. It's under Program 12. Cross

Lake is maybe an example we can use where the community council has a fire truck and the Cross Lake Band has some pumping equipment which they use in a co-operative way. When there's a fire, the pumping equipment the band has is brought on so the fire truck does not have to quit and run for water. They can pump water into their fire trucks so they can have a continuous supply of water and there's good co-operation between the two fire departments and they have a reciprocal agreement which they cover on a cost basis for fires on band property.

MR. D. GOURLAY: With the Program 12, are there any fire trucks being purchased through the federal 100 percent funding to go into reserves that might be covering Northern Affairs communities?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, there are none, presently. There are none at this time.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Is all the activity under Program 12 similar to the situation at Cross Lake where there is a Northern Affairs community with some equipment and this program is being used to supplement the capabilities of the total firefighting?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: In most of the communities, it's much the same as Cross Lake and Moose Lake where the community council has their fire truck and then they have a reciprocal agreement with the band. Norway House hasn't got a truck either. Most of them are located in the community councils, that have the trucks.

MR. D. GOURLAY: This Program 12 and Program 13 - as far as the Minister is concerned, are they working out fairly well? I believe in the past there have been some problems with a little bit of friction between adjacent communities and who would do what, and if there was a fire, would there be the necessary co-operation. I believe that this program was started a number of years ago, did run into some initial problems, but it was, I think, being worked on to get a little better harmony between the two communities. I notice there's \$12 million being allocated in each program, which is a fair amount of money, and it doesn't necessarily just cover fire prevention. It covers a number of areas, but fire prevention is pretty important, especially in those remote areas; and it's one that I think has established a pretty good record over the last decade.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: There are always differences of opinion within communities and bands, but I think that they have been working to a greater degree to co-operate with one another and it seems that they have gone through those first growing pains and now there is much more co-operation.

I've visited several communities that have the firefighting equipment and these communities have really developed a great pride in the fire prevention service they are supplying. I know that we were at Cross Lake the other day and they were extremely proud of their response time and they've really had an affirmative action program there where they've got two women who are on their fire department; one of them is a captain. I think it's the same in every community that has fire equipment.

We were up to Waterhen and they too were very proud of their record and of the service they were providing. I think that again speaks well for the people, when they see there is greater autonomy in the community and they start using the fire equipment as their equipment. So they're utilizing it, using it with great care and they're providing a real good service and they can be proud of the job that they're carrying out in that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1)(a)—pass; 2.(a)(1)(b)—pass.
2.(a)(2)(a) Northern Development Agreement - Canada-Manitoba, Emergency Response Program; 2.(a)(2)(b) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, I wonder, I don't see any amount put in here. I was just wondering if the Minister could indicate what is involved here.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I'm informed that it's netted out in agreement and it becomes part of Vote 5 and that's where it's covered.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I didn't get that.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It is part of Vote 5 - the funding is under Vote 5.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the next page, Page 130.

MR. D. GOURLAY: That's 100 percent provincial funding?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: 60-40.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Is that the same as Program 5, Vote 5?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, it is. It is Vote 5, it's not Program 5. If you wanted to have some discussion on it, we can have discussion on it.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I see, okay. We can pass that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(2)(a)—pass; 2.(a)(2)(b)—pass.
2.(b)(1) Local Government Services: Salaries and Wages; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; 2.(b)(3) Community Operations - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I wonder if the Minister can give us a brief recap on the activities under this.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the question.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Could the Minister give us a brief recap or overview of just what is entailed here?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, under Community Council Clerks, for this year it's 543.4; for Police Constables, 400.7; for Operations and Maintenance, 1156.3; for Water Services, 289.3; for Night Soils, 115.3; for Fire Programs, 258.4; Discretionary Fund, 66.1; Employee Benefits, 40.0, for a total of 2,869,500.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, for clarification, where would the Cross Lake Ferry that was moved to South Indian Lake, what expense item would that come under?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It's under Capital, Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: That's under Vote - or whatever you call it.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No. 6.

MR. D. GOURLAY: The repairs to the homes in South Indian Lake, that would be under? That was under Capital.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That was under Capital as well.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I notice under Community Operations, 2.8 million. What was that about? I missed that answer.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Did you want the breakdown again?

MR. D. GOURLAY: Just briefly some of the items.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Under Community Clerks, it's 543.4; Police Constables, 400.7; Operations and Maintenance, 1156.3; Water Services, 289.3; Night Soil, 115.3; Fire Programs, 258.4; Discretionary Fund, 66.1; Employee Benefits, 40.0.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Could the Minister give us a breakdown on the Employee Benefits?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It is municipal pension plans which many of the community councils have gone into, municipal pension plans for the employees.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Is that the same program as the Department of Municipal Affairs employees?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, it is.

MR. D. GOURLAY: And Canada Pension is involved here too? Unemployment Insurance?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, that would be under a different category. That would come under the Community Clerks portion as well.

MR. D. GOURLAY: We can pass that now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2)—pass; 2.(b)(3)—pass.

2.(c)(1)(a) Construction Services: Technical Services, Salaries; 2.(c)(1)(b) Other Expenditures; 2.(c)(2)(a) Community Works, Salaries; 2.(c)(2)(b) Other Expenditures; 2.(c)(2)(c) Regional Services - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this covers the technical services for water and sewer installation, community roads and community infrastructure details?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Including engineering and drafting people and water and sewers.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, we can pass this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1)(a)—pass; 2.(c)(1)(b)—pass; 2.(c)(2)(a)—pass; 2.(c)(2)(b)—pass; 2.(c)(2)(c)—pass.

2.(d)(1)(a) Municipal Support Services: Northern Development Agreement - Provincial, Salaries and Wages; 2.(d)(1)(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Briefly, Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate what's entailed here?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: The Municipal Support Services is involved in supporting the ongoing development of local government in remote areas under Northern Affairs. It prepares training materials of local government and administration matters for delivery to community councils and their staff, and is also involved in the preparation and delivery of the training material to department staff of the area of local government and delivery techniques in those areas. They are also involved in providing support service to the community and other branches and section of the department in preparation and the provisions of resource material such as written reports, training equipment and research, and implementation of special assignments.

The major activities of this section are to develop and prepare training programs to be used in the development of administration skills necessary for the communities moving into block funding, and to organize and deliver training sessions and seminars for departmental staff and assist organizations in delivering of training sessions for community council officials, and to direct and co-ordinate the taking of the tri-annual community census and also maintains the departmental library for use of internal resources in the Department of Northern Affairs.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Perhaps the Minister indicated this. Does it cover the community elections, the expenses involved and . . .

HON. H. HARAPIAK: No, the elections are not covered under Municipal Support Services.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Where does that come under, Local Government Services?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Under Local Government Services, under 2.(b).

MR. D. GOURLAY: I don't have any further questions on that, except if I might ask the Minister, regarding the elections, are they still held the middle of February? Is that date still - the communities are happy with time for the elections?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: It seems to be an appropriate time because the response at the election polls were - not only were there many people seeking positions of mayors and councillors, but also the response to the polls was very high as well. The interest was very high, so it must be the right time of the year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(1)(a)—pass; 2.(d)(1)(b)—pass.
2.(e) Grants - the Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I wonder if the Minister can give us a breakdown of the grants, how much and where they go to.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: NACC was 277.9; MMF was 218.4; MKO was 78.5; FNC was 67.4; All Chiefs Budget Committee was 44; and Brotherhood of Indian Nations was 23.5 and the IYY was 50, for a total of 754.7.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Can the Minister supply us with a sheet giving the breakdown on those grants?

HON. H. HARAPIAK: Yes, we can provide you with a sheet with those breakdowns.

MR. D. GOURLAY: There was an O/C passed here some time ago regarding the All Chiefs Budget. Is that something new or I don't recall that last year.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: That was part of the Core funding which came out to \$44,000.00.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)—pass.

Resolution 131: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$6,895,800 for Northern Affairs, Local Government Development, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Committee rise?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee? Committee rise.

SUPPLY - ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of the Department of the Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, Item 2.(a)(1) - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When we finished this afternoon just before 4:30, I was questioning the Minister on who was responsible for getting rid of - particularly with the PCBs. We are not talking about hazardous waste. I don't want the Minister correcting me saying are you talking about hazardous wastes because everytime I'm going to ask a question now I'm going to say it's PCB material or it's hazardous waste material or it's just garbage.

So now I'm going to talk on — (Interjection) — When I refer to garbage, Mr. Minister, I'm not talking about the answers that you're giving, I'm really just talking about garbage.

