

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 27 June, 1985.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions
. . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Committee
on Economic Development.

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: Your Committee met on
Thursday, June 27, 1985 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 255
of the Legislative Building. Mr. Malinowski was
appointed as Chairman. Your Committee considered
the Report and Financial Statements of Flyer Industries
Limited.

Messrs. Hugh Jones, Chairman, and David Gardave,
Chief Operating Officer provided such information as
was desired by Members of the Committee in respect
to the Report and business of Flyer Industries Limited.
The fullest opportunity was accorded to all Members
of the Committee to seek any information desired.

Your Committee examined the Report and Financial
Statements of Flyer Industries Limited for the year
ended December 31, 1984 and adopted the same as
presented.

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

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for
Burrows, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

Flyer Industries - continuing losses

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the
Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
My question is for the Acting Premier. This morning
in committee members were given the horrendous news
that the government-owned bus manufacturing firm,
Flyer Industries, has lost \$18 million this past year. My
question to the Acting Premier is: how long is the
Government of Manitoba prepared to allow the

hemorrhaging of public taxpayers' funds in losses
incurred by this corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
That question was responded to in committee this
morning. The government has indicated that it is quite
concerned about the serious and continuing
deterioration of Flyer Industries and has been working
since last year in reviewing all of the operations in a
comprehensive way with respect to Flyer Industries and
has actively and aggressively looked for potential
candidates for a merge or divestiture of Flyer Industries.
It was indicated in committee this morning, Mr. Speaker,
that we expect to have a conclusion to those discussions
before the end of this summer, so that decisions made
with respect to Flyer and its operations as it relates
to divestiture hopefully will be made by or towards the
end of this summer.

Flyer Industries contemplated options

MR. G. FILMON: To the Acting Premier, what other
options are being contemplated other than divestiture?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Again, Mr. Speaker, we have dealt
with that issue this morning. The government's intention
is to bring about an end to the losses, to the drain on
the public purse that's caused by the deteriorating
situation with respect to Flyer Industries, which is of
some long-standing. It is our intention to do whatever
is possible to bring that to a conclusion and to do also
whatever is possible to try to maintain those jobs, or
a good number of those jobs, in that important industry
in the Province of Manitoba. So that is why we are
aggressively looking at options as they relate to other
forms of ownership and continuation of Flyer Industries.

MR. G. FILMON: My question for the Acting Premier
is: other than divestiture, what other options are being
considered by the government?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, until we fully explore
those options, it would be premature for us to look at
any other options with respect to Flyer, except to say
that we are not going to allow the continuation of the
losses that have been occurring to date.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister indicating
that divestiture is the prime option; that is, selling the
operation to the private sector? And are there any
caveats placed on that sale or those options?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The primary objective, as I stated
and I'll restate, Mr. Speaker, is to bring to an end the
losses and the drain on the public purse that has
occurred because of the long-standing problems with

Flyer Industries; and also to do whatever is possible to maintain a good number of those jobs and that industry in the Province of Manitoba.

To that end we have determined that the best course would be some form of divestiture or merger for Flyer Industries and we will put whatever conditions are necessary to provide those protections to the greatest extent possible, Mr. Speaker.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the buses that Flyer is selling are being subsidized in excess of \$90,000 per bus and that many of those buses are being sold outside of this province, does the Acting Premier not believe that the funds could be better used here in Manitoba for programs of this government and for the needs of the people of Manitoba?

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Acting Premier has made a decision to close the School of Psychiatric Nursing in Portage for lack of funds, and yet at the same time is prepared to subsidize over \$90,000 per bus for buses that are being sold outside this province, is there not a better way to use those funds in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think the problems identified by the Leader of the Opposition are different. The overall goal is, of course, to manage funds in the best interests of Manitobans and to address the particular issues in each situation.

When we are dealing with bus manufacture, we're looking at industrial benefit and job maintenance and so on. When we're looking at public policy in terms of training of staff and care of the mentally retarded, there are other factors which we must take into consideration in providing a service in the most cost efficient and program effective way possible. I think details of both sets of decisions have been given in very extensive form in either committee or in Estimates.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, is the Acting Premier saying that the best way to manage the funds of the people of Manitoba is to close down the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Portage la Prairie in favour of subsidizing buses to be sold to Toronto?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the factors involved in designing the most effective and efficient service to a group of Manitoba citizens, the mentally retarded, are considerably different than the factors that one must consider in running an industrial enterprise. I think the common factors are to look for the best interests of Manitobans and, as I say, those are being identified and a full information policy discussion is being given in the Economic Development Committee in the case of Flyer, and in my departmental Estimates Committee in the case of the decision with the Psychiatric Nursing School at Portage la Prairie.

Genstar, re cement - actual tenders

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Acting Minister of Energy and Mines.

The other day on June 26th the news release from Manitoba Hydro indicated that a \$22 million award was made for the supply of cement to Genstar, and the same release indicates that this was done, so despite the fact that the tender was some \$700,000 higher than the next lowest tender, namely, Canada Cement, I wonder if the Acting Minister can indicate, is he prepared or is the government prepared, to show us the actual figures and table the actual tenders of the two lowest companies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The practice has been in the past with respect to Manitoba Hydro and their tender documents not to make them public, as I understand. The situation with respect to these two tenders is that Manitoba Hydro has been able to get a good price on that tender as they did on the general civil tender that is bringing about a significant decrease in the estimated costs for the projects, and at the same time ensuring that there is significant, in fact, greater Manitoba content than has ever been the case with respect to those kind of projects in the past.

I think the important consideration with respect to the cement contract, even though there is a marginal additional cost as a result of awarding the tender to a Manitoba-based company, the fact of the matter is, as has been stated by that company, is that it's going to ensure ongoing operation of their plant in Manitoba, significant capital improvement to their plant, and long-term job employment for Manitobans as a result of that tender being awarded to a Manitoba company.

MR. H. ENNS: I suppose for a government that tolerates a loss of \$18 million at Flyer, what's \$700,000, Mr. Speaker? But I can read the press releases well. I asked the Minister and I ask him again, specifically, I want to ascertain that the press release says that although the Genstar bid was 3.4 percent or about \$700,000 higher, I'm asking for some documentation that the bid was indeed \$700,000 higher and not more? Can he supply us with that information? I appreciate the past practice of Manitoba Hydro, but it's because of this unusual step - and I'm not arguing with him - that we want verification of the \$700,000.00.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I'll relay the member's concern to the Minister in terms of the specific figure, but I would suggest to him that the cost of not awarding that contract to a Manitoba-based company would have been significantly higher in terms of lost income and lost revenue to people of the Province of Manitoba. So I think that contract is resulting, in effect, greater benefits to Manitobans, both in the immediate term and in the long term, because that operation will be a viable Manitoba business. I don't know if he is suggesting that we ought to bring about the closure of that industry but this government feels that it's important to ensure the long-term viability of that Manitoba enterprise.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate to the Minister and to members that the other cement

company that we are talking about is a long-standing Manitoba firm that used to operate at Fort Whyte, and information made available to me from Canada Cement indicates in their tender that had they been given the award they would have reopened the plant at Fort Whyte. My question simply to the Minister is: was that not considered, Mr. Speaker, in the awarding of the contract?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Various factors were taken into account in terms of the awarding of that contract, obvious costs to Manitoba Hydro and also the impact on the Manitoba economy by awarding of that contract; and on balance it was felt that the situation was, the decision was made that there would be significant and more permanent and more substantial benefits to Manitoba by the awarding of the contract in the fashion that it was done.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to table the final offer by Canada Cement which would seem to indicate that the difference in price is not \$700,000, but \$2.312 million or something close to 11 percent and 12 percent and my question to the Honourable Minister is: what yardstick is this government using in showing preferential treatment as between two Manitoba-based firms? I would ask that Minister, what is the yardstick this government is going to use and who's going to pay for it? Is it the Manitoba Jobs Fund?

International Trade Commission - meeting re Manitoba Hog Producers

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Yesterday, he was in South Dakota meeting with Governor Janklow on the ban on imports of Manitoba hogs. I would ask the Minister if he can give us a report on what transpired with his meeting. Is there any hope that the ban will be lifted as a result of the meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to advise the honourable member that when we attempted the meeting with Governor Janklow, it had taken us a number of weeks in order to get our meeting with him and South Dakota was the first state to issue the ban. We were quite concerned that we may be going to South Dakota just to face another block, since they were the ones that moved initially.

But I want to say to the honourable member that we were actually pleased by the results of our meeting because, rather than facing an outright ban, the Governor of South Dakota is prepared and is in the process of putting in measures similar to that in the State of Iowa, in that there is a procedure of certification which would allow Manitoba hogs to flow on the condition that they have not been injected by chloramphenicol. The only area that we were not able to confirm - and we will be having discussions with the Manitoba Hog Producers' Marketing Board and officials

south of the border - what the time frame is between the order taking and the approval for the shipment of hogs to go to South Dakota. That has not been worked out as yet.

So we're very pleased, Mr. Speaker, with this result, because that follows upon our earlier visit to Iowa and Nebraska in that some hogs have been shipped to the State of Iowa. So our actions there, by the ban on chloramphenicol, the meetings that we've had, hogs now going to Iowa and, of course, a greater possibility of hogs going to South Dakota, and those results are certainly very encouraging, Sir.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I would ask a further supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. Was there any discussion on the question of chloramphenicol, the use of that, in the province? Were there any discussions in that regard?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, yes, there was a lot of discussion on chloramphenicol and, of course, the Governor admitted that our actions in Manitoba of moving very quickly on the ban kind of put his whole action in jeopardy, because he did admit to us during our discussions that really the ban was a use of a tactic to try and send a message to Washington opposing the monetary policies of his own President, and Governor Janklow happens to be a Republican, as well as, the lack of agricultural policies south of the border.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was one thing that the Governor relayed to us which we found astounding, and that was that the Canadian Government was advised in 1984 that there would be difficulty with chloramphenicol, that the United States would be imposing certain stringent requirements last year.

Mr. Speaker, we have now confirmed this morning that, in fact, was the case, and that the United States did advise the Canadian Government that there would be difficulty in respect to livestock being shipped south of the border as a result of their move to ban chloramphenicol.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a total absence of national action on this area by hiding the issue of chloramphenicol after being advised last year, in 1984, that action should be taken on this side. Instead, Mr. Speaker, we have had no action at the federal level.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, a third supplementary. As a result of a meeting with Governor Janklow, our Minister, our Leader questioning the Federal Minister of Agriculture about this problem, will the . . . — (inaudible) —

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I am not able to hear what the honourable member is saying.

The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the microphones were not operating, but I am surprised to hear the Member for Morris say that we are lucky that the microphones were not on so they couldn't hear my question, but my question, I believe, is very serious and important in view of what has happened with the hog situation. My question was to the Minister of Agriculture.

Will the Premier or the Minister be arranging or requesting a meeting with the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. John Wise, to discuss this problem further in view of the meeting that took place in South Dakota yesterday?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, the Premier left for Ottawa last evening, and when we had confirmed this morning that, in fact, Ottawa was aware in 1984 of the fact that there would be problems with chloramphenicol, the Premier has asked for a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. John Wise, in order to clarify this situation, as well as get some clarification on the earlier suggestions that farmers of Manitoba should sue the U.S. authorities after, or even giving that advice, and subsequently issuing a Department of Health bulletin indicating that there were no tests that could, in fact, disprove that chloramphenicol was not in the drugs, weakening very seriously the position of the case that we had been making to the U.S. officials. So the Premier is attempting to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture.

Flamingo Park - Government partner in

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs, and ask him whether he can confirm again that the Provincial Government is a one-third partner in the Flamingo Park at Carlton and Portage, in regard to a \$400,000 or \$500,000 investment to construct that park.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, the three levels of government are shareholders and, as you know, there has been a Portage North Corporation that was formed. They have a mandate to make these decisions, and they're the ones that accept the responsibilities for the development of North Portage.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister also indicate what the total cost of that park is? There must be - and I ask him whether he can confirm that the \$400,000 to \$500,000 figure is only maybe 10 percent of the final cost - is there also a several million dollar expropriation cost that has not been widely discussed?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, that same question was asked by the same member a few weeks ago and I gave the answer, what could be answered, and the explanation why I couldn't get the information on the expropriation costs because that wasn't finished. There was still negotiating going on. I gave that answer to the same question . . .

MR. R. DOERN: No.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: . . . all right, I'll find it.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would simply say to the Minister I did not raise the question of additional expropriation costs.

I want to ask the Minister whether he can confirm, that rather than a figure of \$500,000 with a component of \$400,000 by the three levels of government, can he confirm that some \$2.5 million has already been spent or committed to date in regard to that small, somewhat ugly park, and there may be a maximum amount spent on that park which would reach as high as \$5 million, which I think would be somewhat shocking to the taxpayers of this province and this city?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As I say, I gave the answer. As far as the comment of my honourable friend, it makes a good companion for the biffy across the street.

MR. R. DOERN: Well that didn't cost \$5 million, fellow.

International Trade Commission - assurances at meeting

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, it's obvious by the Minister of Agriculture's address and answer to the question today, plus the answer given by the Premier to the media last night when he came off the plane, that very little was accomplished in the meeting yesterday in South Dakota, other than some agreement with respect to monetary policy in the United States.

I would ask the Minister, what specific assurances did he receive from the Governor that Manitoba pork would be allowed into that state by whatever time frame that he wants to give us? And furthermore, what specific assurances was he given that Canadian beef, Manitoba beef would also be allowed entry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be aware that South Dakota was the state initiating the ban. We went there not at all convinced that we would be able to change any of their position, and that's what I prefaced my answer with. We were certainly not aware. Governor Janklow has been clearly the outspoken governor on this issue, and has used this issue, and he admitted to us that it's an issue that he is using Canada in a way to try and get his message to Washington. He's been using that as a trade issue and not as a health issue, even though he has put it forward as a health issue, Mr. Speaker. He did admit that.