We were talking about the ones who have stored the largest amount of PCB material and I believe it to be Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro. As a matter of fact during questioning a little while back when we were

into the question period, I guess a couple of weeks ago, the Honourable Minister gave me all of the amounts of stored materials and it was quite a large amount, particularly for a small province like Manitoba. The Minister had made some remarks about how Prince Edward Island shouldn't be charged because they don't have large amounts. We do seem to have large amounts of PCB material stored.

I was wondering whether the Minister has had any discussion with Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro, particularly as they are the ones with the largest amounts of stored PCB material, as to recycling and the cost of recycling, whether the Provincial Government will be of some assistance to these people in recycling; whether, in fact, if and when we were able to ship it out of the province did the Provincial Government assist in the cost of shipping these materials to Alberta? There was another one.

It was the company from Ohio. Yes, Sun Ohio, the one that came and did some recycling for us. Did the Provincial Government assist in the cost of that recycling when Sun Ohio came to Manitoba with their big trucks and did some recycling? Could the Minister bring me up-to-date on those questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The costs of the process that I referred to as part of the recycling that took place last summer through Sun Ohio, costs were borne by Manitoba Hydro. There is a possibility that it will occur again this summer. That is not finalized yet, but there are discussions with that in mind.

Some of the low-level PCBs at Manitoba Hydro's plant on Waverley are stored in one of these huge storage tanks. There's a possibility they will carry on another session of recycling through Sun Ohio this summer and the costs of whatever PCBs were shipped out of the province in the past were also paid by Manitoba Hydro.

The member is correct. I thought the PCB issue was one that was finished and I didn't bring back my sheets on PCBs with me. At any rate, the member is correct, I gave details of that and the information is on the record. As I recall it, it does sound large but the member has to remember we're talking litres. If my memory serves me correct - I don't have the exact figure - but it was in the 12,000 litres in one particular category and I don't remember the number of transformers or capacitors, but those are in storage.

Other than that there are no other concrete actions that have been undertaken except that every time whether Sun Ohio has come in, technical staff from Environment has been on-site and has been monitoring the operation all the way through. As well, when the time has occurred to do some shipping out of the province, as it has occurred in the past, again technical staff was involved and consulted in terms of the proper procedures of carrying on that operation.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I do have a little bit of an understanding on the recycling of PCBs like the low concentrations of PCBs are able to be recycled, high concentrations of PCBs, I think, require a more

concentrated effort, particularly, under pressure and heated - I've forgotten the terminology, I do have it here - under pyrolytic conditions. I'm not really that familiar with these terms. I used to be a parking lot attendant and now I'm trying to talk about PCBs.

Can the Honourable Minister give us any idea as to a comparison of heavy concentration of PCBs in this oil and lesser concentration of PCBs? Because I know the heavy concentration has to be handled in a different manner. I don't need exact figures, Mr. Minister. If you could just give me like half or 50 percent, 30 percent, 70 percent, whatever.

HON. G. LECUYER: I heard somebody talk about exercise of the gun awhile ago and I know the member says he had physical fitness as an attendant. I know that he also had a mean whistle at one time as a referee of football.

When we're talking about low-level PCBs that are recycled and this process is only suitable or applicable to low-level PCB concentrations, as it would become a very lengthy process and a very costly process to try and apply it to higher-level PCBs. It's a matter of recycling that oil and continuously doing that and it would become a very lengthy and not at all an economically feasible process.

When we're talking about high-level PCBs, we're talking about levels, for instance, as were in that transformer that spewed some oil in Kenora recently where there were concentrations of approximately 40 percent or 400 parts per million; and when we're talking about low level PCBs that are recycled as part of that process, we're talking about concentrations of 500 to 1,000 parts per million.

Now when we're talking about a level which is not even considered as a hazard or as a danger, we're talking about trace amounts or the threshold limit, if I can use that term, that is not considered dangerous in any respect as 50 parts per million or less.

MR. A. KOVNATS: As the Honourable Minister knows, I'm not one to try and create a panic, but I think . . .

HON. G. LECUYER: I believe I made a correction; I'm not sure. I thought I said high level concentrations were 400,000 parts per million. Apparently, I said 400 parts - 400,000 parts.

MR. A. KOVNATS: As I just started to say, I'm not one to try and cause a panic, but I see in the paper where there was a doctor, whether he was local or not, it was a letter to the editor where he was saying that the PCB concentration and the spill wasn't as serious as what everybody has been making it out to be. But be that as it may, I think we have got to inform the public of the type of thing and I think the Minister and his department have to go out on a limb a little bit and be able to tell the public that the danger is very very slight or that there is a real danger.

After the clean-up at Kenora, and I criticized the Minister for not doing something about it and advising everybody that the danger was over if in fact it was, and I think it was, it would have done a lot to encouraging the people in the tourist industry and it would have done a lot with encouraging people to go

back into that Kenora area because the danger was over.

It wasn't a matter of trying to make any political gains on that, but when I was suggesting to the Minister that he should make everybody more aware, the Minister seemed to take offence that he wasn't doing his job properly. I guess I was inferring that he wasn't doing his job properly or his department wasn't by not informing the people in the manner in which I thought they should be informed, not to scare them out of their wits but just to keep them apprised of what was happening. I think that's a most important thing.

Have arrangements been made for Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro to accept the responsibility and are they confirmed and committed to the recycling of PCBs in Manitoba at a future date, two, three years, whatever? Have they confirmed or are they committed to the cost of providing a plant to recycle those PCBs?

HON. G. LECUYER: If I hear the member correctly, he's asking whether either or both of these two utilities have indicated that they themselves would implement a facility to destroy high level concentration PCBs.

MR. A. KOVNATS: All levels of concentrations of PCBs.

HON. G. LECUYER: No, that is certainly not a route that the facilities have decided to take presently and it could be that following these discussions that are coming up, that we want to involve them in taking some of that kind of action. But that takes me back to some of the comments we were making this afternoon, where we get into the realms of feasibility in terms of quantities that are involved, and concentrations.

I just finished indicating that they have disposed of or recycled some last summer and will probably be doing that again this summer, but at this point in time we're only talking about low level concentrations of PCB.

Manitoba Hydro has a number of considerations they are entertaining right now. One of them is, they're considering the possibility of buying a unit such as the one that they've been contracting during the last summer and possibly this summer, so that they . . .

MR. A. KOVNATS: With Sun Ohio?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes. So they're considering purchasing a similar unit to do just that with their low level PCBs this year and in the future. So I don't know where they're at in these particular considerations at the present time, but it is under active consideration.

MR. A. KOVNATS: In this article that I was reading concerning PCBs, it states that Ontario Hydro is in the market of recycling PCBs at this point. They admit it's not a growth market, but Ontario is in the market of recycling PCBs, and Ontario - the Minister is shaking his head that they are not in the market. Well, let me just read what it says here: ". . . but even though the work will only last five or six more years, there seems to be no lack of organizations finding new ways to do the job. The latest is Ontario Hydro in Toronto which has come up with its own version of chemical destruction."

Now I would believe that that's the recycling of PCBs. Are they taking the lead? The Minister has said that he's got to see what's happening in other provinces. Well, I think right now we see that it's happening in Ontario and I can't see any reason why it wouldn't be happening in Manitoba at this point. If it's a matter of getting Sun Ohio to come up and do the job, then I think it's necessary that Sun Ohio be notified and they come up and do the job.

Is it just in the planning stages to consider bringing somebody in to do some recycling or is there a definite commitment at this point?

HON. G. LECUYER: As I understand what Ontario is . . . I do believe they also have been considering perhaps constructing a facility or a high heat intensity incinerator but they haven't got that far, in fact, as to making any decisions in that regard.

The program that the member is referring to is the same one that Manitoba Hydro has used last year and is considering using this year and is not yet finalized at this point in time. But I do believe that Ontario Hydro, at this point, has either built a similar unit as the one that Manitoba Hydro has been using from out-of-province, or is on the verge or just about ready to start operation of such a system for low level PCBs. But this is a very recent happening if it is in operation at this time.

MR. A. KOVNATS: In this article - and it's a little bit confusing; I've got to accept what people write and what people tell me - it says, "Meanwhile Ontario Hydro feels comfortable with its own scheme. We feel we have the best mousetrap, says Mr. Jackson. We have tested it both in the lab and in larger experiments and we feel confident to move to what amounts to a fullscale industrial process."

I think with the problem of PCBs that there has to be a working association and I would hope that Ontario Hydro would keep Manitoba well informed on how they're handling PCBs, and maybe we can take advantage of it also. — (Interjection) — Well, there's some discussion about a power sale to them if they ever get the strike settled. I think that with something like this, Mr. Minister, there has to be co-operation right across with all the provinces.

Does the Province of Ontario allow Manitoba, or any other province, to ship PCB oil, mineral oil to Ontario for recycling?