Mr. Speaker, they have put into place and they are putting into place a procedure similar to that in the State of Iowa, a certification process. As I indicated to the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, the one question that is not clear in that certification process is the time lag that will ensue in that process to allow Manitoba hogs to flow. If there is no time lag and the system can be worked out, Mr. Speaker, the same process should be in place as it with Iowa. Hogs have flowed to Iowa since our meeting, Mr. Speaker, and we're very pleased that we should have accomplished that.

But, Mr. Speaker, as well, the Governor of South Dakota indicated very clearly to our Premier that we

should be kicking our own Federal Government and telling them to get off their duff - and I'm quoting the Governor - to get down to Washington and make their views known so that this issue could be resolved at the higher plane; and that Shamrock Conference that our Prime Minister and the President of the United States joined hands in and said that the borders will be open, will in fact materialize, Sir.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Speaker, the government is obviously patently unaware that there are greater political forces at work on this whole issue.

The main problem is the consideration of stabilization versus subsidy. I ask the Minister, what direct representation the Government of Manitoba is going to be making to the Trade and Commerce Committee of Congress July 22nd in concert with the Federal Government to see removed the restrictions that are in place so as to allow the free entry of Canadian beef and pork into the U.S. market?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Honourable Member for Morris raised the question of stabilization but of greater concern to members on that side, because it's their Federal Government, their colleagues in Ottawa who have pushed through an amendment to allow for top loading, after making statements that top loading would not be allowed and, in fact, criticizing provincial programs as being part of the cause of the ban and the extra duties in the United States. Talk about support and flip-flopping at the federal level on stabilization.

Mr. Speaker, we attempted to attend the International Trade Commission hearings but because the province was not a signatory to the brief that was presented to them by the Canadian Pork Council, even though we assisted them since 1984 in preparing those submissions, we by the very nature of their process were not allowed to appear before that Commission.

Following that denial, Mr. Speaker, this government asked the Centre of Legislative Exchange to set up a high-level meeting between elected representatives of this country and elected representatives from the United States to continue these types of face-to-face talks that we've had the with governors of the United States, to try and get at the root of the problem, because this issue cuts two ways.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Before there are any further questions on this topic, I'm having some difficulty in understanding why foreign trade is within the administrative jurisdiction of this government.

Deer Lodge Hospital - contingency plans

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Health. My question to the Minister: is he satisfied that contingency plans at Deer Lodge Hospital are sufficient to ensure patient care in the event of a strike later on this week?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I've been in contact with the administrator and the officials of the Manitoba Health

Services Commission and I expect a report. I'm not fully satisfied; there are questions that I posed that would have to be asked and I expect to hear later on this afternoon.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, it's a little difficult to know whether the Minister can answer this, but I would pose the question to him, whether contingency plans include not only the bringing in of additional casual help at Deer Lodge but, in addition, the utilization of any spare bed capacity, if any exists in the hospitals in the City of Winnipeg?

Do the contingency plans include the utilization of any space in hospitals in Winnipeg as well for the patients?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The ideal thing probably would be a combination of both; certain patients should not be moved and others can be more readily moved and this is the information that I'm expecting.

Deer Lodge Hospital - status of pharmacy personnel

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether the pharmacy staff at Deer Lodge are part of the Public Service Alliance Agreement or whether they are outside of that agreement?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm not going to guess at that; I'll have to take that as notice. I'm not too sure.

Versatile Manufacturing - possible shutdown

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I direct a question to the Minister of Labour and would ask him if his department has received notification from Versatile Farm Equipment that they will be closing down their production facility for some five months?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I recall receiving correspondence from Versatile indicating that there would be some layoff of staff because of a reduction in sales of farm equipment, and that of course is consistent with the difficulty that farm equipment dealers and manufacturers have experienced for many years in Western Canada because of the inadequate initiatives on the part of successive Federal Governments, both Liberal and Conservative, that have failed the farm industry in Western Canada.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, did the same Minister, since Versatile is a major employer in this province and employees many people, would he care to clarify his statement that some employees were laid off? Could he tell us how many employees will be laid off?

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take as notice the question as to the specific numbers.

Because as the honourable members know, the legislation provides for notice where there is a unit of employees going to be laid off in excess of fifty. I don't know, I don't recall the numbers, if they give specific numbers in the letter; I will take that part of the question as notice.

But I want to put on record my concern, that we have problems in Western Canada in marketing western Canadian agricultural products. Opponents, I say opponents, Mr. Speaker, those members in the opposition, pay only lip service to the products of farmers in this country. They are apologists for the Federal Government that has got . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please. The answer to a question should not be a speech.

The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was trying to solicit some information, Mr. Speaker, from this Minister and obviously he has a way of performing like some rodent when trapped in a corner. I want to ask that since this is a major employer in this province, is he trying to tell us that he doesn't know if there's going to be 6, 7, 8 or 800 people laid off at Versatile, that he has not contacted Versatile to talk about this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

The knowledge of a Minister is not a suitable topic for questions. Does the honourable member have a question seeking information?

The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform the House as to how many people are going to be laid off at Versatile for the five- or six-month period where they will be closing down their whole assembly line?

HON. A. MACKLING: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member does not listen when answers are given. I indicated that I would take as notice the specifics of the numbers — (Interjection) — because I don't . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: The Honourable Member for Pembina continues to chatter from his seat, Mr. Speaker, and I want it to be put on record that he is a failure when it comes to protecting the farmers and the farm interests in his constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the precise figures before me. I've taken as notice; I will give the honourable member those answers.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Genstar, re cement - actual tenders

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Minister of Culture.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier in question period, I had taken some notices with regard to the awarding of tender contracts for Manitoba Hydro and the cement contract. There was a document tabled by the Member for Lakeside with respect to one of the tenderers and he had tabled the document from Canada Cement that showed a tender price of 19,956,000, that includes cement and transportation but does not include sales tax; a similar figure for Genstar which show a figure of \$20,701,000.00. When one adds the sales tax of 6 percent to both of those, the tenders as submitted were for Canada Cement \$21,587,406, for Genstar \$22,312,012, which is a difference of \$724,606, which is approximately the \$700,000 that was previously reported.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, my further question to the Minister on that matter is can he inform the members of the House and the people of Manitoba whether that additional amount of \$720,000 will be absorbed by the ratepayers of Manitoba Hydro or whether that will come out of the Jobs Fund and the taxpayers of Manitoba?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The awarding of that contract was made by the Manitoba Hydro Board and will be as part of the total costs of the project.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, earlier this Session in committee on Manitoba Hydro, the Public Utilities Committee, the chairman of Manitoba Hydro said that where there was a differential absorbed as a result of taking a preference for local input, local production, that extra amount of money would come out of the Jobs Fund, not out of the ratepayers of Manitoba Hydro. Why has that now been changed?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Is the member suggesting where the difference is as close as it was in this case and the benefits to Manitoba by the awarding of the contract by Manitoba Hydro to a company that is going to ensure much more significant benefits to the Province of Manitoba both in the short term and and the long term, is he suggesting that Manitoba Hydro should, as a result of the awarding of the contract under these circumstances, cause a plant in Manitoba to close and throw Manitobans out of work for the short and long term? Is that what he is suggesting?

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not asking for any plant to be shut down. I'm asking the Minister whether or not they have changed their policy whereby, when they take other than a low bid and there are additional costs for doing so, whether that will be picked up by the Jobs Fund or whether that will be added to the ratepayers of Manitoba Hydro, because that was the information that was given at committee by the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, and it appears as though they have now changed their position.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: As the member is aware, Manitoba Hydro does look at all factors once they are faced with

a decision with respect to tender whose price and whose quality includes delivery and does include the impact that the awarding of those contracts will have on the economy of the province. It was something that has been a practice for some time with Manitoba Hydro, and one that they are ensuring is going to work for the benefit of Manitobans.

So I think that Manitoba Hydro has operated properly in this case to ensure that they do get a good price and do ensure that there are maximum benefits to the people of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SECOND READING

BILL 70 - THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION ACT; LA LOI SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DU CRÉDIT AGRICOLE

HON. L. DESJARDINS presented, by leave, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Bill No. 70, An Act to amend The Agricultural Credit Corporation Act; Loi modifiant la loi sur la société du crédit agricole, for Second Reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: The bill is standing in my name as adjourned at the unilingual stage of the bill, and I would just ask leave to have that matter stand that way on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: The bill will then stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.
The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, before calling the Supply Motion, I understand there might be an inclination to dispense with the Private Members' Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there leave to dispense with Private Members' Hour today?
Leave has been granted.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Education; and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Community Services.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order. We are on Item No. 3.(d)(3) Programs: Financial Assistance; 3.(d)(4) External Agencies - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, yesterday the Member for Kirkfield Park was asking some questions on the Manitoba Developmental Centre, and it was agreed that we were going to revert back to that particular item once that information was available. I wonder, could we clean up (c) before we proceed with Financial Assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, we had expected to be able to hand out that information right at the beginning. There is a slight delay in our staff arriving, the ones that have the material. So if we could proceed and then revert when they arrive, I will deal with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

MR. A. BROWN: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed.
The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I had a few questions about the residents at home in the section that we are dealing with, Programs, I guess it is.

How is it working for the residents at home? What I am thinking of are the older people that have a mental disability. What is happening with them as their parents get older and their families get older? I know that's a worry always for families. What happens there? Is there any movement to try and work these residents, or these people, I should say, into a group home setting or just what happens with these people?

HON. M. SMITH: In the Welcome Home Program we are identifying a virtually matching number of people at risk in the community, and the new thrusts in the variety of residential settings and day activity have not exactly equal numbers region by region, but overall equal numbers of people coming from the at-risk group in the community and from the institutions.

In the past we never had a real inventory of all the people at risk. We had, I guess, a listing of people who had contacted mental retardation workers in the community, but we didn't have a more comprehensive list. Now we are coming closer to having a complete listing of people living at home, at risk of institutionalization, and in need of respite care, or whatever, and the planning has put increasing resources into helping their families keep them at home in some instances; in others, setting up supervised apartment living or group homes.

So, in a sense, we are attempting to deal with both that problem of the at-risk population and with the downsizing of the institutional care at the same time. So it's an integrated approach and the identification of people is done at the local level, then the residential programming and the day activity is based on their needs. Now some of them maybe, if they get a

respite care in the home, they can manage there for a little longer. But then they're under someone's scrutiny and should the time come that they'll need a residential placement in the community, we would have advance knowledge and the planning could be in place. Our intention is to plan for both groups of people simultaneously.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: About how many - and I'm thinking of the City of Winnipeg in particular - how many people are they putting in one group home? I am particularly thinking about zoning problems. Are they gearing it more to four, or exactly how many people are they trying to put in a home?

HON. M. SMITH: Our maximum is six. There might be a few exceptions, but that's what we're targeting at. The existing grouping has fours, fives, sixes and eights. Sorry, that's in Winnipeg. Throughout the province, there are some that go as high as 10, 12 and even 16. But we've found that since what we're aiming at is a more personalized home-like setting, that the smaller unit, given both the economics and the quality of care, that six is the optimum. Now we state there are many that are scaled down, of course and supervised apartment living or foster placement could be for ones or twos or threes.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many people are in the community in group home settings that need one-on-one care?

HON. M. SMITH: I don't have that level of detail. There are 340 currently throughout the province in the community residential setting, and those places are all somewhat differently staffed, depending on level of care. There's five levels of need.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is there care being given outside of the institutional care that is one-on-one?

HON. M. SMITH: There are a few, particularly children, who are cared for in a foster placement that's virtually a one-on-one arrangement.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I was specifically asking if there were any group homes where they would have one staff, say, for one person, if there are any homes in that category.

HON. M. SMITH: The normal pattern would not be one-on-one but where we have a multiply-handicapped child and or a behaviourally difficult youngster, we can arrange - we have a flexible allocation of resource - we can arrange for a one-on-one support.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if the Minister could tell us who is looking for the group homes. Is it both the department and the people from the CMR who are setting up the homes?

HON. M. SMITH: There is a variety of people and groups involved. In the Welcome Home Program, the local teams were to be inclusive of any advocacy groups or parent or community groups who wish to be involved and that persists.

Normally they would do more of the scouting around and the development work, but the staff are there to co-operate in the process. It would vary a little from area to area, but there is a lot of local initiative.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I'm interested in knowing some of the costs that the government incurs with respect to the different sorts of care that are provided for handicapped people. Could the Minister give me the rates that are paid for individual people of the same classification, paid to a private operator and to a community-based resident? Could she give us some indication of how those costs compare to the institutional costs of where the handicapped people have been staying up to that point?

HON. M. SMITH: We did go through that the other day, the per diems in the institution, and I gave the averages and the range of per diems in the community residential care. Just to summarize quickly, the five levels of care in the community residences, the average was \$21; it is now \$30.00. The range when it was 21 was from 15 up to almost 60. The new range goes from 23 up to 65, but that is just for the residential portion of the program. There must also be a day activity planned and there is a respite service amount, behaviour management and some planning money and so on, so that these per diems are not strictly speaking comparable to the institutional ones where the total package of this program was delivered.

Here are the institutional ones again; we did go through this in some detail. Development centres around \$67, Pelican Lake around \$70, and St. Amant \$101.00.

MR. B. RANSOM: If the details are on the record, that's fine, Mr. Chairman.

HON. M. SMITH: . . . side on the Welcome Home Project, but I guess it is a question of scarce resources and trying to phase them in. What we have had in the system has not been an equitable allocation of resource. We've had an almost non-system where different residences, different institutions have over time negotiated very diverse patterns of funding. What we are trying to achieve . . . — (Inaudible)—

MR. B. RANSOM: . . . — (Inaudible) — when we have two separate committees running at the same time, it is not possible to be both places at the same time. Can the Minister tell me then whether the payment that would be made to a private individual is the same level of payment that would be made to a community-based resident for the same level of care, the same level of person who is being looked after?

HON. M. SMITH: Apart from the institutional rates, the payments for the service in the community, however you label a residence, is the same - five levels. There is a level of need; there is a basic per diem rate for all five levels. All five levels receive a basic 23.63; there is a capital cost per diem allowance up to 7.72; and then there are additional rates that cover the additional

costs of higher levels. There is another 8.39 for level 2; 16.78 for level 3; 25.17 for level 4; and 33.56 for level 5.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I say if the information is on the record, that's fine. I just wanted the Minister's assurance that the rates are the same then that are being paid to a private operator or to a community-based operator. I gather that she is telling me they are the same.

HON. M. SMITH: The new rate structure is in place for any people being newly accommodated under the Welcome Home Program, both at-risk people from the community and people coming out of institutions. The groups that were out there before have another pattern, but by next year will have caught up and been phased into the same rate structure. It was felt that we couldn't move the entire system up at quite in lock steps, so we are doing it in a two-step process, but there is no difference in this type of program between, as you call them, the private and the community based. There is a difference though between them and the institutional care.

MR. B. RANSOM: But presently, as of today, there is a difference then between what the private operator would get and what a community-based operator would get?

HON. M. SMITH: No, the only difference is between the groups which were out there and functioning before the residences and new ones coming on stream. So, in a sense, the new ones are getting a little bit extra in the start-up stage. All of them are at the base level of 23.63, but their increments for higher levels of care won't catch up until next year. There is no difference between the categories that you named.

MR. B. RANSOM: How can the Minister justify paying a higher rate to the newly established ones, as opposed to the ones that were established before?

HON. M. SMITH: Some recognition of the cost of starting up, and I guess a bit of an incentive side on the Welcome Home project, but where different residences, different institutions have, over time, negotiated very diverse patterns of funding. And what we're trying to achieve is an equitable and rationalized system of support, but in the process of getting it from an ad hoc system to a rational and equitable one we felt we had to phase the change.

MR. B. RANSOM: The Minister made reference to her recognition of the startup costs, and I would like to ask the Minister then, specifically . . .

HON. M. SMITH: I am trying to clarify, I may not have got the history of the funding in this area quite separated. It's partly because there's been so many different categories and no overall planning.

Our new rates and program, we're giving priority to people living out of institutions and at risk people in the community who need a stabilized location.

There were already out there a great many private boarding guest homes. Now these were for mentally

retarded adults, people who were post-mentally ill, and elderly people, and they were under the social allowance regulation schedule where people were getting around \$350 to \$500 per month.

The Welcome Home Program is trying to co-ordinate the overall M.R. program and there was a fair bit of overlap with those other programs existing out there in the private guest homes. Again, their money allocation was based on the social allowance rates, not by our special support for mentally retarded.

MR. B. RANSOM: What will it be based on now under the new programming?

HON. M. SMITH: . . . process by which people are admitted to it and the rates will be based on the level of need of the individual, not on the home or the institution. So, in a sense, the money will go with the needy person.

MR. B. RANSOM: Well, will that be assigned so much to a category, to one of these five areas, or will it vary within the levels?

HON. M. SMITH: The five levels.

MR. B. RANSOM: And then it won't matter where that person is staying, then; whether they are in a community-based residence, or whether they are in a private guest home, as the Minister refers to the, they will be the same.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, the person who has been panelled and his need has been identified will, in a sense, have the dollars attached to them, and then they will be placed according to the choice of their immediate family and social worker.

So it's not a guarantee to the proprietor of a home, it's an attachment of monies to the disabled person. There's the five levels of need. There's also a capital cost allowance that goes up to 772 which would depend on the situation of the individual home.

MR. B. RANSOM: Well then who will negotiate on behalf of the resident as to how much of that money that goes with them, will be then paid to the operator of the residence, the private operator of the community-based one.

HON. M. SMITH: If the M.R. field worker, working with the family, wishes to be involved. The new rate structure is in place for any people being newly accommodated under the Welcome Home Program, both adverse people from the community and people coming out of institutions.

The groups that were out there before have another pattern.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, earlier the Minister made reference to recognition of capital start-up costs. As the Minister knows I have a constituent who runs a home and who had invested some \$40,000 in expanding the facilities from her operation and met the necessary physical requirements and she was very highly recommended by the workers in the field, but

has not been able to get any additional residents to make use of that space generated by a \$40,000 debt. Does the Minister plan to recognize that investment and either go along with the recommendations of the field workers, or will she consider it a compensation to my constituent for the fact that she made the \$40,000 investment based upon assurances that she was given?

HON. M. SMITH: That the particular person that we were talking about was proceeding prior to the Welcome Home Program and the local teams. The staff have met with her and we intend to meet again to see if something can be worked out. I guess there's several factors here.

I referred not to a capital investment allowance, but to a capital cost allowance which is in a sense, would be the person's share of the amortization cost that would go with their per diem, not a based capital amount initially.

In this case, one of the problems has been that the residential system has developed in a rather ad hoc way and there hasn't been integrated planning for the day activity of the person and what the new criteria which have been developed by the Central Planning Committee, the Provincial Committee and the Regional Committees has been that, before people are placed there must be a plan that is inclusive of both residential care and day activity, so that we don't run into some of the problems that were encountered in the early '70s when the post mentally ill or even the mentally ill whose condition was stabilized with drug treatment and so on, were moved out of institutions.

There was no planning for what they would do during the day or how they would be monitored, or how emergency situations would be dealt with and that sort of move out of institutions acquired a bit of a bad name in many areas. We don't want to have this particular thrust beset with those problems, so we are requiring a co-ordinated plan.

Now, in this case, we have been dialoguing back and forth with this particular constituent, and we will continue to do so. She was in fact offered a day program which would use her whole facility but doesn't want it. There is no program in that area that meets the needs of the people in the residence. Now we will continue to negotiate with that person.

It's difficult trying to bring a particular case in - we can talk about that further at another time - but the policy, what we are trying to get to, is where there is coherent planning for the 24 hours and the whole range of needs of the individual before we place them. That's the residential care and their day activity, what we do if there is behavioural problems, respite care, transportation and so on.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I have tried to mention this to the Minister a number of times privately and nothing seems to have moved; therefore, I am taking the opportunity to ask the Minister some questions here because this is a situation where my constituent appears to be caught in the middle of the government's changes in policy.

She runs a home and provides care that has an extremely high recommendation from field workers, and I have personally been there myself and seen it. She

is in the situation where, because of the relatively small amount of money that is paid, that eight residents is not a large enough base to be able to generate the revenue to provide the programs that the Minister would like to see and that my constituent would be prepared to provide. She's caught in a situation where she doesn't have enough money; she is not a big enough operation at the moment to be able to provide the kinds of things that the government would like; but yet, on the other hand, she had every reason to believe that she would receive the approval for additional residents and proceeded to make a \$40,000 investment to expand her facilities.

I think that the Minister or the government has some obligation here either to grant her request for additional residents or to compensate her for the capital investment that she made in good faith based upon what she was told by people in the government, both people who are responsible for assessing the physical quality and by the field care workers.

HON. M. SMITH: We have in fact had staff meet with her and follow through after the member raised the issue with me and have in fact made an offer. Now, I guess when a policy shift is going on there is always going to be people who in a sense may find that they straddle what were the old rules and what are the new rules.

The reason we got started on the whole problem was that there were a lot of at-risk people out there who didn't have full planning, and there was fear, and I think justifiable fear, that if we moved people out of institutions without planning for their day activity that we could be considered irresponsible. So it's a question of negotiating with the local group and with the person, the individual who has made that investment, to see what the most satisfactory solution will be.

I have an appointment set up with her. The staff have been spending quite a bit of time trying to work something out. The rates that we have set, we have 47 residences that are functioning, we have day activity rates above and beyond that, so I think we have some experience that backs up the validity of the rates that we are offering. There are also additional day program rates. So we think there is still a fair bit of room for negotiation, and we have undertaken and will undertake to continue to see if we can arrive at a solution that's both satisfactory to this person and to our department.

MR. B. RANSOM: Well, I would hope that could be done, Mr. Chairman, because I recognize that the Minister is concerned and the department is concerned for the residents who are involved, but I do think that there is an obligation on the part of the government because of what this person did in good faith, that she was operating according to the guidelines that were previously in place. So I just urge the Minister to take that into consideration as well as the other factors that she has mentioned.

Has the Minister discussed the respite program?

HON. M. SMITH: I think we did discuss it at some length last night. If you had any particular questions . . .

MR. B. RANSOM: Well, will it operate in the same way for privately-run institutions as it will for community-run ones or not?

HON. M. SMITH: Respite basically is given to families who are caring for their disabled relatives at home and either they get a temporary homemaker, live-in help, or are able to place the person for a time so they can get a break or take a holiday.

We had a relatively small respite program before because of the traditional pattern that where family or extended family cared for someone, there was no public money; where they went completely into an institutional setting, then there was quite a lot of public money. We are trying to make resources available in a more flexible way. We have increased the budgetary amount from 173.2 to 630.2, and allocated portions of that to the regions, but the precise criteria are being worked out.

It's our belief that we should extend that steadily because we think it's the best support system to the family, the best preventive of breakdown way to spend the money, but we can't quickly get from a situation where there was this sort of non-support of the family versus heavy support for institutional care. We can't make a complete transition in one year. For one reason, it's a bit of an open-ended expenditure because we don't know how high the demand is. Experience in other jurisdictions would seem to indicate that people handle that type of service very responsibly, but it's a question of we have expanded it quite significantly and intend to continue to do so.

The group homes or private guest homes usually provide their own respite because of the rates that they are paid, therefore, adequate staffing. It's by staggering your staffing and so on that you achieve respite. It's the families who are caring for their disabled relatives at home that really are in need of respite.

Foster care would qualify, though, a foster parent; a foster family would qualify for respite.

MR. B. RANSOM: The assumption will be then that for a private guest home that the basic rates will be sufficient to allow the operator of the home to hire someone on their own.

But it is my understanding though from the previous discussion that the rates have not been the same for the private operators as they have for some of the group homes where they have been able to hire people who do that. Will any difference be eliminated within the next few months? Can the Minister tell us by what point in time any difference will be eliminated?

HON. M. SMITH: I think the confusion is arising out of the fact that there is quite a lot of care for disabled adults and elderly people going on with very heavy involvement of private guest homes. The clientele that we're dealing with, the mentally disabled adults, are really a somewhat different population. There is a little overlap, but most of these people have a more severe disability and are panelled under the M.R., the mental retardation law.

The other people are, for financial reasons, under the social allowance regulations. It is through that system that most of the private guest homes are receiving their amounts. I don't think now is the time for me to comment on the adequacy or not of those.

But, under the mental retardation homes, as I say, we have 47 of them currently in operation, so we have some experience in terms of the adequacy of the per diems. It is not flush, but it is workable.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if the Minister misunderstood, or I didn't make it plain. All of my questions have been concerning mentally retarded people. I have both privately-run homes in my constituency as well as community-run homes. I would like the Minister to tell me then for a home that was in operation a year ago - one is a privately-run home and one is a community-home. Both have the same levels of mentally retarded people. Do they receive the same compensation for looking after them?

HON. M. SMITH: If they have been set up and are known to our system, they should be receiving the same level. If there's a discrepancy there, then it's a carry-over from a rather disorganized system that has been in existence. If the member has any information for us that could help us sort it out in greater detail we'll undertake to do that. But if they are dealing with our system with mentally retarded people that have gone the same way through the public system, in terms of identification and qualification for support, then there shouldn't be any difference in the rates paid because of the auspices of the home.

MR. B. RANSOM: One last question then dealing with mileage that's paid to the operators of homes to take residents to the doctor and that sort of thing, what rates are paid now? Are they the same rates that are paid to a private individual as, again, would be paid to the community-based operations?

HON. M. SMITH: If the home is operating with people who are receiving social allowance, then if they qualify for special trips to the doctor or such like under that system, as far as we understand, anyone who is looking after them would be entitled to the same payments. I guess it's remotely possible that there is one of your homes that is operating under social allowance system and another under ours, and no one has spotted that discrepancy. But, as I say, if that's the case, we're working to identify all the population out there and see that they're on equitable and similar funding. So if there is a discrepancy, we'd like to know about it and look into it to see if we can work it through.

MR. B. RANSOM: Can I ask the Minister then, people operating under her program, how much do they get paid for mileage?

HON. M. SMITH: Almost all the adult mentally disabled people are on social allowance. There would be just a handful of people who have private means of some sort, so they would qualify the same way any social allowance person would. If there are extra amounts for special needs, transportation, health or whatever, they would qualify under that. So that would come under the Employment Services and Economic Security Department.

MR. B. RANSOM: What is that rate then? Is the Minister aware of what that rate is and who sets it?

HON. M. SMITH: The Economic Security Department would be responsible for that. There is such a thing as special social allowance. An ordinary recipient of

social allowance would get their basic living costs and health insurance and transportation according to certain criteria. The special group of recipients also are entitled to a board and room and supervision allowance, which is what would be allowed for our people. In other words, the total amount allocated from the public purse for them would be higher than for the average social allowance recipient. Of that, they receive some small portion for their own use, and the other goes to the board, room and supervision, the expenditure that we make.

Now, in terms of comparable amounts for transportation, that would be negotiated, I guess, the way the social allowance system looks at the actual cost and the actual need. We would cover the transportation by a contract for day activity programs, part of our area of responsibility.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, again, I'm going by the situation of one my constituents who operates homes that look after mostly retarded adults. She gets, as I understand it, 13 cents a kilometre to take individuals to see the doctor, for example. Now a civil servant or a member of the Legislature is going to get paid starting around 26 cents a kilometre. What justification would there be to provide such a low level of compensation to someone who is transporting mentally retarded people to get health care, for example?

HON. M. SMITH: Those rates would come under the other department. I've noted the difference and will look into it but it's not, strictly speaking, under our

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which department is this?

HON. M. SMITH: Employment Services and Economic Security.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(3) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Could the Minister explain what forms of financial assistance are referred to in this item?