HON. G. LECUYER: In answer to the last part of the question which is, does Ontario accept PCBs from Manitoba? I suppose if they did, Mr. Chairman, it would have been easier for Quebec to send its PCBs to Ontario rather than having it cross Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

MR. A. KOVNATS: No, I think we're talking about a high-level low, so that's a different matter.

HON. G. LECUYER: Presently, Ontario Hydro doesn't accept any PCBs at all from Manitoba and, as far as I know, from any other province. In fact, for the member's information, the process that Ontario is considering moving into, and already has, indicate that

the formula that Manitoba Hydro has been using is cheaper than the internal process that they are considering implementing themselves; and that process that they are considering and part of the feasibility they have been doing to move in that direction.

Last summer, for instance, representatives of Environment Ontario were here in Manitoba observing the Sun Ohio operation here in Manitoba. So they didn't have a process in place last summer, and if they're moving in that direction, this would be absolutely very recent. And I would venture to say that, at this point in time, it's not in use, or if it is it's very very recent.

I do say to the member, again, they were here last summer to observe the process as it was being used here in Manitoba.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Minister bring me up-to-date on a couple of things? Are we still storing hazardous waste material at Gimli?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, we are, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Let's get down to radioactive material, and I know that that's through hospitals and through the City of Winnipeg. Are there any other locations in the province where they have the problem with radio-active material, or is Winnipeg the only location that presents this problem?

HON. G. LECUYER: Okay, I probably missed some parts of that question. The low level radiation substances, particularly those that the member has referred to that are wastes in various institutions, and in particular hospitals, are presently done away through the detonation process at Brady Landfill Site approximately 12 to 15 times a year. So they are burned through a detonation process.

Some of the radioactive substances also - I believe those are the ones from Pinawa - are shipped out of province to Chalk River.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I am aware of some testing of ground areas not just around Pinawa but throughout the province through a Dunn Drilling Company, and I don't know the reason.

The reason that they are doing test drilling throughout the province, is it to the possibility of securing a location to store radioactive material underground?

HON. G. LECUYER: The testing of wells in the area of the underground research laboratory even before this, because we carried on some of that testing last year and even the year before, so it was to establish base data of the quality of the water in this area so that we would have sort of a background data against which to continue to monitor the quality of the underground water in that area.

What we discovered in that process was that some of that water contained radiation levels in some cases which were above the threshold limits, and in some cases the owners or farmers were advised not to use the water for drinking purposes.

Now as part of that process, many other individuals in a growing radius from the underground research laboratory have indicated that they also wanted their

waters tested. They were worried in some instances that they may have water that would also show some of the same results, and some did, indeed. So we accepted to carry on the program over a much larger area that originally had been intended just to satisfy those who might have been concerned.

We are satisfied that these levels of radiation in the water is naturally occurring in the rock formations of that area as has been found to be the case in other locations with similar rock formations. On the other hand, in the meantime, to try and assist these people who had the problem with the water that had radiation levels, in most cases, just marginally above the acceptable level, but still because it was above they were advised not to use it.

There was the research program undertaken. I don't know if it was initiated by the Atomic Energy Plant - and I believe it was - in Pinawa, to try and come up with the filtering system which would extract the radiation from that water. I believe the research was done, either in the University of Regina or Saskatoon, one or the other, but the result of that research has produced a filter which, indeed, seems to do an effective job of removing the radiation molecules from the water.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Honourable Minister advise whether this was a natural radiation material or was it from some location that used radioactive materials?

HON. G. LECUYER: No, definitely from naturally occurring origins.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The Minister was talking about doing environmental studies to pick - just doing environmental studies. Can the Minister advise how environmental studies can take place without a site location? How can the Minister go to the people of the Province of Manitoba and tell them that they want to do environmental studies, handling of materials in a particular area, without having a location in that area. Is the Minister working backwards, is what I am saying? Do you pick a site first and then do environmental studies? Or do you do environmental studies first and then pick a site?

HON. G. LECUYER: I'm not clear, Mr. Chairman, what the member is seeking, because obviously when environmental studies or monitoring is done, it's done of either rivers or lakes and there's some of that that's ongoing either for mercury or for the quality of water for beaches, or there is monitoring done of the atmosphere as I referred to it this afternoon in a variety of centres in the province; there is soil monitoring that's done, for instance, at various locations near the smelters in northern Manitoba to determine the effects of the emissions of those smelters - obviously we'd have to have a particular site location that we want to monitor before we can ever do any monitoring or study of the environment.

We will, for instance, if citizens in a particular area of Winnipeg are complaining about - I don't know whether it be noise, odours, or particular substances emitted to the atmosphere, we've been monitoring particularly in relation to that site. Except for that study that I mentioned this afternoon, which monitored for

a variety of parameters, which was done of general atmospheric conditions in a variety of cities, in particular Winnipeg, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, and Brandon.

Other than that - maybe the member wishes to clarify that question, I'm not sure.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, I did, I wasn't trying to catch the Minister in any particular question, it's just that I was being a little critical of the Minister in not picking sites to do this work at this point. The Minister has suggested that he's going to go to the public and ask them if they want these sites in their back yard. I think he's going to get a real good reaction from the people telling them, no thank you, you can put it in somebody else's back yard or in somebody else's area, but we don't want it because there is that slight danger of something happening.

So I think that what I'm suggesting to the Minister is that he just can't wait and go to the public and do all of these - asking the public if they want a location in their back yard or close by. I think what the Minister has to do is to pick sites and proceed.

Is the Minister in disagreement?

HON. G. LECUYER: No, I wasn't aware, that's what I wanted the member to clarify what he was in particular referring to. Now I know he's referring to site selection for the hazardous waste management program. That had not been mentioned in the question, what reference he was making, so that's why I wasn't clear in terms of what he was attempting to get in terms of information.

In terms of site selection, we will be, first of all establishing site selection criteria, we will be on the basis of that, we would then choose some preferred sites, a number of sites that would respond to that criteria and from that limited number of sites that would at least initially seem to indicate that they would fall into the category, they might be suitable as a hazardous waste site, we would then carry on an in-depth environmental impact study as well as taking into consideration many other parameters such as transportation and distances from the main producers of the hazardous wastes, etc.

We would, on the basis of a few retained sites, then carry a more in-depth environmental impact assessment to determine which of those is best suited as the final choice.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Then when the Minister was saying about having hearings throughout the province, that's really just to keep the people sort of on a calm basis. The decision really will be made without too much input from the public of the Province of Manitoba because I think the expertise is going to come from the Minister and his department and he's going to have to say, this is where it's got to go. I can't see any other way that you can do it. You can't just ask somebody, do you want it or don't you want it? I think you've got to use your expertise and pick those locations.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, what we've said is, we have to have the population of Manitoba knowing and aware and conscious of the need, first of all, for the Province of Manitoba to move in that direction of the necessity to establish a hazardous waste disposal

program in the province. We want them involved in that process, we will make the public aware of what the site selection criteria will be, we will, in fact, once we've gone to the point of establishing some potential sites, keep the public aware all along that process so there will be an ongoing process of public input and involvement in that process. Indeed, there is a great deal of technical expertise required and input required to make that process advance, but then we say we will not, from the moment we have indicated that this is a process, a program that we think Manitoba needs, from that point decide, well, we'll put the experts at it and when they've finished their job, we take their best advice and implement it and keep the whole public in the dark. We have to have the two carry forward at the same time, because we can benefit from some of the errors that have been done elsewhere, and I'm not blaming them in any respect. I think we should be blamed if we were to repeat these same errors. But in some instances, because that has not occurred, this parallel moving forward with the best information, the best know-how we have, best technology that we know is in place, using our experts and the expertise that has been discovered elsewhere or comes from elsewhere, we will take all that into consideration, but we say it's important to keep the public as an integral part of that whole process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The level of background conversation is beginning to rise.

The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I think the Honourable Minister has just confirmed exactly what I was trying to establish, that the hearings, or those that will be hearing and listening, are the public of the Province of Manitoba. It will be the government that will do the talking and the public will be doing the listening. It seems to me that the suggestion was earlier today that the public would do the talking and the government would do the listening, and it just didn't seem right that the expertise was going from one way to the other. I am not saying the public of Manitoba don't know what they are talking about, but I am saying that the expertise is in the Minister's department.

I don't think that I want to get onto that too much more, but I would like to slip over just to the training of the people and what expertise was put into the dangerous goods handling portion of it. Who did the government go to to get some expertise on the handling of dangerous goods? Did they go to any of the trucking associations, the companies that do the trucking throughout the province - the chemical producers, companies of that nature - or did they go out-of-province to get the expertise in writing up The Dangerous Goods Handling Act?