HON. M. SMITH: Community residences - do you want to have the amounts that are allocated in the change?

MR. C. BIRT: Please.

HON. M. SMITH: All right. It has moved from last year, \$2,636,800 to \$3,365,100.00. The total increase of \$728,300, \$428,300 is for increased numbers of residential spaces and \$300,000 for capital costs. Now they are paid by being added to the per diem to help defray the amortization.

I read all of these yesterday, so they will be in the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point repeating it now.

HON. M. SMITH: I can read the titles, perhaps, if you want.

The training in residences; the maintenance of mentally retarded in the community; adult day program;

supervised department living; respite care; child development; fee for services; subsistence allowance; transportation; vocational training; field services; plus an additional \$1,350,000 for the Welcome Home to assist in the de-institutionalization. It is not allocated as yet. It is there to assist with the special needs of individuals.

MR. C. BIRT: The \$1.3 million increase that the Minister is referring to for the Welcome Home, I notice in the letter that was put out by the Minister that there was a daily rate increase. Is that to cover the increase? I think it moves from \$6.63 to \$8 a day.

HON. M. SMITH: That is for the adult day program - vocational.

MR. C. BIRT: The question really is: is it increasing of rates or is it for brand new financial services?

HON. M. SMITH: Both.

MR. C. BIRT: Could we have the breakdown?

HON. M. SMITH: We're into the external agency section. There are 25 day program activity centres currently operating, and they are run by local community boards. The 1984-85 rate was \$6.80 per day; it is going up to \$8 per day for this year. The day activity centres which are assessed as providing adequate service to the new de-institutionalized clients and at-risk clients will receive \$10 per day, and all the existing ones that will currently be at \$8 will be undergoing assessment during the year to see that their program meets the needs of the individuals. When that assessment is complete, they will move into the \$10 per diem as well. It is an attempt to get the total day activity program both better funded and the services better targeted to the needs of the individuals.

MR. C. BIRT: So the \$1.3 million is really going for the increasing of rates to the recipients. I thought the Minister had said some would be to increasing of rates, but some would be for a new financial assistance program.

HON. M. SMITH: The increases that I gave in each of the subcomponents of this is the increase for people already in the system. The block amount that is under the Welcome Home, the \$1,350,000 is the increase that will be attributed to the de-institutionalized people moving into the system.

MR. C. BIRT: Is that the \$10 a day rate?

HON. M. SMITH: If the program is assessed as being adequate to meet their need, yes.

MR. C. BIRT: There is approximately a 40 percent increase in financial assistance between the costs of last year and the estimated costs for this year. But the question will be: is this really a 40 percent increase or is it consolidation of certain programs? Because, when looking at the Estimates of last year, I know there are one or two departments have been either eliminated

or merged, and I want to know whether this is a true increase or is it just the reflecting of the merging of one or two operations?

HON. M. SMITH: It is substantially an increase allocation to the mentally retarded community. It is not just a simple consolidation from other line items.

MR. C. BIRT: Of the increase, how much is going to the physically disabled?

HON. M. SMITH: There is a very small percentage. Again, we're dealing, I guess, with the state of the art in that there has never been a coherent, comprehensive planning for the different disability groups. By an ad hoc method of development, there has been overlap in the vocational training. Sometimes, there is post-mentally ill involved; sometimes there is physically disabled. We can't give you the precise numbers. We do make special grants to the Society for Crippled Children and to some services for the deaf and hard of hearing but, by far, the bulk of this money is for the mentally disabled.

In time, we may both be able to break it out more in terms of the different need groups, at the same time as we would move toward generic service where, if there's vocational training needs we would place people according to their need rather than their disability label. But there is quite a long way to go before we arrive at that.

MR. C. BIRT: Is the Minister indicating that they do not have any program or policy in place to study the physically handicapped aspect, and it's still being run, I think in the Minister's words, in a rather chaotic state?

HON. M. SMITH: I'm not going to take personal responsibility for the history of 20 years of government. Most programs dealing with needy people in the community were done originally by the family, then by volunteer groups, eventually through things like United Way and eventually public funding. The previous regime divided up Health and Community Services and, for whatever reasons seemed persuasive at the time, left prime responsibility for the disabled with Health. But the prime program became a health program.

Now there is some interlock with our department and we certainly get requests for all the unmet needs of a great many disability groups. So what we are trying to do is identify the gaps and the overlaps and chart a longer-term course, so that in fact we will have a similar, comprehensive planning program in co-operation with the communities and the volunteer sector, so that an individual person with a particular disability can, in fact, from childhood on through adult life, get their range of needs met.

We have been starting to develop that co-ordinated approach for the elderly, for the physically disabled, through our Social Resources Committee which tries to co-ordinate the work of the social program departments. But again, the past pattern has had a lot of gaps. It was mainly a sort of a reactive system that provided for the most pressing need when people came forward. It wasn't a comprehensive planning process and it's going to take a while, particularly at a time

when public monies are difficult to find, to move into that mode. I am very proud to be part of a government that has made this type of increased commitment to the mentally disabled members of the community at such a time.

Again, I think it's a prudent way to go at the problem because, if you deal with these problems in a comprehensive way before you've got a lot of emergencies, you can usually make better judgments and get more effective and economically efficient modes of service delivery. So I guess what you're seeing happening with the mentally disabled, we may in time be able to accomplish for some of the other disability groups.

MR. C. BIRT: What is the Minister's department doing now in the way of comprehensive planning to develop a program for the physically disabled?

HON. M. SMITH: By identifying the problem and working with other Ministers through the Social Resource Committee to identify where the difficulties are. The physically disabled, by and large, don't have mental disability problems, so if they get the basic health care and access to buildings and so on, they're usually able to integrate into the regular education employment training, employment world, so their problems are significantly different.

We, of course, do get some people who have severe physical disabilities and also a mental disability, so in a sense they're the people who are presenting the greatest need and have a good claim to high priority in the planning.

There is a great deal being done in the way of self-help by the physically disabled, as they have become more organized and more aware of their needs. I think, gradually they are modifying the transportation systems, the building codes, the educational programs and employment vocations so that, in a way, a lot of their needs are being met by virtue of their own ability to influence policy.

But we have flagged the problem. We have been inventorying what's there and what isn't there, so we have been taking initiatives in that regard but it's a longer-term process.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister indicated that the department is identifying the problem. I would like to know how, by what method the department is identifying the problem.

HON. M. SMITH: Well, in our own planning of services and, when we are approached by different groups, the hard of hearing, the blind, the League for the Physically Handicapped and so on, we listen very attentively to what their perceived needs are. Also, in working with my colleagues through the Treasury Board, Estimates process, Social Resource Committee and our overall government planning, we are identifying these problems and developing an approach to them. But it's an interdepartmental process and it's also very co-operative with the communities out there.

The mentally disabled though seem to be the group that, because again they have more difficulty speaking for themselves, had presented the most complex and

pressing demand for assistance. The physically disabled has been a very well-developed community agency such as the Society for Crippled Children and Adults. I'm not sure if they've changed their title. I can't quite keep up to the name changes, but they have played a much more comprehensive role in meeting the needs of that client population, and have received quite a lot of public funding through the years to do that. So in a sense, that system has been more fully developed without government direct involvement.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the Minister has anyone under contract or on staff who's direct responsibility is to identify and co-ordinate this problem, because has used the word that we are identifying this and will be producing a comprehensive plan for it. Then I get an answer and exactly what that means is that we're planning for services as we get approached by the self-help groups and I get information from my other colleagues.

That, to my way of thinking, is not really any sort of planning or any co-ordinated action in trying to identify and establish policies for the specific area of potential recipients. I would like to know whether or not there is anyone specifically charged, or any group specifically charged, that is paid for by this government that is developing something in this area.

HON. M. SMITH: One of the problems that has faced government was the breakup of the two departments under the Conservative Government, where the lead responsibility for the disabled and the elderly has been on the Health side. We have had other groupings in the Community Service side.

However, we have been working co-operatively with those other departments, but I think again because of that division of responsibility, that Health would be the more appropriate department. We have been responding to some of the emerging needs; there's 130,000 been going to the Independent Interpreter Referral Service to enable the deaf and hard of hearing to integrate more readily, access services and become more part of the community.

There's a large funding that goes through the SCCA, Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and we work them. We currently have a co-operative study program going on with them to work out the best mix of integrated programs for the disabled in day care and special programs required at the SCCA in trying to develop criteria and a decision-making process so that the needs of the youngsters can be met.

We do fund premier personnel, a group that on a fee for service basis, that's a group that's been seeking out employment for disabled people. We have almost \$1 million, \$941.2 to the CNIB, and we've committed ourselves in the department to gradually move to the more generic approach as we plan for a NEED's group at the same time we try to have our sights set on how we can integrate disability groups into the general program service. For example, we meet with housing and they are now putting some of their funding into providing special housing for the physically disabled.

So there's a lot of interdepartmental activity in the government and Social Resource Committee will be the locus for that type of planning in the future. What

we intend to do is alert the different departments to the specific needs raised by these groups, to urge them to develop their programs for them and in time, I think a co-ordinated approach should occur. But quite frankly, government seems to have in the past generally assumed the role of just reacting to requests for funding and not seen its role as developing a planned approach. We have conscientiously been building up the planning capacity in government since we've been in, but it's a very big job to do when one starts from the situation that we've found the department services in and it'll take time to build up.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As the problem arose from the division of Community Services from the Health Department, why hasn't it been recommended by this Minister that the two be merged so that the problems alluded to by the Minister could be resolved?

HON. M. SMITH: Because of the size of the departments, we've elected to work through the co-ordinating committee and Social Resource Committee and we have quite frequent contact. We've been working in a period of time when the awareness of people to get their needs met and their expectation to get a fair share of resources, has coincided with an extremely difficult economic and fiscal situation.

We may face an even more extreme situation in the years to come if the Canada Assistance Plan funds are cut back as has been announced as a probable development from the Federal Government, and quite frankly we're prepared to keep working to get a fair share of the community resources for people with special needs and we would welcome that kind of support from the opposition because I think we all want to live in a type of community where, in good times or bad, we still share appropriately with these particular groups.

MR. C. BIRT: The Provincial Government got an additional \$55 million last year from the Federal Government and \$65 million from the Federal Government in this fiscal year, what portion of those additional funds have been allocated to this department by the Provincial Government?

HON. M. SMITH: The Provincial Government got 50 out of a cut of 72; there was a \$25 million to \$35 million cut in the third quarter of tax monies rebated from the Federal Government, admittedly by a decision made by the previous government to have a tax exemption for R and D investments and cut the sharable monies available and it was one of the few years where we had a fourth quarter announcement of reduced revenue from the earlier projected figure from the Federal Government. That is the overall situation with which we've been working.

At the same time, there are volume increases occurring in many programs, particularly in the health field, and trying to work out the appropriate balance it has been very difficult. But I say in the light of that, to have achieved a commitment of the size that we have for the mentally disabled, I think, it's an indication of the government's commitment to see that the vulnerable people do get a fair share of what we have.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, in the fiscal arrangements between the transfer of funds between the Federal and Provincial Governments have been in place for some five years and I believe we're in the fourth and fifth year of that agreement. I believe the Minister's inaccurate when she says it was a shortfall of \$75 million, because the law of the land indicates the amount of money the Provincial Government was to get and as a result of some assistance from the opposition, an additional \$55 million was granted to the province for last year and an additional \$65 million was granted this year that the province was not entitled to receive. What percentage of those funds have been added to these Estimates?

HON. M. SMITH: I must remind the member that his memory is short. The formula for equalization and established program funding was changed without the provincial agreement in the early months of 1982.

The formula shifted from an all-province averaging to a five-province averaging to get around the possible - it now seems almost like a rosy dream from the past - but the possible situation of Alberta oil revenues putting that province into the situation of having to look after the rest of the nine provinces because the revenue projections were just so astronomical relative to what other provinces were experiencing.

It was the shift to that five-province formula that severely impacted the funding that was to come to Manitoba and we negotiated some type of adjustment, but it's been an argument over the fairness in the amount of that adjustment figure that led to the debate over the \$72 million.

Again, the decision to rebate around \$50 million of that \$72 million was appreciated, but it didn't help to compensate for the other shortfall, plus the tax shortfall. So again that was the context within which we were working.

I think the overall budget in this department is up over 5.7 percent. I think the additional federal revenue was around, it might even be under 1 percent, again there were some ups and downs there, but my memory is that our provincial revenues were going up 4 to 4.5 percent and federal was down around 0 to 1, and of course the provincial revenue is a smaller portion of the total. So we have been dealing with a very difficult fiscal situation and still we have been able to allocate monies to this particular group. I think it's going to be a program that we can be very proud of.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I am curious to know if there were problems when the existing department was split off from the Health Department? What was the reason then for transferring out the income security aspects of the program into a separate department? Because, if there were departments on the initial division, it would seem to me that this would compound problems by transferring out the economic security aspect of this department when you are trying to deliver services and also give them financial support at the same time.

HON. M. SMITH: It seems to be generally recognized that it's wise to separate the income security issues of individuals from the provision of social services which are based on different needs.

MR. C. BIRT: I am glad the Minister agrees then that really there were no problems occurring when the Community Services was split off from the Health Department because it allowed a general focus group into supporting services in the community.

I would like to go into the next line of questioning, if I might, dealing with Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(3)—pass.

3.(d)(4) External Agencies - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I read this, there is approximately a \$300,000 increase in the External Agencies, and a list has been supplied. As I read the information that was supplied, there was a Canadian Association for Community Living got an increase of some \$22,000; there is some \$74,000 going as administrative grants to Occupational Activity Centres. I am not sure that this is correct, but it would appear that the Kiwanis Centre for the Deaf is receiving \$75,000, yet received nothing last year? What I am trying to find out is how that \$300,000 has been allocated because there would also appear to be a decrease in the Pelican Lake Training Centre by some \$10,000.00.

HON. M. SMITH: Well, it all adds up. There is \$10,000 less at Pelican; the same at St. Amant; the Kiwanis Centre had a partial-year grant last year and some this year so, in a sense, it was a reallocation internally; ARM was the same; Children's Rehab Centre the same; Counsel and Rehabilitation and Work the same; Skills Unlimited the same; Ten Ten Sinclair the same; Canadian Paraplegic Association the same; Employment Preparation Centre for SCCA the same; SCCA the same; CNIB the same; the Interpreter Referral Service had a partial year last year and \$130,000 this year; OACs - an increase of 74.9 in that area; Winnserv was the same; the Steinbach Development Centre the same; and CACL was up - we have been working with them to develop the community responsiveness to get people involved in the Welcome Home Program.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, just dealing with the first three in the list that was provided to us - the Community Association for Community Living, the Steinbach Development Centre, Winnserv Inc. As I read the information that was supplied, and the knowledge that I have of the Winnserv operation and the Community Living organization, it would appear that they are offering, if not identical, very similar type of services.

I would like to know why the Community Living service received an increase, yet the Steinbach Development Centre did not receive anything, and Winnserv is also not increased?

HON. M. SMITH: There was no increase in the basic grant, it was for special work that they were doing for us in community development, but the direct sustaining grant was the same.

MR. C. BIRT: Can the Minister advise why the basic grant was not increased?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, the overall fiscal situation of the government meant that we had to be very realistic

with people, with external agencies. We have a prime responsibility to maintain the services that are a direct responsibility. Many of these grants to external agencies have been supportive of volunteer groups, but we don't have the prime responsibility for their activities. Many of them raise their own funds; they get grants, some of them through United Way or Consolidated Funds. It's been, I guess, a determination by government that we would maintain them in a difficult year but that we couldn't increase their share.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has advised us that this government has a large commitment to the mental handicapped problem within the province and made specific reference to the amount of money that was being allocated to it, and talked at great length about working in co-operation with the community and volunteer groups and the non-profit organizations. All of those funds for the Provincial Government, for staff, for everything else, has gone up substantially.

Yet here we have three very vital groups who are the most important integral part that will help make the Provincial Government's plan work or fail should they not be there to provide it; yet, in effect, we have the government decreasing the level of support to the community for mental health purposes because, with inflation even at 3 percent, their basic grant will go down. The commitment by the province to education and to health to the external agencies has been at 1 or 2 percent.

I find it difficult to understand why that the Minister is cutting back in these specific areas because they would complement the thrust of what the government has been attempting to do in the community.

HON. M. SMITH: Our allocation of monies has been going to help the very people that these groups have been advocates for, increasing the per diems and making the services available. They were struggling along trying to do a lot on their own, but also many of them have seen themselves as having an advocacy role to get public expenditure for the direct service by government, and that's in fact what they have accomplished.

Again the admin. grants in time when we get a comprehensive approach in place, I think having a finer allocation of you look after planning in this area and we'll do it here and fine tuning the allocation. I would like to be in a situation where we're doing that, but in the past we've often just funded groups without a lot of scrutiny about what they were doing or how it fit into the total system. That's part of the dilemma of going from again a kind of ad hoc system with a lot of gaps into a more comprehensive service delivery stage.

MR. C. BIRT: Is the Minister saying that these organizations are not providing a valuable service to the community, that they are contributing to anything but a coherent policy for delivery of service to the mentally handicapped in the province?

HON. M. SMITH: I'm saying that you don't develop a comprehensive system by just ad hoc supporting of a lot of volunteer groups, because they may work very

intensively in one area and they may leave another area completely untouched. As a government, we have to have some responsibility for trying to spread the service more equitably, establish standards and see what we can in fact afford to support. We've been working hard at developing that type of co-operative approach. There is fine tuning that's needed, but these are the priorities that we've chosen for this year.

MR. C. BIRT: The Minister wants to give an additional \$22,500 on a one-year contract to the Canadian Association of Community Living, to use the phrasing here, "to enhance community receptivity". Why would not the same type of funding be given to the Steinbach Development Centre, because it would seem to me that they would have as many concerns and needs for this type of an assistance as do the organization in Winnipeg?

HON. M. SMITH: The Steinbach Centre is a direct service group that's well-established. They have been happy to see us increase our funding of the direct service. The CACL is a Manitoba-wide group which is doing a lot of public awareness building and sort of has a broader function.

Many of the specific service delivery centres, in fact, have a direct connection with CACL. Steinbach is actually a service branch of CACL, so indirectly they would participate in and benefit from the monies in the program of CACL.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(4) - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could give us a rundown of administrative grants for the occupational activity centres - there seems to be an increase over there - where these increases have occurred.

HON. M. SMITH: The grants are \$10,300 to each of the following: the Winnipeg ARC, St. James Industry, Winesserv, Doray and Norshel; in the Interlake, Arborg, Selkirk and Stonewall; Eastman, Beausejour, St. Malo, Steinbach; Central, Altona, Austin, Notre Dame, Portage, Winkler; Westman, Boissevain, Brandon, Cardale, Neepawa, Virden; Parklands, Dauphin and Swan River; Norman, Flin Flon and Thompson.

MR. A. BROWN: That's a substantial list. I wonder if the Minister could give me a list so that I could see just exactly how much the increases have been or how much each one of these . . .

HON. M. SMITH: The grant is 10,300 to each of those as an admin. grant. The other grants come through fee for service on the per diems for the day activity. Those were the ones I talked about earlier, the \$6 per diem raised to \$8.00. For the newly de-institutionalized persons, a \$10 per diem based on an assessment of adequacy and with intent next year, after a similar assessment, to move all the per diems up to \$10.00.

MR. A. BROWN: Then we go to the independent and interpretory for all service. I wonder if the Minister could

give me some indication as to where this is being used mainly, and what type of interpretation services are we talking about.

HON. M. SMITH: This is a service to the deaf and hard of hearing. It provides these people with access to services, social health and personal services.

MR. A. BROWN: The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, I notice that there is no increase in funding over there yet. Their expenses must be going up. I'm wondering, are we cutting back on the services to the blind, or what's really happening in this particular area? I know that considerable concern has been expressed by this particular group. They are concerned about the fact that there has been no increase in funding.

I wonder, can the Minister tell me, is there a cutback in any of the programs that we have been providing to date.

HON. M. SMITH: They receive monies from United Way and other community groupings. We've maintained them at the same level.

MR. A. BROWN: So those like the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, for instance, they have to rely on whatever increase in increased funding through volunteer organizations or whatever, the United Way and so on?

HON. M. SMITH: In the past, we've been working with them quite closely going through their budget and urging them. In fact, we've succeeded in helping them with the same allocation to spread their service to all parts of the province because one of our requirements is if we are going to fund a group like that with responsibility for the blind our responsibility is to ensure that same level of service is delivered throughout the province, and they have been very co-operative, in fact, have been able to develop efficiencies and deliver that program more widely. We've been very pleased with that.

MR. A. BROWN: Does the Minister have any statistics as to how many blind persons we have in Manitoba and as to how many of them are employed, and could I have a breakdown of how many are employed in the public sector and how many in the private sector? I don't know if we have that information available.

HON. M. SMITH: There is no requirement for blind citizens to report anywhere unless they are in need, and we do know that there are 1,600 blind citizens to whom we deliver services, but other people who were able to cope on their own would not come under our purview.

MR. A. BROWN: Is the Minister saying that someone who would be on economic security would be totally dependent on government and who was not employed, would not necessarily be in these statistics?

HON. M. SMITH: The services that we are talking about here are vocational assessment training, counselling, job placement, an adjustment training program for daily

living. There are also information programs, specialized library services and recreation programs. Income security issues would be dealt with separately by social assistance.

MR. A. BROWN: I don't think the Minister answered my question. I was wondering whether 1,600 is the total of blind citizens that we have identified in Manitoba, or those that would be under assistance from the government, would they not be on this list?

HON. M. SMITH: CNIB may have a fuller categorization, but the number that we are delivering service to through CNIB is 1,600. Now, again, the social assistance issue, the income security issue, it would be the other department that would have that information.

I should just say that the educational programming information that was requested last night and that we promised to make available, we now have it, so at whatever point you'd like to discuss it, we could.

MR. A. BROWN: Well, we could break off over here and discuss that program at the present time. It doesn't really matter where we do it, but it might be appropriate to do it at this time. The Member for Kirkfield Park had asked a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: While she is reading her data, are there any other questions on 3.(d)(4)?

MR. A. BROWN: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. A. BROWN: The Society for Crippled Children and Adults, where we are spending \$1,705,000 on that particular item, I wonder if I could have a breakdown of that particular figure.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, that's the primary provider of rehabilitation services to physically handicapped children and adults. Services are provided to over 8,000 individuals during the year. They would include counselling, psychological assessment, medical diagnosis and assessment, vocational assessment, training and job placement.

MR. A. BROWN: How successful has the job placement been in this particular area, in one given year?

HON. M. SMITH: I'd have to take that as notice and see what statistics - SCCA may have it.

MR. A. BROWN: I noticed that because of transport assistance and various other ways in which we have been helping the physically handicapped that more of them have been hired, especially in the private sector. I would wonder if the Minister could give me a breakdown, if she has the figures, as to how many would have been hired in the private sector and how many in the public sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(4) - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: It is just that, again, I notice that there was no increase in this particular appropriation for the

Society for Crippled Children and Adults, which really means that there was no increase in activity, no increase in health for this particular agency, in spite of the fact that we know that costs are going up. I would just like to make note of that.

The next item of assistance that we have is the employment preparation centre, the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and we have an expenditure there of 312,700.00. Can the Minister give me a rundown of what is happening with that money?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, there is a workshop that provides vocational assessment and training and sheltered employment to approximately 175 physically handicapped persons.

MR. A. BROWN: Is this one workshop and, if so, where is it located?

HON. M. SMITH: It is one workshop on Notre Dame.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister give me some information as to the type of training that is available at this workshop?

HON. M. SMITH: They do varieties of woodwork, packaging, light assembly and they actually do some of the wheelchair repair, some of the parts of that, that they can manage.

MR. A. BROWN: So we would not be training people over here to become secretaries or any of that type of job, accounting or whatever?

HON. M. SMITH: There are many physically handicapped persons who, if they are equipped with a few extra devices for themselves and at the job, are able to integrate into ordinary training and employment. So this would just deal with the ones who have more unusual or complex problems.

MR. A. BROWN: The next item that we have is the Canadian Paraplegic Association, and we have an expenditure of \$197,000 and again there is no increase. Has there been an increase in paraplegics over the year? I notice that the Minister last year when we were discussing this entire area, she said there seemed to be a substantial increase every year of the mentally handicapped and paraplegics and these types of people, because of improvements in the health field of keeping these children alive when they were born. Has there been an increase in this area?

HON. M. SMITH: Most paraplegics are that way as a result of accidents, so any improvements we can make in workplace health and safety or safe driving are more likely to keep this number stable, but I don't have any numbers as to whether there has been an increase in the last year. I say there's probably two trends working here, one the more risky environment, and two, the greater awareness of workplace health and safety that protects people. So we haven't certainly any sudden shift from last year.

MR. A. BROWN: In this particular item most of these paraplegics are there because of accidents and as a

result of accidents, can the Minister then tell me, is Workers Compensation doing any funding towards this area?

HON. M. SMITH: If the accident occurred on the job, they would be entitled. If it occurred when they were children or at home, then it wouldn't necessarily cover them.

MR. A. BROWN: The next item is at Ten Ten Sinclair. We have substantial funding over here. I wonder if the Minister can give me a rundown of that expenditure.

HON. M. SMITH: This is low rental housing that's subsidized by MHRC. It has 75 units in this complex with 50 units specially designed for moderate to severely physically handicapped adults. The objective is to assess, plan for and train young disabled persons so that they develop the skills and identify the appropriate equipment that they require so they can live independently in the community. We cover the cost of assessment, counselling, training and other associated expenses. Food and shelter would come under another department. It's basically vocational.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister tell me approximately what the turnover would be in this particular area? How successful are you in moving people out of here and into apartment living or whatever?

HON. M. SMITH: I don't have the numbers, although having gone to their last annual meeting they felt they were quite successful but felt they could be more successful and they were moving to try to address those areas of their program that they felt could be strengthened.

MR. A. BROWN: And Skills Unlimited, could we have a rundown on the \$355,700 that's spent on this workshop?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, this is another vocational rehabilitation program working on assessment and training and sheltered employment, if necessary.

There is a mixture of post-mentally ill and mentally handicapped persons there. There is a capacity for 45 persons in the work assessment and training side, and 60 in sheltered employment. It's usually operating at maximum capacity. Sales from production generate close to 60 percent of total revenue and the department's grant covers most of the balance of the total cost.

MR. A. BROWN: Next we have the Manitoba Council on Rehabilitation and Work Incorporated. Could the Minister give us a rundown on that organization?

HON. M. SMITH: This organization has membership from the workshops and occupational activity centres that are throughout the province and this is a sustaining grant for that organization.

They get together and share problems and discuss issues in the field. We sometimes will fund a special project of theirs, such as a particular workshop. This really just is an organizational grant to enable them to

communicate with their members and sustain themselves.

MR. A. BROWN: The Children's Rehabilitation Centre, we have \$9,200, I suppose it is, it's a very small grant. Can the Minister tell me or give us an indication of what that money is spent on?

HON. M. SMITH: This is a special program in the former Shriners' Hospital. It provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy, life skills, self-care training to severely mentally handicapped and multi-handicapped children. Most costs are covered through the health care system, but transportation costs for the pre-school children are not covered from that source. So we provide for that. The school boards will cover the transportation costs for school-age children.

MR. A. BROWN: This is a large program over here, and it seems to me that we are doing very little funding in that particular area. Can the Minister give me some indication? I suppose most of this would be coming under the Department of Health. The question should be asked under that department, but just exactly what is the \$9,000 really going towards?