HON. G. LECUYER: First of all, before I get on with the reply to that question, just a final comment on the previous issue. I don't entirely disagree with the Member for Niakwa, but I would certainly hope that there will be a two-way dialogue, that we will both have an opportunity to speak at these hearings; that is, the experts, the departmental staff and the public as well.

But, in order for the public to come at these hearings and provide an input, I think we have a responsibility

to inform them, in advance of coming to those hearings, and that is why, when I referred earlier this afternoon to this comprehensive report that we will soon be making available, will distribute widely, we made the reports of the previous hearings available to the public who attended. Indeed, the public speaks more than they listen at these; they listened to others who made presentations, but they come there to make presentations. I want the member to realize that experts can make presentations at these hearings as well.

Now, in reply to this question on the transportation and handling of dangerous goods, one of the important programs that will be carried on is coming up soon. We refer to it as a training of the trainers seminar, and that will take place, I believe, in Ottawa later on this month. They will then be back here to train some of the other staff at the Brandon Fire College. There are also staff in that division who have gone through a number of sessions, mostly outside the province - some of it, in fact, in the United States - to receive training in this area.

The member has to realize that we have staff in that division who already have been responding over the years to a variety of hazards in emergency situations, or spills that present similar hazards that we will encounter under this program. So there is already a good level of expertise, at least within some of the staffs in that particular division and they will undergo further training at that particular session that is coming back.

Then all of the staff who are going to be on hand to respond to situations of hazardous spills, or situations that might cause hazards, will go to Brandon training college for some training.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Minister advise as to whether the province is offering any training facilities to transport drivers, people in the transport industry? Is the province offering them any training so that they will be able to handle their vehicles in the manner in which is expected of them under this law?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, we are presently negotiating with our federal counterparts to set up an industry training program, also at the Brandon Fire College and that will be aimed specifically at the trucking industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1) - the Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last spring, the Minister circulated a draft of regulations to municipalities for the spraying of pesticides and insecticides. It subsequently met with a great deal of opposition and was changed. Is there a final draft of those regulations?

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, that's the one I was referring to in reply to - I forget who raised that in the House last week.

Yes, indeed, the member is correct in saying that we had sent it out for consultation last spring. After the comments and the feedback came back, we redrafted the regulation. We sent it back in the fall, incorporating many of the suggestions that were made as part of that feedback, and then we had meetings with

representatives of the municipalities, the weed districts. There were interdepartmental discussions with staff of the Departments of Environment and Agriculture, there was extensive consultation that was carried out. That is primarily the reason why the final draft wasn't ready until just recently. That regulation was adopted, as I indicated, two or three weeks ago. Because of the lateness in adopting that regulation, we said we would phase it in this year, and the government agencies, municipalities, etc., will abide with the system that was in place last year and previous years and will have it fully implemented for next year.

There is only one provision under that regulation that we want all the users to abide by for this first season, and that is, the reporting system. We want to begin this year because there is still plenty of time for all of those applicators who have registered with us to apply pesticides to report on the same type of forms. We want to establish a uniform reporting system which will provide us with consistent data. So that part will be in this year.

MRS. C. OLESON: I think the reporting part was not particularly the problem that was envisioned with those regulations, and I think that should cause no problem. People will report the insecticides and pesticides they have used, and I think that is important. But, of course, it was the way in which they had to apply for a permit that was the major problem; I hope that has been ironed out.

I am wondering if the Minister consulted with the municipal weed supervisors before he embarked on that, even the first draft of those regulations.

HON. G. LECUYER: If I heard correctly the last part of the question, I am not sure, whether we had meetings with the weed districts. Is that the question?

MRS. C. OLESON: Weed supervisors.

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, indeed. In fact, more than once and I believe it would be safe to say that there were probably some in the end who would still have preferred not to have it. I think, on the other hand, there is general agreement that they can live with the regulation as it now stands, as it now has been modified.

One of the problems, or fears, perhaps some of the weed districts had, or the main fear, I should say - I guess there were two - one of them is that they felt they already had the training and qualifications to carry out a safe pesticide application program. We generally agreed with that and, if they had that training, we certainly are not going to require that they train over or get the same kind of training again. It's for those who haven't had that type of training that we want to ensure that before they get involved into pesticide applications that will affect the general public, that they do have that training not only to protect the environment and the general public but to protect themselves.

Secondly, and that perhaps was the greatest concern, was the fact that they were already reporting to the Department of Agriculture, and we said, well, we can overcome that problem. And we have overcome that problem through discussions with them and the Department of Agriculture by establishing a system that

will respond to both of our needs so they don't have to report twice as they originally feared they would have to.

On the other hand, as I also indicated, by establishing a uniform reporting system, we will get better information from them.

MRS. C. OLESON: In the final draft, did the Minister give ample opportunity for emergency situations?

This was another one of the concerns about those regulations that there was nothing to help those situations where you suddenly had to make a decision, or a municipality had to make a decision, to move on some specific problem which would come up quickly. I hope the Minister has left some provision in those final regulations for that sort of situation.

HON. G. LECUYER: That is indeed a question that was of major concern, but that as well, was addressed in the regulation. There is a specific provision which addresses particular considerations of that kind, emergency situations, in which case the whole process can be speeded up. In fact, it can occur within one day in that there is some amount of latitude and flexibility that is granted to the director of the department to proceed directly in such circumstances.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you.

MR. A. KOVNATS: If we can move on just a little bit here. You know, we're kind of jumping back and forward, Mr. Chairman, but by the time we get finished we will probably have the whole of the thing right down to Workplace and Worker Services. So I hope the Minister will be just a little bit patient.

Let's talk about the mercury in fish. We talked about, in the southern part of the province, the Assiniboine, the Red, the Souris and the Winnipeg Rivers that are infected.

Are there any commercial fishing areas that are affected by mercury poisoning or mercury contamination?

HON. G. LECUYER: There is testing for mercury in fish that is carried on, and the member is correct, and in brandishing this little leaflet which was sent today, was distributed to the general public when they buy their fishing licence. It was distributed primarily last summer - I don't know if there are any left for distribution - and last spring. So I don't know to what extent they are still being distributed this year.

The member refers to commercial fishing operations. Under fisheries and oceans, all fish that are marketed are tested for mercury and there are, indeed, a certain number of lakes where, because of the higher levels of mercury, they are not being fished currently for commercial uses.

There is an ongoing program of monitoring which is part of the Canada-Manitoba Mercury Program, and that is continuing.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The Canada-Manitoba Mercury Agreement - Salaries, \$17,400 - which is slightly less than what it was the year before - is this not an employee of the Province of Manitoba? Is that not included in the salary?

HON. G. LECUYER: It represents between a quarter to a half staff year.

MR. A. KOVNATS: On the contaminated lakes the Minister had mentioned just previously that are no longer fished because of contamination of mercury poisoning, is there any way that the contamination will one day reach a level that will make commercial fishing viable in that area again?

HON. G. LECUYER: Most certainly, Mr. Chairman, the levels on the ongoing monitoring, we see in some instances significant changes from the latest data as compared to the monitoring that was done some years ago. So it has been coming down. But that's not to say that in some other lakes it's still very high. But, yes, in time this level comes down and it will be possible to resume commercial fishing at that time.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I was aware of some asbestos problems in some of the City of Winnipeg schools and some public buildings.

Has the Minister's department been aware of the removal of this asbestos problem and replacing with other materials that are not cancer causing?

HON. G. LECUYER: I can certainly answer that question, Mr. Chairman, but I wonder if the member has completed the questions on the environmental side and is asking now questions on the Workplace Safety and Health. If there are no other environmental questions, perhaps we should pass that section and go on to the Workplace Safety and Health section.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Actually I was talking under Environment because I know the Minister would like it under the other section, but I just thought under Environment. I will save the question till we get under Workplace Safety and Health if the Minister so desires.

Encephalitis spreading mosquitoes arrived weeks early. I know it was discussed earlier.

Has it been decided on what will be used to control these mosquitoes through the City of Winnipeg with the approval or disapproval of the Province of Manitoba?

HON. G. LECUYER: The member makes it sound as though I have to sit as God here.

The City of Winnipeg is, as I indicated earlier, already carrying on a larviciding program. If the member is referring here to whether we are going to aerially spray to destroy mosquitoes that are encephalitis carriers, we are way ahead of the game at this point in time. I have this afternoon, I believe, in reply to the Member for St. Norbert, indicated the mechanisms in place to deal with the whole monitoring and analysis of the data and the decision-making process that is in place.

As part of the monitoring, it is done on a variety of parameters. We certainly are not at the point yet where we have relevant data to make any such decisions. All I can say is the interdepartmental report that was prepared at the end of the spray season of 1983, a report which I believe was released publicly, is available. I believe I haven't got it here with me at the present time; it's in my desk.