HON. M. SMITH: Transportation costs for the pre-school children is the primary amount.

MR. A. BROWN: Next, we have ARM Industries. They seemed to have considerable difficulty last year. Have they resolved those problems or have they still got the difficulties that they had? In other words, are they operating up close to a profit, or what are the circumstances of ARM Industries?

HON. M. SMITH: For the first time last year, ARM came in on budget, the first time in many years. We took it over at their request, although it ended up of course by mutual agreement, but the board requested a take over. They were experiencing chronic deficit and were afraid they were going under.

Our intention is to give ARM back to a non-profit group as soon as its situation is stabilized.

MR. A. BROWN: The \$502,000 that we're spending on that particular item, does that indicate the loss for the year, or what is that \$502,000 comprised of?

HON. M. SMITH: Because it's a centre that does vocational assessment and training, as well as sheltered employment for up to 90 persons, it's not likely ever to break even on the whole operation, but the workshop portion, the sheltered employment, is the one that's breaking even. The \$502,000 is our responsibility because of our vocational training responsibility. It's similar to Skills Unlimited where there's a certain proportion they're able to earn on their own and then there's another proportion where they receive public support.

MR. A. BROWN: I understand that there was a considerable debt over there from the previous year, would that have been picked up as a result of the government takeover?

HON. M. SMITH: We arranged an orderly retirement of that debt and hope to have that wiped out this year.

MR. A. BROWN: In the next area, Kiwanis Centre for the Deaf, I notice that there is quite an increase and the reason for that, I suppose, is because the grant had not been for a full year previously. Have we just taken over funding of this particular centre or why was it only funded for half a year last year?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, this is an example of a particular disability group that its needs have never overseen in any comprehensive way, I guess, by government.

When the housing and personal care home portion of the centre was set up they were able to get some of the social support services into their housing portion of the budget, but they experienced cutbacks in the monies that they were able to get from the CMHC, and they were left with a lot of people with a lot of personal needs, social needs, and came to us really in a very needy state. They felt they were understaffed and they were losing some of the funding even for that, so we put a temporary support in. It's not, perhaps, meeting the entire need, but it is enabling them to carry on until we can work with other departments and see whether there's any better arrangements that can be worked out.

But it was partly, I guess, in the early days when social housing was put up, there was not always an anticipation of all the social support services that were needed. You can contrast that with Ten Ten Sinclair where the physically disabled are, where there seemed from the beginning to be a recognition of what the needs would be and a provision for it through government funding. But this centre didn't seem to have the benefit of that and we're trying to work with them; again, it's sort of a difficult year to add on anything, but we've been trying to see them through a very difficult time.

MR. A. BROWN: Is any teaching going on at the Kiwanis Centre for the Deaf or is this mainly residential care?

HON. M. SMITH: It's a residential, a social-recreational centre. The School for the Deaf is where the prime education programs are going on and, of course, in a lot of schools, certainly throughout Winnipeg, I'm not quite so sure what's happening in the rural areas where hard-of-hearing youngsters are, to a greater and lesser extent, integrated into classrooms. There's quite a range of educational programs now offered deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

MR. A. BROWN: Next we come to St. Amant Centre where there is a fairly large expenditure in \$9,912,000.00. Has there been a decrease in population? I notice again that there is no increase in funding on this over the previous year, yet, the only way that they can really maintain service is if they have a decrease of persons within that institution. Can the Minister tell me what's happening?

HON. M. SMITH: They're at a fairly stable level. They handle the severely and profoundly retarded primarily and the adults they have are also profoundly retarded and are non-ambulant.

MR. A. BROWN: Well, can the Minister tell me where she expects the St. Amant Centre to pick up the cost-of-living increase, if nothing else, because the government certainly is not increasing the funding, so how does the Minister expect them to retain the same type of service if we see no increase in this item?

HON. M. SMITH: Again, the centre has handled the most seriously retarded population, but over the years it's built up quite a high level of funding. We're having further discussions with St. Amant to see whether they can manage at this amount. They did get a very large increase last year. They got an increase more in line with health centres, rather than the other institutions dealing with the retarded, and we had agreed to that last year was some recognition that that was a once-only approach. I should remind the member that the per diem in this institution is over \$100; whereas MDC has been functioning at the \$70 level. So even allowing for the fact that there are severely retarded children and adults there, we don't feel that we're being unduly hard on St. Amant Centre. However, we are in discussion with them to see whether our analysis and their analysis do mesh or whether there's any factors we haven't taken into consideration.

MR. A. BROWN: Has there been any increase in population over last year?

HON. M. SMITH: No.

MR. A. BROWN: The last item we have is the Pelican Lake Training Centre and I notice that there is a decrease in funding here. Can the Minister tell me why we have a decrease of Capital Expenditure here?

HON. M. SMITH: The decrease is only \$10,000; there was a minor capital improvement required last year that was of a once-only nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(4) — pass.

Now we are coming back to the Educational Programming under (c) Manitoba Developmental Centre.

The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many of the students at the MDC are part-time and, if part-time, what is considered part-time, is that half a day, or one-third of day, just exactly what schooling are they receiving?

HON. M. SMITH: We call a quarter to three-quarters of a day part-time, and the full day, full-time. Of the 45 receiving education, 14 are in full-time programs, and 31 in part-time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Why are there 31 in part-time programs, and what is happening to the balance of their time?

HON. M. SMITH: We think that over time this could be improved, although we said yesterday we're hoping that we won't have under 18's in MDC in the longer run. But in some cases, it's as much stress as the individuals can take in a day.

In other cases it's been, I guess, the hysterical pattern that no one thought some of these youngsters were capable of as much as they're now discovering they are through new learning and teaching techniques. So if we had the picture over the last five or 10 years, we would see quite a raising of the expectations because of the new techniques.

The new building and facilities will give them a lot of assistance, but again we're trying to phase out the 18 and under. So the educational needs of the older ones would still be met in much better fashion in the new building.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many certified teachers are employed at MDC?

HON. M. SMITH: We'll get that specific later. The information we've shared with you, of course, is outlining a lot of the social skills and the personal skills that are also being taught. But the actual number of teachers, we'll have for you later.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: At the same time you're getting the information, possibly are there teachers who are not certified teaching in the school? How would the schooling that the students are getting at MDC compare, say, with - is it Prince Charles in the Winnipeg No. 1 School Division - and I guess, Kirkfield Park in St. James?

HON. M. SMITH: It's our opinion that, traditionally because I guess MDC was protective and sort of a health-based institution, that not as much emphasis was put on the educational or developmental side. Meanwhile, we've had great development going on in the community with working with mentally disabled and providing educational opportunity and programming.

It's our opinion even for comparable disabilities that the educational program at a school like Prince Charles is well ahead of what is currently being offered at the Developmental Centre. We're seeing that as one of the advantages of keeping more people in the community where they can get, in a sense, their service from the school divisions who do now have responsibility for providing appropriate educational programs for all the special needs youngsters in their area.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I recognize that and I see that the Minister does too, but what we have here is a school like Prince Charles that is educating students who were once thought, in fact, probably many of them when these children were born, the recommendation was that they would go into Portage and parents chose to keep them at home. So they are educating them.

While I recognize that this was a custodial and health facility, with the advances that have been made with the schooling, I fail to understand why the schooling isn't given a greater enhancement at MDC. Even though the Minister is indicating that they're moving these children out in three years, these are kids especially who can hardly afford to miss three years of the type of schooling that they're going to expect to take when they get into the community. They're just going to be that much further behind.

I don't know if it's the Department of Education that does this in combination with Community Services, but

I really feel that that's a lack, and it's a lack that seems to be deliberately being sort of set aside. In other words, the Minister and the department recognize this need, but it's been there all along and we're moving them out in three years anyway, and it will take care of itself then. I don't think that is good enough.

I think these kids now that we've recognized a lot of them can be taught; they can learn a lot; they're out; they're having work experiences; they're in apartment settings; they're living in group homes away from families in settings today, I think it's incumbent on the government and on this Minister to beef up the schooling at this school. With these kids we can't afford the luxury of leaving them even a year without the kind of schooling that they're getting in other places.

I think it's easy enough to say that something is going to be done, and this is the way it was and we're just understanding, but we're not just understanding. We have a member of our family who has come through the school system who is in exactly that situation and he's out working. He's living in an apartment. It's something we never thought could happen has happened and when I think of the kids in Portage who are not getting the same kind of chances that people who are living at home or in the cities in the same situations, they're not getting the same opportunity of schooling, I think it's a crying shame.

I think it's something when I see the waste and I go back to something that I've brought up in so many areas - and I'm not talking about not spending every penny on advertising - but when I see the kind of waste in government and then I see where we save on programs like this, because I know money is a factor when the government is talking about issues. I also think that to think of just three years, and possibly three years down the line we won't have these children moved out, because there may be something else that comes along or they can't find the homes and they can't move them quickly. I really do feel that the money should be found and should be spent on these kids because every year you leave them without proper schooling, sets them back probably far more than any other kid, the so-called normal children in these situations.

I really feel that this is a great lack, and the problem with the lack is that everyone knows it's there and recognizes it. But these kids have a great need. I would think that possibly the money that they're saying they are going to save from getting rid of the school of nursing, if that's what's happening, then beef up the educational part here because these kids shouldn't be allowed to get that far behind.

HON. M. SMITH: The educational program at the moment has seven teachers and two activity instructors, again augmented by the various specialists who come and help with self-care because for some youngsters, the things they need to learn before they can move onto anything more advanced are often just as basic as eating and dressing and tending to their personal needs. There are also speech problems, and there are speech specialists there; work habits and skilled training from the vocational people.

We have been working, as well, with education to improve that program because I agree with the member

that we shouldn't have in our minds a strict division between people in the community and people in the institution. We should be using all our skill and knowledge as we collectively are able to raise our expectations for the mentally disabled and offering them every opportunity wherever they are.

With the youngsters that are not as yet in an institution, we have been using things like the Infant Stimulation Program, the integration into the day care system, special classes at school, to enable those youngsters to develop to the optimum of their ability and never require institutional care.

Again, I agree with the member that more can be done in the education field, and we have been addressing that and perhaps by next year we'll be able to report significant progress. I suppose the teacher ratio of seven plus two instructors for 45 would be looked at rather enviously, perhaps even by teachers at Prince Charles, I don't know, but again we must remember that we're dealing with the more profoundly disabled for the most part.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I hope next year when we come back to this and we're dealing with it, that you can find that we'll have done these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll go back to (e) General Purpose Grants - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that when I asked for the information on External Agencies, that I did not ask for the information on this right away in written form, because the questions are going to be fairly much along the same line.

So I wonder if the Minister can give me an idea where the General Purpose Grants were going.

HON. M. SMITH: We'll give you the same sheets that I am working from, and you can choose whether to read them silently or ask me questions about them.

MR. A. BROWN: Maybe I should just ask the questions the way that we did the previous time and then if there are any questions I want to ask on this, I will.

The first grant we have is to the Brandon Citizen Advocacy. Could the Minister give us some explanation on the \$10,300.00?

HON. M. SMITH: This assists the organization with the administrative costs of recruiting training and matching volunteers. Usually they work directly with mentally handicapped people and are companion to them in day-to-day living, rather like a big brother or sister. They are not necessarily a constant attendant, but they provide help and enrichment. This particular organization services Brandon and surrounding districts.

MR. A. BROWN: Next we have the Citizen Advocacy Manitoba, \$25,800.00.

HON. M. SMITH: That is the same program but for the City of Winnipeg. I can go through the others if you want: \$5,200 for the Canadian Council on Social Development, again the research and education body;

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, \$48,400, performs a similar function here in Winnipeg; old Grace Hospital loan payment, this is payment on a mortgage that was assumed when we purchased the old Grace Hospital, \$20,300; \$12,600 to the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg to help stimulate the use of volunteers in our particular department; \$20,000 for Community Projects to cover a miscellaneous group of new requests that we get every year; and then a major \$950,800 grant to the Indian and Metis Friendship Centres throughout the province, there are 11, and we also fund their coordinating group, the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres. They are located in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage, Selkirk, Swan River, The Pas, Winnipeg, Lynn Lake, Thompson and Riverton.

MR. A. BROWN: I know that the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg is involved in many areas and there is substantial funding of \$48,400.00. I notice that in all of these areas there is absolutely no increase in funding, so I suppose this means that there are no raises for anybody working over there, and there is no increase in salary. There is no increase in the work, I suppose, that they are doing. But can the Minister give me a rundown of the items that the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg is involved with?

HON. M. SMITH: Two things here, remember these are volunteer groups that were self-sustaining and then at some point or other found that they couldn't raise enough volunteer dollars and came to government; and governments responded with giving grants but didn't necessarily get involved in any particular accountability for what they were doing or why. Over time, I guess, government has to make priority choices about where to allocate the money. This year I think the general message to external agencies, agencies are external to government, was that they would not get an increase unless there were very unusual circumstances. There haven't been enough funds to even recognize inflationary costs for a lot of the areas that the Provincial Government has primary responsibility for. Even maintaining these organizations at their same level is I think an achievement, particularly when you look across the country and see that in many parts of the country they are being reduced or dropped out altogether.

Again, the Social Planning Council would have a budget much much higher than that, would draw funds from a variety of other sources and, I think again, you are better to ask them what their specific activities are. They look at community needs, will do studies, and they also will take on special projects to assist a particular group in the community. They work very closely at trying to spell out what appropriate rules for public, private and voluntary sectors are so that there is less overlap and fewer gaps.

MR. A. BROWN: I am aware of some of the areas that the Social Planning is involved with because very often we receive copies of studies which they have done. My question would be, does the Minister sometimes ask the Social Planning Council to do studies or do work on her behalf?

HON. M. SMITH: We contract with them from time to time to perform a special service. We contracted with

Tim Sale to help us with the Critical Path plan for the regionalization of the Child and Family Service Agencies in Winnipeg, and we are currently working with the Planning Council to develop a needs survey with the deaf.

MR. A. BROWN: My next question is the old Grace Hospital loan payment. I am not familiar with what is going on at the old Grace Hospital, so if the Minister could just give me an update as to what's happening at the old Grace Hospital and why there is a provision for a loan payment on mortgage?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, I am not sure that my memory goes back to all of that either. What I do know is it was run by the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army built a new hospital out in St. James and the government took over their old building. It's currently operating for both Winnipeg region Community Services and Health and there is a variety of offices and vocational type programs that are carried on there. It's in the constituency of the Member for Wolseley.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could provide me maybe with more information. If she doesn't have the information at the present time, maybe she could provide me with more information then as to what is going on at the old Grace Hospital. I would appreciate this. I don't know, for some reason or other, I don't have any information on it.

HON. M. SMITH: Government offices, there are about four or five stories - the Member for Wolseley probably - I mean I have been through it all. It's the offices for the Winnipeg region staff that deliver Public Health and Community Service activities, and is both offices and I know there used to be a workshop or two for post-mentally ill clients, but basically it's being used as offices for Health and Community Services personnel. It's very centrally located and it's been quite a good facility.

MR. A. BROWN: The Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg, can the Minister explain the expenditure over here, \$12,600.00?

HON. M. SMITH: This is for a particular function that they are performing for our department. Community Services uses volunteers to enrich a lot of their programs and this, in a sense, buys their expertise in trying to recruit and match volunteers to our particular programs.

MR. A. BROWN: The Indian and Metis Friendship Centres, a substantial amount of money going to them, and yet I notice that there is no increase. Do they receive funding other than through this particular department?

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, they receive quite extensive federal funding from the Secretary of State and from the Native Migration Program.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister tell me which would be the main functions of the Metis Friendship Centres? What are some of the main functions that they are involved with?

HON. M. SMITH: All the myriad of problems associated with the Native population is moving into a more urban setting, all the way from making social contact, arranging housing, sometimes even emergency housing and food, recreation, counselling and there are both Native and non-Native people involved in these centres.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, those are all the questions that I have on this particular area, unless any of my colleagues have any questions that they would like to ask.

I would just like to make one observation. We've been going through this area in quite a bit of detail, and it becomes rather obvious that the main increase in the expenditures has been in government administration and in communications. It's rather a bit of concern when one is looking through this particular department, and sees what has been going on.

HON. M. SMITH: I think that somehow the arithmetic of the member may be a little inaccurate. I think the \$3.4 million that's going into direct service to the mentally disabled in the community is an extraordinarily high increase in direct service to the most needy members of the community and I just can't understand the previous comment made by the member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(e)—pass.

Resolution 31: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$59,976,500 for Community Services, Community Social Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Item No. 4.(a)(1) Child and Family Services, Administration: Salaries; 4.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I will ask the Minister for a statement on this particular department, but I'm wondering if we can call it 5:30, because I know that there are some of my colleagues who would like to be present when she does make that statement on this item and they cannot be here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. L. HYDE: With that request that the Member for Rhineland has made, I'm not going to be available for this evening. There is one small item that I'd like to address, if I may, relating to the boys' and girls' clubs. Would that come under this section, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will be under 4.(b), the next one.

MR. L. HYDE: It's under 4.(b)? Oh, well, that's fine then, I'll be able to deal with it. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do we agree to call it 5:30? (Agreed)

The hour now being 5:30 constructively speaking, the committee members will return at 8:00 p.m. tonight.

SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department

of Education, Item 6. Universities Grants Commission, (a) Salaries - the Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, when we finished or closed down yesterday, we were discussing the Brandon University situation. I'd like to go back to that, but before I do I would like to ask the Minister before I forget, whether or not physiotherapy is a course of instruction at the University of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, we believe so, but we'll have to confirm that.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, one of my colleagues has had a complaint coming from a parent of a student who last year has been upgrading her marks in an attempt to hit the threshold of a 3.9 average - grade point average - so as to qualify for entry into that course. I understand the 3.9 level has been in effect for some number of years. The person in question attained the 3.90 standing and then much to her horror found that standing had been increased to 3.905. I ask the Minister whether this has happened in many faculties. Can she find out some information with respect to this one faculty?

I suppose what has happened, Mr. Chairman, is that many other students have done the same thing and the one person in question was outside of the total number of 20, that I believe have been allowed entry into the faculty. Where it creates problems in situations like this is that once the rules change, the parents and students themselves who just seemed to miss the entry limit question whether indeed the 20 people who have been selected have been treated the same as they have. Are all conditions the same? Is it purely an academic standard?

The Minister can't know the details to this, but I ask her by way of her staff, if she can tell me whether the Universities Grants Commission is aware of any of these problems or, indeed, is it totally within the purview of the administration of the university, and are they totally certain in all cases that the few people who have been selected are selected strictly on the basis of a grade-point average?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I will be quite prepared to look into this, and if the Member for Morris can give me the information about the particular case and also the broad question that he asked about, is this happening in other faculties? We will provide the information for him; he's quite right, we don't have this at our fingertips, but we will get information about the basis upon which the selection is made and whether it's unique to this faculty and provide it to him.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I have some detail with the student in question. I think it's best that I have a Page come and turn this information over to the Minister, at this point in time, and tell her that the individual in question is a constituent in the Constituency of Assiniboia.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask some questions with respect to, both sort of a fallout to the Perkins

affair in Brandon and also the School of Music. I would ask the Minister whether the Universities Grants Commission has provided any additional support to the University of Brandon to help defray legal costs associated with the university's defence in the current legal suit?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. C. MANNESS: So far, those legal costs by some estimates, Mr. Chairman, have been estimated at roughly \$30,000 and more to come. Is the Minister saying that the university will have to source those funds out of its total operating revenues for the year?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Presently, yes. I would expect, under normal circumstances, universities make those decisions and carry those costs. I don't ever preclude any university from making a case to the University Grants Commission on any item that they think should be given consideration and to make their case. So I wouldn't preclude it in this as in any other. But it is not usual that people take on a court case and then submit a bill to either the Grants Commission or the government. I wouldn't expect that would be done.

MR. C. MANNESS: The Board of Governors of the University of Brandon have also decided to pay for the private, legal costs of any of its individuals who may be sued for past actions. Is this in keeping with how other universities, either in Manitoba or across the land, may have or may not have protected their governors who sit on the board?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I believe that is usual and fairly normal practice for boards of governors of universities or other bodies, where people are either appointed or elected to represent and do a particular job, to provide some protection for them in the event that they may be taken to court providing, I'm sure on the understanding that what they've done has been both in the best interests of the university and has been done, not only in good faith, but carrying out their duties and responsibilities to the best of their ability.

We know that these are difficult jobs that people take on, either through appointment or election, in school boards, school trustees, boards of governors. They're very complex questions; they spend a lot of time, and there is a lot that they have to deal with. So it isn't unusual for protection to be provided for those people who are carrying out in a responsible way and exercising their duties and responsibilities.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister uses the key phrase. She said, as long as those that have been nominated or appointed to the boards are carrying out in a diligent manner their responsibilities. Would the Minister care to indicate whether she feels, over the past two or three years, whether or not the Board of Governors of the Brandon University have carried out their responsibility to the community, to the student community and the greater community at large within the southwest district of the Province of Manitoba; whether she believes that her board of governors have carried out their responsibility, taking into account the

tremendous turmoil that has occurred at that university? Does she believe that her board has taken the best course of action in most cases and made the best decisions possible?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I remind the Member for Morris, when he's talking about the board, he is talking about a board that is made up of a wide range of representation, not just those that are appointed by Order-in-Council through the government. He's talking about student representation which we increased at Brandon University; he is talking about faculty and senate and community representation. So when he talks about what kind of a job have they done, he's talking about a lot of people whose primary concern, I think, is the well-being of the university.

In terms of the degree to which they have done their job, I would say that I am sure that, both as individuals and as a collective body, they have tried to do the job to the best of their abilities during a period of turmoil and difficulty and dealing with some very complex and difficult issues. So I don't judge, nor is it my place to judge nor his because, if it were found to be not the case - it wouldn't be found in this Legislature but my guess is that would be found through a court of law - had not been exercising their responsibilities in a fair and reasonable and responsible manner. But I have no reason to believe otherwise.

I know that the concern of all of them has always been the well-being of the institution and the education system. They have carried out as a collective body, because these decisions that they've made have not been done by any individual or by any couple of individuals, but have really been done through the collective determination of people made up of representatives, the faculty, students and community, bringing their best capabilities to bear on some very difficult decisions.

MR. C. MANNESS: I disagree more with what the Minister has just said. She has indicated - and I don't want to put words in her mouth, but the interpretation that I have of what she said is simply this. It isn't my or her responsibility to sit in judgment as to how the Board of Governors of Brandon University have made their decisions. Well I can't agree with that, Mr. Chairman, particularly in view of the fact that the Minister of Education in the Province of Manitoba today is responsible for appointing the majority of those governors, also in the sense that that university has come through some very difficult times, not only the last year or two years but over a significant number of years.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, not to rethraash all the straw of debate that we covered last year in Estimates, but certainly the Minister's been told and maybe she's even read - when the Minister becomes aware that again another governor, one who sat on that board for 7.5 years by the name of Gary Miller resigned as the alumni representative on the board. Mr. Chairman, the Minister does have a responsibility to sit in judgment, and she has to take very seriously these types of resignations, and although I am quite certain she probably never did call in Mr. Miller to receive his appraisal of the situation **there, she has to read his**

comments in the press, and if she has, she has to take them very seriously.

When a man resigns who has been part of a board for 7.5 years and he says these things. He's talking about The University Act. "Although The University Act issue triggered his resignation, he said it was not the only reason. Mr. Miller said, 'Frustration with the way the board operates has been building in recent years. The very things Mr. Potter and the present executive were criticizing the previous administration and the previous executive for doing, they have multiplied tenfold.'"

The newspaper article goes on to say: "While praising the extra hours put in by the executive, he said, 'The board has become a three-person show with decisions being made unilaterally by Bill Potter, Bill Patton and Bev Peters. Miss Peters was replaced as vice-chairman last July.'"

Mr. Chairman, this person quit specifically because a meeting had been called December 13th and was postponed to January 3rd because there was no quorum. The January 3rd date was set very unilaterally. Some major decisions were made at that meeting at which time very little notice was given to the Board of Governors. Yet, Mr. Chairman, the Minister says to me on the broader issue that it is not her place to be responsible and to sit in judgment.

I say, when these types of revelations are becoming obvious and becoming known, it is the Minister's responsibility to sit in because the net political fallout - when I say political, I mean the politics surrounding the community of Brandon - then impacts to a point where over the last two years the foundation or the university fund raising in support of the Brandon School of Music building can come up only with \$130,000, then I say to the Minister that there are some real problems, and she does have a role to play.

Now maybe she's deferred all that responsibility to her colleague, the Minister of Employment Services. I don't know what her justification is for not becoming involved, but the point is, as long as these types of problems continue to occur, then there will be no opportunity to raise funds within that community.

The Minister yesterday, Mr. Chairman, indicated she hadn't seen the report that was done for the Brandon University on fund raising potential prepared by Gordon L. Goldie Company Limited. I happen to have a copy. I know that a copy was also presented to the Brandon Sun a month or two months ago, Mr. Chairman. The report spells out in detail, it says even though the report identifies this \$3 million as potential to raise in support of that major building, it goes on and reaches the conclusion that they have a hope of achieving even one-third of that total as long as there is controversy surrounding the board of governors.

Now the new president in place will certainly help. There is no doubt about that, Mr. Chairman, but the point is that many, many people in the community feel that the power on the board of governors is concentrated in the hands of three people, each of them very much politically aligned with the NDP Party, and as long as they are in place, that university does not have a hope to raise money within the community.

Mr. Chairman, the Brandon Sun in its editorial of May 10th says this, and it is talking about the project of raising funds for the Brandon University School of

Music. "The project was launched in 1983 at a time of great optimism. The recession was coming to an end, and there was a feeling that private donations could get the building completed." It then makes reference to the firing of Perkins, and I don't think we want to move into that in great detail.

But the next paragraph, "The Toronto consultants see a potential to raise \$3 million for Brandon University, but say even a third of that amount would be difficult to raise unless there is considerable fence mending." I'll skip on: "Board Chairman, Bill Potter, termed the consultants' report too negative and said he thought the reluctance to support a cause at Brandon University was overstated. But the Brandon University Chairman also acknowledged the idea of fence mending was something the board had been pondering."

I skip another paragraph and I go to this final one: "It is unfortunate that business perceptions of an insitute are quite often focused entirely on the president's office. However, the University Board of Governors will have to accept this as the way the business community works."

Mr. Chairman, what the report is saying is that there shouldn't be that high a focus on the president's role, but because the other president was fired, the whole Brandon business community has turned off, and yes, the attempt to bring in a new president will help. More important than that, they are looking for the Minister and they are looking for the Government of the Day to do something with the board of governors.

Unless the Minister is prepared to do that and realize her responsibility in this role - and that is the point I tried to make in the first place. The Minister says, well, it's not for me to sit and judge. I say it is for her to sit and judge when a university can't even, within its own community, raise funds necessary in support of a project it desires so badly.

So I submit, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has a major role to play. She had better come to grips with it before it's too late, allow that university to try and raise its committed share. I believe it was 1.3 million, something like that. My understanding is today that the university has borrowed that amount of money or a significant portion of it. Nobody knows yet who is going to have to pay the interest costs on that, but the point is, that money cannot be borrowed. That money has to be given by people in the community who are prepared to give it under the proper circumstances so that that university isn't tied down to horrendous debt that will impact upon the regular programming that it was meant to provide in the first place.