The member would perhaps wish to review that report. If he hasn't seen it yet, I will send him a copy. It certainly would indicate the effort that we achieved as a result of aerial spraying the last time this was carried out in 1983, would indicate that it was approximately 4 percent effective. There were, I believe 17 or 18 reported cases, and we certainly have to question the effectiveness and the cost of such a system.

On that basis, the damage of a general flu is greater than what we have undertaken that whole emergency situation for. So we certainly are in a position to better evaluate and better make decisions in regard to any such future incidents. That is not to say that our aerial spraying is precluded.

The last major outbreak of encephalitis was in 1941. There hasn't been any major encephalitis outbreak since, so maybe the initial numbers of mosquitoes or carriers or traditional carriers of that virus - although there are early indications that they will be present - maybe they will not come out into the numbers that, in particular, Dr. Ellis fears that might occur. Now weather conditions are a major factor involved in there as well as other factors, so we'll have to wait a little longer because we're not there yet.

MR. A. KOVNATS: It seems to me that I heard the Minister say that the spraying was only 4 percent effective. Is the Minister just kind of sitting on the bench because he said, you know, it doesn't preclude the spraying but at 4 percent effective, isn't there some alternative method that the Minister is considering rather than the cost factor, and at 4 percent effective, it doesn't seem to be of much use? What are the alternatives?

HON. G. LECUYER: I think there are a number of factors that change the picture now from what it was. The larviciding program is much more extensive than what it was itself. Two or three years ago, there was very little larviciding done, or the products perhaps were also different and less effective. There is the fact that the major incident of 1983 certainly has increased the level of awareness of the general population of Winnipeg in terms of personal protective measures that they can take to combat these little pests.

Of course you cannot have the disease if you are not bitten, and if you don't put yourself into situations where you will be certainly unduly exposed, you certainly cannot get the disease. People are generally more aware of the fact that all of these stagnant bodies of water are ideal reproduction grounds for the mosquitoes; therefore the city itself undertakes to survey some of these areas on an annual basis to make sure that the various industries, etc., where pools of water can accumulate in various old tires, or old cans, or whatnot, and we, each one of us, in our backyards, have to look into certainly removing whatever ideal spot there could be for the reproduction of mosquitoes.

So I think that generally we have to be aware of the potential danger and try to do our utmost to protect ourselves and avoid situations that we could be responsible for, to allow the mosquitoes or to create situations for the mosquitoes to reproduce in our backyards.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The Minister suggested that not to allow yourself to be in a position to be bitten by mosquitoes, not to be encouraged to be in a position to be bitten by mosquitoes. Is the Minister suggesting that for the rest of the summer, we remain indoors and we can't enjoy the outside? It seems to me that's what the Minister was trying to get across at this point, not to allow yourself to be in that position of being in danger of being bitten.

But can the Minister also advise the danger and the status of the canker worms which it appears are now busily eating leaves and the little holes are starting to appear on the leaves? What is the situation with the canker worms this year? The Minister is quite up-to-date on the mosquitoes, what's the situation on canker worms?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott: Mr. Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the consultations I didn't have.

I presently have no information in terms of the status of the situation this year. First of all, it would have come primarily under, I understand, Natural Resources as it affects trees and vegetation generally.

I know we were told for some time now that they would be out in force this year. I have to say - and probably the member can attest to that - we have seen and certainly where I live, no evidence of their effectiveness at this point of time. So I don't know if their numbers are significantly less than anticipated or if it's too early yet, but I have no detailed information that I can provide the member on that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)(1)—pass; 2.(a)(2)—pass; 2.(b)(1)—pass; 2.(b)(2)—pass; 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 64: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,101,500 for Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, Environmental Management—pass.

Clean Environment Commission Item 3.(a) - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: There's not too much on 3.(a).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)—pass; 3.(b) . . . ?

MR. A. KOVNATS: No. Not while I'm standing, please.

Mr. Minister can you bring us up-to-date on acid rain? I know that the Minister has been to some conferences on acid rain and we are kind of looking for a report on acid rain because the Americans are accusing Canadians of damaging the environment and the Canadians are accusing the Americans of damaging the environment. What is the status in Manitoba? I don't think we have to go right across Canada, but just Manitoba, particularly with some of the big plants that have been involved with acid rain, possibly Thompson, Brandon and Winnipeg.

HON. G. LECUYER: I have certainly no problem in answering the question. I should have replied to that one under the previous section, but the whole acid rain question of course is one that has already been the

subject of a lot of print material and is going to continue to do so for years to come.

Manitoba, along with the other provinces, especially the other eastern provinces of Canada, has committed itself to a reduction of approximately 200,000 tonnes per year by 1984.

At this point in time, the next step is a meeting between officials of Environment Canada and the Environment of Manitoba and that could be followed by meetings with the representatives of the industry.

The member might appreciate that the greatest problem with acid rain exists in Ontario and Quebec and some of the Maritime provinces and it was agreed that we would not sort of jump to be the first to have these discussions.

This agreement was arrived at on February 5th, that we would allow some amount of time for the discussions to occur between representatives of the environment of Ontario and Canada and Quebec and Canada, etc., I expect that we will have these discussions shortly here in Manitoba.

In the meantime I have had very informal discussions with the representatives of the two primary industries involved here in Manitoba, that is Inco and HBM and S in Flin Flon, to advise them of the particular status of this issue. Also they are aware that they are awaiting discussions as apply to their industry.

In the meantime, Inco at Thompson has been implementing new technology in its plant which, as far as all indications we have presently, is already effective in significantly reducing the level of emissions at Thompson. The smelter in Flin Flon also, I believe, has completed, or is on the verge of completing a feasibility study which at least initial indications will significantly reduce emissions in that particular plant.

On the other hand, the technology involved in Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Flin Flon will be quite substantially greater in terms of cost than it is in Thompson. We are of course talking about two very different operations dating back, one only a few decades and the other one probably five or six decades. So from the starting point we are dealing with two plants that are very different and implementing changes of course has different implications for Flin Flon, that is, the cost is much greater.

But it does appear, at least from the initial indications, that it will be effective and our next step then will be to discuss with them ways and means of fully implementing that process so that we can reduce emissions not only in Thompson, but in Flin Flon as well, and if both of these technologies that I have referred to work as we expect the initial indications appear to indicate, then we have solved the problem. We have also now to discuss the costs.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I know that the costs for controlling emissions is very very expensive at Thompson and at Flin Flon with Inco and HBM and S, but can the Minister give us any kind of an idea as to the cost of controlling the emission, whether the factor if the companies were forced to put in a control apparatus, would there be any danger of plant closure and loss of employment to workers in these areas? Is the government, the Province of Manitoba or the Federal Government, considering assisting in cost factors in the control of the emissions?

HON. G. LECUYER: I certainly can't give the member very definitive figures. I can give him ballpark figures. For Thompson, the actual cost of implementing the technology that I referred to, the costs are rather insignificant. Now in terms of Flin Flon, we would have to know the costs in firm details, and we only know that when we sit down to do some hard bargaining with the industry in terms of getting down to the actual figures because there is also as part of the implementation of that new technology, there's also a significant reduction in operating costs. So what will be the next costs, I'm not sure yet, but I would give as a ballpark figure somewhere in the order of \$30 to \$35 million.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Is the Province of Manitoba or the Federal Government considering assisting in the cost of this operation?

HON. G. LECUYER: I was going to give an absolutely not serious reply, but I won't.

MR. A. KOVNATS: No, it was a serious question.

HON. G. LECUYER: That is also, as the member might very well appreciate, going to be part of those negotiations. Who is going to pay what and how much will certainly have to be negotiated. Certainly our initial approach is to say, the industry is going to benefit from the reduction in operation costs. The industry certainly has to take responsibility for control of its emissions.

The intended involvement of the two levels of government, that is the federal and provincial level of government, is to assist but to what extent and in what manner will only be established as part of these negotiations.

The member can very well appreciate that I certainly will not indicate, not knowing in fact the exact costs, would certainly not indicate to the member at this point in time what the province is going to do in that regard. That would certainly preclude any potential negotiations that could occur on that matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)—pass; 3.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 65: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$319,100 for Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, the Clean Environment Commission—pass.

Moving on to Appropriation No. 4. Manitoba Environmental Council, 4.(a) Salaries; 4.(b) Other expenditures - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Can the Honourable Minister advise how many people are on the environmental council that are advising the Minister as to the environment in the Province of Manitoba?

HON. G. LECUYER: At any given time 100, give or take one or two.

MR. A. KOVNATS: When you say 100, give or take one or two, 100 or 200 or one or two persons?

I know we were talking in round figures, but . . .

Is this advisory council of the Environmental Council producing anything effective to be of assistance to the

Minister? And what, for instance, have they produced in the last little while that has justified their existence?

HON. G. LECUYER: I know the member doesn't mean those words as they might be interpreted in terms of justifying their existence, especially when we are talking about a body of people who are advising the Minister at no cost to the province. I think the member would be the first I'm sure to laud the most wonderful work that they have been doing.

In the course of 1984-85, the Environmental Council, as well as having a number of meetings and symposiums, has produced 11 briefs. In particular, I might just list those 11 briefs and leave the rest to specific questions the member may have:

1. A brief on nuclear energy in Canada.
2. Transportation subsidies for schools.
3. Environmental assessment and review process.
4. A brief entitled, "Federal Compliance with Environmental Assessment and Review process."
5. A brief entitled "Use of Herbicides in Forestry."
6. A brief entitled "Use of Insecticides to Control Western Equine Encephalitis."
7. A brief entitled "Recycling of Aluminum Containers."
8. A brief entitled "Water Quality Monitoring."
9. A brief entitled "Selling of Crown Lands."
10. A brief entitled "Public Hearings for the Limestone Generating Station."
11. A brief entitled "Requesting of the Safety and Health Committees Minutes Form."

MR. A. KOVNATS: I can agree with the Minister that there is a place for this council and they seem to be doing good work, particularly at no cost to the people of the Province of Manitoba, and I can see some of the good results that are coming from it. I wasn't in a position to be critical of it, Mr. Minister, I just wanted it brought out so that everybody would know the good work that they were doing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass; 4.(b)—pass.

Resolution No. 66: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$64,200 for Environment Workplace Safety and Health, Manitoba Environmental Council—pass.

Appropriation No. 5. Workplace and Worker Services; 5.(a) Workplace Safety and Health - the Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Last year the Minister requested to be set up in workplaces of over so many staff members - I can't remember the figure at the moment - in workers health and safety committees. Since that time, some school boards have expressed a great deal of concern with the difficulty they have had complying with the guidelines set up by the Minister and the department, for holding; for instance, even just to get this group together in a school division setting to hold the meetings. For example, one of the stipulations is that the meetings take place within working hours, and when you have

a school setting with school bus drivers, teachers, custodians, caretaking staff and so forth, it is immediately very easy to see that the teachers and the bus drivers obviously do not work at the same time because the teachers work during the hours actually that the school is open, and the bus drivers work getting the children to and from school. So I'm sure the Minister has heard from school boards, as I have, on this subject, and I'm wondering if he is going to negotiate with the Education department and have make some changes to the guidelines for those committees.

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, indeed, I have received a number of letters from secretary-treasurers and superintendents in some cases. In fact, two weeks ago I met with a fairly large number of school principals, and staff have also met with other groups of principals. There are also staff within the division that liaises, in particular, one staff person whose responsibility lies almost entirely in liaising with the school sector or the education sector in order to make sure that we proceed toward the implementation of those provisions.

Those amendments brought to the act were intended to protect all workers of the province regardless of whether they work in heavy industry, light industry or in the service sector.

The guidelines in regard to the education system were prepared and intended to recognize the uniqueness of the school system and, of course, it's intended to benefit teachers and general staff and, as well, the entire student body in those schools.

Now, there is also intended to be a great deal of flexibility in terms of implementation. We know that there are going to be some problems, but within that framework of flexibility and within the normal working hours of the day, surely there has to be time that can be found to address this very important issue.

Now, the requirement is for a minimum of four meetings a year. Now, during the working day, there are at various times in the year in-service days, there are lunch hours, they are early in the morning as the school day begins. We're not saying that this has to occur at a specific time of the day. Surely, during the year, at least on four occasions, it has to be possible, certainly at very limited cost, to care for the workplace health and safety of that part of the population.

There is another area I think that we have to keep in mind as well. We are, as part of our education system, preparing students to fulfill their potential as adults, as people who will be out there in the workplace. I think there is no better time and, indeed, I would think that we certainly have a responsibility to prepare them to be ready to work in the workplaces of this province without having to rely that they will do everything on the basis of trial and error. You know, that may be one approach, but it's a very damning process because, as a result of it, you've lost an arm or a leg or an eye or you've lost your health.

So, when we consider the very small cost that is attached to this, versus the very high cost of caring, especially from a health standpoint for our overall population, I think that this has to be certainly viewed as a very secondary consideration.

Indeed, I expect there will be some problems and they will not always be the same from one school

division to another. We have not specified categorically who has to be on that committee; there have to be some representing the workers in those workplaces, some representing the management, so that they will together, and that is the whole purpose. We have done this with prevention in mind so that they will together, co-operatively address and prevent accidents in the workplace; they will prevent or redress any situations in the workplace that might adversely affect the health of the workers. All levels of workers, whether they are with management or with the worker sides the committee.

Now, following such meetings, I tend to think perhaps that the initial reaction, especially from the trustees perhaps, and administration, generally, standpoint that they saw the problems in implementing that process and said, "well, here we go again." We have to sort of sit down and resolve a whole slew of problems. That was the initial reaction. I think the fact that, at this point in time, I believe except for one school division, there are now in place in Manitoba joint committees in every one of the school divisions and districts in Manitoba, except one at the present time. So that, I believe, gives an indication that the whole issue has been approached if, at least in the beginning, with some reluctance and some leeringness, at least there was also, under second thoughts, it was addressed also with some seriousness.

Now, the fact that the member raises this as a question presently I can't help but see this as almost coincidental that during the lunch hour today I was reviewing a draft letter that I'm sending to all the secretary-treasurers and superintendents of the school divisions. This will also go eventually to the co-chairs of the committees. Accompanying this, there will be five or six pages of guidelines describing the whole intent and purpose of the program and trying to assist them in overcoming some of the problems that they have signalled as part of the implementation of that.

So, personally, I am committed to this; I see this as a workplace like all others. I think it's important that it does occur there, and we will assist them in every way we can to implement this to the point where it functions most efficiently as part of all the school systems in Manitoba.

MRS. C. OLESON: I think the Minister's indication that all the school boards but one have implemented this is one indication that there is a willingness on the part of school boards to try and co-operate with the department. They, of course, don't want people injured in the workplace, in schools and in the school environment, any more than anyone else does. It is not an unwillingness, at least I sense, to try to implement the guidelines. But the very fact that they have set up the committees is not an indication to me that it is an easy matter. There is still a great many problems with that.

One of them, for instance, is that the chairmanship of the meetings alternates between management and staff. That alone makes for inconsistency and not a flow of continuity in the committees. I could see that perhaps it's done to make up fairness, because how are you going to decide who is in charge of this? They don't want it to go back to the administration always

administrating; they want staff to have a part of being in charge of it too. But all of it adds to the confusion of the thing, and I think probably more in the setting-up stage than maybe it will later; it may iron itself out and work fine.

It seems also to be an extra layer of paperwork because already schools are inspected by fire inspectors, by various people. School boards, I guess probably rightly so, had a feeling they are trying to tell us we are not keeping a safe place for the children to go to school. Maybe they felt that this was an infringement on what they had been doing and felt a sort of a slam, they hadn't been keeping the workplace safe, and maybe that's one of the feelings that came along with it.

If the Minister thinks that all of the problems have been solved by meetings, I think he is wrong. I think there are still some problems that will have to be looked at because a school setting is not like any other. It isn't like a factory or a large plant where people are coming and going in shifts. It's a very unique situation, and I think the Minister will have to recognize that as time goes on. I know he has said he will be flexible, but I think there needs to be room for a great deal of flexibility with a thing like this if you are going to make it work and make people feel that it's working; because if you are going to have the right attitudes built into something like this, that's half the battle, the attitudes connected with it, and if, as appeared to some people, you came down from on high with a whole new set of guidelines and a whole new ball game to be played, they felt that this was just another make-work project almost.

But, as you say, there is only one school division that hasn't complied and set up a committee. I think that's an indication that they do recognize that they certainly want to keep the schools safe. There is a recognition that they want to co-operate with the Minister and with what he is doing, but, as I say, I still think there is some room for negotiation, for discussion and monitoring of the problems with these committees because I think, as the Minister should know from personal experience, a school setting is really not like any other.

HON. G. LECUYER: Yes, I do agree in many respects with the member's comments. In my initial remark I did refer to the uniqueness of the school system and the very fact that I used the fact that practically all the school divisions had implemented as an example that there was indeed a willingness to address this issue in some serious manner. I couldn't agree with the member more when she says that the whole attitude is of the utmost importance. That is why we accept the fact that we will have to continue on an ongoing basis for years to come to provide assistance in many respects towards the implementation. The fact that I am sending this letter with some guidelines aims to do exactly that. I want to help them to overcome some of the problems they will encounter.

In fact, I would be very worried if I hadn't been hearing of some of the problems because I would have certainly taken it for granted that they were not seriously addressing the issue if they hadn't faced some of the problems that I expect they would have had to encounter in implementing this mechanism as part of the overall program of a school division and within the schools as well because it has to be reflected there.

We are in the process of doing just that, and the staff person who is working closely with the schools is developing models that have proved to be more effective than others and providing these with the school divisions to try and resolve whatever problems they are encountering in a particular setup. As the member certainly very well understands, whether a school division is a large one like Winnipeg No. 1, for instance, or whether it's a small rural school division with the schools scattered great distances, we have different problems, but they are not necessarily a smaller one than the other. So I do agree that there has to be ongoing assistance provided and continued flexibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you.

One aspect of this I neglected to mention before when you mentioned that there must be times when everyone could get together at the beginning of the day, lunch hours, etc., I think the Minister should keep in mind that a great many bus drivers, this is just a small sideline to their day is driving a school bus, and they just can't be hauled in from all over a school division for a one hour meeting because they have another job as well as driving the school bus. So all these things, when you take into consideration some school divisions are 50 miles in length, at least, and it's very difficult to arrange these matters.

Another thing I wondered, when the Minister mentioned it - I think it was the answer to my first question - he was mentioning students. I wonder, could he tell me, is there a provision in that committee for students to be on the committee?

HON. G. LECUYER: There is no requirement that a student be on the committee. It's strongly advised, and we say that it is certainly desirable at the secondary level, especially in systems where students are involved, for instance, in the industrial arts area and also in post-secondary institutions, we certainly feel that it is desirable to have students on that committee, but there are no requirements that they be.

As part of the elementary school system, parents entrust their children to the responsibility of the teachers and the principals. In many school divisions, there are parent committees that work in very close co-operation with the schools. They in fact, if they choose, they could also have a parent on one of the committees. There are no restrictions or requirements in that regard.

MRS. C. OLESON: Just one last question on that matter. Supposing that a committee came up with some quite stiff regulation or something in particular that they wanted the school board to incorporate into a school or a school setting, what powers does this committee have to insist on something they decide they want done? What power do they have to see that it's done?

HON. G. LECUYER: The committee members, of course, meet to address problems that are present in their system. Some of these problems have been observed. They are brought to the attention of the members on the committee. They will, hopefully, make

every attempt to resolve this at the committee level, make recommendations to the central administration of the school division and, hopefully, it will be resolved there.

If the members of the committee feel that there is a problem that is of importance to their safety and health that is not being resolved and nothing occurs or happens on the basis of the decisions and recommendations of the committee, then they would be in touch with our Workplace Safety and Health Division, and staff on the division would assist in trying to bring the matter to a resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have lost my notes, Mr. Minister, but I found the stuff that I wanted to speak to you about. Earlier today, I was listening on the reports of the Provincial Auditor. It stated, Year ending March 31, 1984, and I think it's under the Workers Compensation Board. It's on Page 43. I'm going to read something of the Provincial Auditor . . .

HON. G. LECUYER: Before we do that, Mr. Chairman, can we move on to that next section if the member doesn't have any other questions on the Workplace Safety and Health side, so that I can also have staff here? The member, I believe, is moving into the area of the Compensation Board. Am I correct? If the member wants to pursue . . .

MR. A. KOVNATS: I will be having some questions on Workplace Safety and Health. I was going to combine the whole thing, Mr. Minister. Would that be improper?

HON. G. LECUYER: I certainly don't want to restrict the member's questions, but perhaps I'll listen to the question and if there is a portion of that, that deals with Workplace Safety and Health, I'll deal with it. If I feel comfortable in dealing with the whole question, I will attempt to do that. But if I feel that portion of the question dealing with Workers Compensation Board, I want to wait for staff to be present, then I'll hold off on that portion.

MR. A. KOVNATS: To the Honourable Minister, I'm not trying to catch him or trick him or anything like that. It's just that I felt that if I gave you a little bit of a preamble on it using this Workers Compensation Board report from the Provincial Auditor, then I could work around that. Some of it will include the Workplace Safety and Health, and some of it will include Workers Advisor Office. So again, I'm not trying to catch the Minister; he can take as much time as he wishes to answer.

But it's: ". . . with the fiscal year ended December 31, 1981 the operations of the Workers Compensation Board had taken an unprecedented turn in direction, resulting in a gradual deterioration of the financial position of the Class Fund." The Class Fund had deficits of \$1.6 million in 1981; \$12.1 million in 1982; \$19.1 million in 1983. "For 1984, a budgeted deficit of \$15.0 million was projected." That includes a grant of \$4 million from the Province of Manitoba.

"The former surplus position of the Class Fund, which by Board policy was maintained at a level approximating

the amount of the prior year's cost experience, has been steadily eroded and in 1984 the Class Fund could be in a deficit position of \$11.0 million based on the budgeted projections."

The ". . . deficit financing is not in compliance with Section 66(1) of The Workers Compensation Act which states that ". . . sufficient funds . . . to meet all amounts payable from the accident fund under this Part during the year including administration costs . . . "and (c), ". . . to provide in each year capitalized reserves sufficient to meet the periodical payments of compensation accruing in future years in respect of all accidents that occur during the year."

I'm not going to ask any questions just yet. I'm just going to carry on further with the Report of the Provincial Auditor.

"The Board had determined that a 53 percent average increase for the 1984 assessment rates would be required to meet the minimum requirements of the Act. The Board further determined that a 76 percent average increase would be required to restore the Class Fund to its traditional surplus level over a five-year period. However, an actual 1984 average assessment rate increase of only 20 percent was approved by government. It is not apparent how the Board and the government intend to prevent the employers in future years from not being unduly and unfairly burdened with payments that are to be made in those years with respect to accidents that have previously happened; a matter which Section 66(1) of the Act was clearly designed to prevent."

I think that's all I am going to read on that particular aspect of it, Mr. Minister. But I would like to know at this time, with the same amount of accidents, why has there been an increase of payments of an additional \$31 million?

HON. G. LECUYER: Well, the member indicated that he was going to address Workplace Safety and Health issues, but it's clear to me that the entire gist of his repartee here is based entirely on matters directly related to Workers Compensation Board. So I am prepared to go into that, but I want to know if the member has questions in the Workplace Safety and Health side that he wants to come up with. Maybe he should deal with those, and I shall endeavour to reply to the comments made by the member following that.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Workers Compensation will be under . . .

HON. G. LECUYER: We had agreed, Mr. Chairman, as we did last year at the beginning that we would deal with the Administration and Finance department, the Environmental side of the department, the Workplace Safety and Health side of the department, and then the Workers Compensation as the final segment of it.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Let's do Worker Advisor Office and then we'll go back to Workplace Safety and Health after if you prefer.

HON. G. LECUYER: Okay, we can do Workers Advisors Bureau, if you want. We can deal with the - well, staff from the Workplace Safety and Health Division are

present here now, and I would prefer to deal with that rather than to bring staff in from the Worker Advisor Bureau and then go back to Workplace Safety and Health. I'll repeat that. In the order, we're to complete the Workplace Safety and Health, then the Worker Advisor if there are any questions under that, and then the Workers Compensation Board.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I'll give you some questions on Workplace Safety and Health then.

Can the Minister advise the status of the school program of replacing the asbestos insulation in the schools? What is the status? I know that there is not immediate danger, but there could be if it's not looked after. I understand that there have been some projections of some schools that the changes have to be made and at this point have not been made.

HON. G. LECUYER: The member is probably referring to two at least of the schools that come to my mind which were in the news last year in reference to asbestos removal. Both of those incidents or situations have been dealt with. The overall Asbestos Control Program, this is only but a small portion of the overall asbestos control program which is operated on a case-by-case basis and consists of four basic phases, that of identification, evaluation, consultation and control. As I said, from the very outset, the issue as it has arisen may have been, in some cases, emotional or highly emotional in some cases, and in one particular incident, there was a stop-work order because of a clear case of imminent risk - I believe that was in Assiniboine School - and the specialists in that particular school have all contractually been removed according to the proper procedures on the basis of the proper technical advice provided by the staff within the department. I'm not aware of any current situations that are presently pending that are still to be addressed presently. As I said, if and when those do arise, they are dealt on a case-by-case basis.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I don't have the information concerning the school, but I did get a call from one of the principals of the school advising me that there were some asbestos insulation around some pipes and that it was on a work order to be exchanged and, to this point, has not been exchanged. What control do we have to see that these things are to be carried out and are not being carried out? I think that the longer that they're left in place, the greater the danger. Right now, it doesn't appear that there's a danger, but I think if we do leave them in place that there will be a danger. Can the Minister advise?

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do believe the member is referring to the same example, the situation that I was referring to. Now, as I said, this is dealt on a case-by-case basis, and although there could be asbestos around some pipes, the conditions of the asbestos itself is taken into consideration and the speed at which they are required to remove it depends on the conditions of the asbestos insulation. Now there are many instances where there is still asbestos around pipes, but if this is in good condition then there is no great urgency in removing

it, especially during the school year forcing the closure of schools and putting asbestos fibres into the air, it's best that is done during the holiday periods. If the member knows of another, I hope he will bring it to my attention because I am not aware, nor is staff aware of another that is pending presently.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, I'll be happy to get the information for the Minister because it's, as I said, not a critical situation at this point, but it could get a little bit worse. Can the Minister bring us up-to-date on the complaint of smoking at, I think it was at The Pas, where the workers walked off the job because of the danger to their health. What has been resolved in that particular situation?

HON. G. LECUYER: There were negotiations, as part of the operation of the committee in the workplace and fans were installed in the dining room area; as I understand there were also discussions and meetings involving staff from the Correctional Department and the staff of the Government Services who are responsible for government buildings. As far as I know the issue has at least been resolved to the satisfaction of all for the time being. There are other improvements which perhaps will be put in place, but for the time being, other than the installation of fans in the dining room area, there are no changes occurring presently.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I was just reading an article in the paper concerning the smell in the new Law Courts building, can the honourable Minister advise what has transpired there? Will the workers have to go back into the same location with the same smells, and would it be damaging to their health to have to go back and work in those areas?

HON. G. LECUYER: The member is referring to the new Law Courts building and the problems there - as the member has probably read them in the paper as I have - are due to new carpeting that was installed there. Temporarily they were holding some of the court sessions in the old Law Courts building. That I expect is going to be very temporary and usually occurs when new carpeting is installed. There is a glue involved there that has a very strong smell and I haven't heard any additional reports, other than the ones in the paper. Staff have not yet gone into the new building for inspections at this point in time.

MR. A. KOVNATS: What staff does the Minister have, or does this department have, that is going around and training, or offering training assistance to people in the workplace concerning workplace safety and health?

HON. G. LECUYER: There are education officers within the division whose primary responsibility is that of assisting the committees toward the implementation of an efficient system in the workplace. As well, they can rely on the advice and assistance of the hygienists within the department and the safety and health officers that are also there to provide assistance.

MR. A. KOVNATS: To the Honourable Minister, Workplace Safety and Health, Salaries of \$2,305,000,

what do the salaries encompass? It sounds like it's more than an education officer and a few others.

HON. G. LECUYER: Indeed, it has to be for more than education officers. There are a total of 68 staff in the Workplace Safety and Health Division altogether. Of those, there will be, aside from the administration, there are safety and health officers, education officers, industrial hygienists, engineer, someone responsible for the occupational health program, as far as this year's initiative, as well, there's the Mines Inspectors Branch. So, as I said, there is a total of 68 staff in the division.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Industrial hygienists, are these the same industrial hygienists that we've had all along or has there been some changes in the industrial hygienists. How many industrial hygienists do we have and have they been any length of time, or have we just changed them in the last short period?

HON. G. LECUYER: There are 11 in that particular unit that the member refers to. There's one addition of an occupational health officer - I don't know if that's the correct terminology, an occupational health officer - that have been added to that unit this year.

The member asked, as well, whether there were new persons involved. As far as I know, they're all the same people who have been in there for some years. Unless there have been any retirements, I am not aware of it.

There is one person who was promoted to a position as an industrial hygienist; and as I mentioned already, the occupational health officer.

MR. A. KOVNATS: To get back to the Workplace, does a company who has a program of Workplace Safety and has a workplace safety officer of their own that's in their employ, do they receive any concessions when it comes to rates under Workers Compensation? Do they receive any additional assistance or any additional discounts by providing their own safety factors at the workplace?

HON. G. LECUYER: The setting of rates for compensation purposes are established on the basis of classes or groups of industries who have similar types of workplaces, or similar risk situations and the rates are established on that basis. If they have a safety and health officer employed by the company, hopefully this will reflect in their record of time loss, etc., and hopefully that will also reflect on lowering the number of accidents, and with that eventually the rates would reflect the record of that particular class or group of industries.

But the rates are not established on the basis of whether they have a safety and health officer or not. Obviously, they all have to have a Workplace Safety and Health Committee if they meet the number requirements, or else they have a safety and health representative if they are below the number requirements.

MR. A. KOVNATS: I had been talking to somebody in industry and what they had said to me was that they work hard, and so they should, at reducing accidents in their workplace. But they also feel by putting in that

extra effort that they should be given some consideration in their rates, because their accident rates are down.

When the Honourable Minister said that the rates were going to go up an average of 20 percent, this fellow got hit with somewhere around an 80 percent increase and he was working very very hard. — (Interjection) — he tells me 80 percent. The Honourable Minister makes a face. Possibly it couldn't be, but this is what he tells me. He works hard at it and why shouldn't he receive some benefits, at least at the average increase of 20 percent rather than the excessive increase which was very excessive, he thought?

HON. G. LECUYER: We are again very much in the Compensation Board matters. Certainly if they work hard and continue to work hard at it, it should be reflected in a reduction in the accidents and time loss in that particular workplace. Eventually, provided that they all as a group continue to work hard at it, it will be reflected in lowering rates.

But the member has to keep in mind that the rates that the particular industry or, for that matter any other industry in Manitoba are paying currently, are the lowest in Canada. They are just now this year surpassing the level that they were paying, or the rates that they were paying in 1975. There are not very many other operations that you can consider are paying rates that are the same as they were paying in 1975.

The cost of salaries, the cost of medical treatment, the cost of chiropractic care, the cost of pensions are a reflection of the salaries earned and a number of other things, rehabilitations costs, etc., have to be reflected in these rates, and those have been going up.

So I think if anything, the problem occurs because the rates for a period of time went down, and maybe they shouldn't have. I will get further involved on that particular area when we're dealing specifically with the Workers Compensation Board, but the member indicated he had other questions in the area of Workplace Safety and Health. So if he has, I would prefer to deal with those before I get involved too deeply with the Workers Compensation Board.

MR. A. KOVNATS: A little while back I was talking to somebody from one of the paint companies, and he was advising that there is a system of colour coding pipes and dangerous materials.

HON. G. LECUYER: The member said that last year.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Well except that nothing's been done since last year. So I thought it was a real good idea. If you walk into a plant and there's a broken pipe and there's steam coming, by looking at the colour of the pipe you can tell exactly what the material is that's coming out. That would have been a real good safety factor. I think at least, rather than having it compulsory, would the Honourable Minister support it and advise the people in the workplace that it's a good idea and that maybe some consideration could be given if they could implement it into their system. It would be a safety factor, and I think we're all working towards a safer workplace.

HON. G. LECUYER: The member raised that question last year. I'm just wondering now if he's got some sideline that I'm not familiar with and represents a paint company that we're not aware of, because that question was indeed raised last year. All I can say is that the colour coding — (Interjection) — that isn't just for the Member for St. Norbert.

The colour coding approach is certainly one that will be used quite extensively as part of The Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act. Therefore, there will be more and more of that occurring where pipes in the workplace are used for a variety of purposes. It's also probably going to increasingly be implemented as part of the workplace health regulation which will reflect the hazardous goods in use in the workplace.

Now quarterly we publish a bulletin which is very professionally done, is very neat in appearance. Each of these bulletins are full of good advice and suggestions for workplaces to further protect the health and the accident records of industries. So there are a variety of ways that we are attempting to assist industry in implementing measures as the one the member has recommended.

I don't know if that was one of those that were referred in the workplace bulletin, certainly it could be. But as I say, it's part of the regulations that are coming in place. With the Handling and Transportation of Dangerous Goods, that will increasingly be implemented because the colour coding is part of that system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2)—pass.

5.(b)(1) Worker Advisor Office - the Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Mr. Chairman, I think there's been some discussion on it.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Chairman, the member is, I think, wishing to perhaps move committee rise, but I wonder if we could deal with at least the Worker Advisor and that would leave us with the Workers Compensation.

MR. A. KOVNATS: The only thing, to the Honourable Minister, I have somebody in the other committee who wanted to speak in this committee, and he's been coming back and forward, and I think if we went to this point that we could finish the whole thing tomorrow.

HON. G. LECUYER: Does the member in the other committee wish to speak under the Worker Advisor program?

MR. A. KOVNATS: Yes, we're to that point. That's why I suggested that we pass that Workplace Safety and Health and go to that one and leave it until tomorrow.

HON. G. LECUYER: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply has adopted certain Resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLOR: The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

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

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).