Mr. Chairman, I make no strong allegations, other than the ones I made, but more importantly than that, I appeal to the Minister. A year after she said she didn't want to become involved in it, a year after I asked her to realize that there is still a problem at that institution and that she still can do something, even though it's the eleventh hour, to expedite the community and the University of Brandon to help itself meet its commitment within the area of the construction of its own School of Music building.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, yes, to comment on a few of the points made by the Member for Morris, I indicated I hadn't seen the report of the consultant

group. With all due respect they could have saved themselves some money, I suppose, because we told them before they ever had a consultant when they first came in, and I think Dr. Perkins was the president at the time who came in and said no, we need \$6 million, a \$4 million building isn't enough, and had what we considered and evaluated and approved by the Grants Commission, or the indication from the Grants Commission was that it was grandiose, that it was too big, that it was not justified for the number of students and that we should not be funding it.

I mean you talk about responsibility. Where is the responsibility to just go and give millions of dollars when there is no justification for it and the needs across all the universities are so great? Clearly we can't do that.

We told them at the very beginning that we didn't think they should stick with that large building, that it had not been approved by the Grants Commission and had not been approved by us, and that they would have a great deal of difficulty raising the money. That's what they were told at the time.

The suggestion that the member makes is that the reason they are having trouble raising money is because of the controversy related to what's happening at the university and that is the problem. Well, I remind him of something that I said in last year's Estimates, and that is that in the first year-and-a-half of fund raising under the chairmanship of the then president, Dr. Perkins, when there was no controversy, when there was no public issue about Brandon University or the Music Building, they didn't raise a cent - and my memory might not be totally accurate - for about a year-and-a-half after that committee was set up, there were no funds raised, so it had nothing to do with the controversy.

What I am suggesting is that it is difficult to raise money right now, and that the suggestion is that it's all related to the controversy is not confirmed by the past history of their fund raising efforts prior to the controversy beginning.

In terms of the question of the stability and wanting them to get on with the job, I think one of the things I feel that is important to say is that things are settling down at the university, they are stabilizing. They began, under the presidency of the acting president who I think was well respected and well regarded in the community and seemed to be doing a very good job of holding the ship together and getting it to start to stabilize under difficult circumstances. I know that there were widespread feelings out in the community on that because I received them, I heard about them directly from people in the community who thought that he was doing a good job.

We do have a new president and I think that we need to give them a chance to finish the stabilizing that is needed. I think the president has been chosen very carefully and very well and will be able to finish pulling it together.

I say to the Member for Morris, who tells me what my role and responsibility is, is that unfortunately again this year it's the opposition that is trying to raise the issue and make it an issue and who is trying to stir up the issue. They did it last year. One of the major voices and concerns and size of the issue that was created in the public mind was not created by the people

of Manitoba; it was created by the opposition who were trying to stir up a mess. Once again they are doing it.

This has been a quiet area for quite some time, settling down, quietening down, getting on with the business they are supposed to be doing, which is educating the students in the university, and there have not been major demands and major outcries as the member suggests. So let them alone, it's a difficult situation, and let them get on with the job and don't try and stir up and create problems that aren't there.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to help the situation along.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Ho, ho, ho, yes.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, the Minister says "ho, ho, ho, yes," and she says she knows what I'm trying to do, Mr. Chairman. I have to smile at that because I didn't realize the Minister - I know she has a lot of powers - I didn't realize she had the power to see in my mind, but obviously she feels she does.

Mr. Chairman, I agree there is a new president in place; I agree that the acting president gave a good effort in attempting to begin to stabilize the situation. The new president in position will help.

I am asking her to go the final step to give that new president all the support she can. I don't even know the person, but I am happy with the process that brought him into place. But the point being, will she go the final step and now allow the community of Brandon to rally quickly around that new president, that person that they want to rally around, by removing the influence on the Board of Governors of three very political people who are very instrumental in causing the major problem anyway.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister can talk about the fact that Mr. Perkins had grandiose ideas. All I know is, Mr. Chairman, in a year-and-a-half the Brandon Foundation had commitments and pledges of .5 million - \$500,000 - they had pledges of \$500,000.00. Mr. Chairman, I don't know how quickly she expected the Brandon University to wipe it off.

But the report, what's even more destructive of the Minister's argument, unless she totally disregards the consultant's report, it says that whoever had told the Minister or the departments two or three years previous that there was potential to raise \$2 million or \$3 million within that community, this report substantiates that. It says, "There is potential to raise \$3 million within the Brandon community." It didn't say it could be done over one year; I don't even know if it gives a time frame.

But the point being, Mr. Chairman, if the foundation, which reaches out to more than just the Brandon community, of course - it reaches out to alumni that are scattered far and wide - were able to raise that type of money; and the Brandon community was prepared, by the report, had identifiable sources of \$3 million, then how can the Minister say that those who had come before her two or three years ago and said that they could raise \$1.3 million - because that was the commitment, I believe, \$1.3 million - were incorrect?

So the sources, Mr. Chairman, and the consultant's report somehow either are wrong or they make the Minister's comments incorrect

Now my only point for bringing it out again, Mr. Chairman, is not to rethresh straw but it's again to appeal to the Minister to remove the final hurdles to that community which will prevent it from rallying around the new president and giving stability again to that community. I think it's very important that she take my word seriously, that she give some due and major consideration to the fact that the remaining stumbling blocks are her political appointments on the Board of Governors.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Well, Mr. Chairman, without wanting to be frivolous at all, I will say that I do take the Member for Morris' views seriously. I don't always agree with them. Sometimes I do; sometimes he raises some useful points and sometimes I'm quite prepared even to act on some of his suggestions or some of the information that he brings to me that I didn't have previously.

I think that in this case, that things are going reasonably well. I do want to make a point about the source of money. I think that's an important point. He says that they identified sources of \$3 million which verifies that the people that said that it was there earlier were right. It is there.

I have to tell you that with all due respect again that identifying the potential source of \$3 million and getting that \$3 million are two completely different matters. Anybody knows that's out fund raising today, that there are sources there, and the question of whether or not they give it, even to good causes that they would normally support, is quite another matter. Now if that's true, and the source of the money, the sources were always there - he says there were people that said they were there earlier and they've confirmed through the consultants that the sources are still there, why didn't they raise the money? Why didn't they have some of that money in hand in cash in the previous, I would say it wasn't a year and half it was two years of efforts of fund-raising activities.

The \$400,000 or \$500,000 he mentions was not cash, even that, it was pledges. I tell you once again, there is a big step between identifying a source and getting the money, and there's still another step between getting somebody to commit and actually getting the money. So that a pledge is not cash in hand. If the money were there and there was no controversy and no problems, I ask him why didn't they get more money; not in pledges, not in terms of identification of source for getting money, but why didn't they get the money in hand if the only problem was the controversy.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I haven't take part in the Education Estimates, but I have been listening to this exchange between the Minister and the Member for Morris. I have many friends in Brandon. As a matter of fact, we have a little cottage in the old campsite at Clear Lake which we enjoy every weekend and socialize with the Brandon people. I play a lot of golf with Brandon people; in fact, last weekend the Wasagaming Golf Club got together, 90 percent Brandon people and I was there.

A MEMBER: What's your game these days, Frank?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Not bad, about 84, 85. So anyway, just to let the Minister know that I do have an association.

The pledges that she spoke about were pledges; they weren't actual cash monies. But I'll very brief to the Minister, she should go out and she should find out, because I assure her that the people in Brandon and the surrounding area of western Manitoba that supports that university with pledges will not be involved greatly with pledges until you get the political balance off your board and when that happens, then you will start to get some money in and support from the people of Brandon and that, I can assure you, is the conversation of the people in Brandon.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, is it a fact that the Brandon university has had to borrow \$1.3 million in support of their commitment to the building, University of Brandon School of Music Building?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It is; but I think it's important to make another point. When they continue to persist and I put it in those terms, with the decision to go with the \$6 million building considerably beyond that which we thought was justified and necessary, we had to make sure that what was being done with the money that was being made available through government was going to meet the enrolment needs of the Music Building. So we indicated that if they wanted to continue with the big building and the additional money, that it was necessary that the design be done in such a way that the money that was being provided by the government, provided the requirements of the facility for the enrolment of the students. There's about 150; it's about the capacity of the Music Building.

If the other things that they would like to have and that they were prepared to either raise funds or provide the money for themselves, would have to be designed so that they were added on later and did not interfere with the basic needs of the students enrolled in the Music program. We did that to protect both ourselves and the students in the program so that they couldn't build a building of \$6 million and end up needing the money that they hadn't had approval for in order to provide the space that was needed to deliver the educational program, the Music program.

The design was done that way. It was done in such a way that they have a floor or two that are on the top, that are things that they would like to have and that they're prepared to try and raise the money for, but that are not basic facility requirements for the delivery of the Music program. They need \$1.3 million to complete the facility to their needs; not to our perceived needs and justification for the needs of the facility required to educate the students in the Music program.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister seems to be justifying the government's understanding saying, that if they'd gone with the \$4 million option instead of the \$5 million, that, in fact, they wouldn't have had to borrow the additional money. I suppose that's a debatable point. — (Interjection) — That's right, Mr. Chairman, that makes sense like the Minister of Environment suggests. The point is, Mr. Chairman, they've decided to go with the larger expense. There's going to be quite an interest cost associated with that. I understand it was taken out, must have been taken

out in September sometime because I have Order-in-Council 1005 in front of me, in which the Cabinet authorized the university to negotiate a mortgage. Will the amount of funds required to pay the interest on this money, will it be taken again out of operational revenues, out of university revenues, and as such, will those funds then be removed from the general administration and the regular programming that university offers?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, the decision to borrow the money was one that they made and once again since we were not providing the money, we indicated our feelings and I felt quite strongly at the time. I didn't believe, to be quite frank, that they should be completing the additional space until they had the money in hand. I can remember saying that because of exactly the point he's making, the interest costs.

However, they made the decision to go ahead and borrow the money, knowing that there would be interest costs, and not waiting until the money was raised through the fund raising program. They are going to, I think, have to decide how to resolve this. I can't say how it's going to be resolved since the decision was made by the board, and deciding how to handle it will also have to be done by the board.

MR. C. MANNES: Passing on to a new area, Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Brandon University Students' Union is really not a union, it's a corporation. There are people who, in reviewing the act to incorporate the Brandon University Students' Union, feel that, seeing as it has not been certified as a union, it is therefore not a closed shop. I wonder if the Minister would care to comment, if not maybe another time, and tell me whether or not she feels that Brandon University Students' Union has the legal right to charge union dues.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I would have to take that as notice and respond at another time, because I don't have adequate information to comment on a legal question like that.

MR. C. MANNES: That's acceptable, Mr. Chairman.

Moving to a different issue entirely, Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister has crystallized her thinking at all in the whole area of international foreign students who attend the University of Manitoba and whether or not they should be asked to pay the true costs associated with their education. This is a raging debate. It's philosophical in nature in many respects, I understand, but there are other jurisdictions in the land who are of the belief that those students who have come from other countries to be educated in this land should be expected to support a larger share of the true costs associated with becoming educated.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: I have given it a lot of thought. It is an issue that has been raised from time to time and I believe has come to the point where we are probably going to agree to sit down with the universities and people involved and examine the issue. That doesn't predetermine what the outcome will be. But I do have a little information about it and some thoughts on it that I will be putting forward when the issue is discussed.

Right now, we're one of three provinces which do not have differential fees, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. I think that the differential fees were implemented in about the mid-'70s by a number of provinces, and some have moved to do so since that time. In 1982-83, about 8 percent of full-time university students were visa students which is a little higher than the national average of 7 percent. We've been monitoring and looking at this for some time.

One of the concerns that was raised - could I just ask the people to keep their conversation either over there or a little lower? I'm having trouble hearing myself think — (Interjection) — and I can't sign because Abe's behind me.

There was some concern that, because we were one of the few provinces that didn't have differential fees, we would have people flocking to our borders and flocking to our universities. We have been looking at that fairly closely and monitoring that on an annual basis.

The figure that shows that we're just a little higher, 1 percent higher than the national average, suggests to me that the floodgates have not opened yet, although it's something I think we would want to keep close track of. There isn't any indication yet that being one of three provinces that doesn't have increased differential fees has caused that to happen.

They also have a variety of methods to establish differential fees, and there are quite a wide variety where they don't necessarily charge exactly the same fee. But sometimes they're flat fees, and sometimes they're percentages of fees. These are the things that we would have to consider.

First of all, we obviously have to consider the capacity and accessibility of our universities, and the accessibility for our own students is an important point that they make. I think money is another question in point that we would have to look at, but you don't always save as much money with these things as you think you're going to. If we closed the door or brought in differential fees, then assuming a differential fee of \$1,300 is charged to new visa students which is about 1.5 times the basic tuition fee and assuming that the number of visa students entering the system was constant at about 500 a year, the additional amount of funding available to the university system in '85-86 would be 650,000, and then it would go up to a million.

We have to balance the amount of money, the additional revenue that comes in with some of the other purposes of the program. There was a time - and it's hard for us to remember, but I think we should remember it - when we were a young, developing country when we did not have the institutions that we have today, when Canadian students did not have opportunities for post-secondary education through our own institutions, when other countries opened their doors to our students. They were able to go away and get their education through what you might call the good will of other countries to open their doors to our people. I think we have to keep that in mind. There was a time when we needed them to be flexible and open their doors to us. There is a time when we may have to do that in return for others.

I think it's also important that countries like ours do their share in opening their doors, and certainly for our students, who are not just learning their courses and

getting their degrees in their chosen fields but really having an understanding of the world and its people. The exposure they get and the enrichment that we get from students who participate from other countries is an important element to a university which deals not just in national but international and world issues. I think that's an important element.

There is another factor too that we are going to be going out more and more to other countries in education and in other fields. Economics is certainly one of them. Everybody in this Chamber is concerned about the state of the economy today. We will want to have good relationships with these countries when we're knocking on their doors, and we want to have contracts and we want to get business and things that will improve the economy from them. I can tell you that this is one thing that goes a very long way because where we have begun our discussions with China, for instance, I would say that on the market, as markets go, that over the next decade China is going to be one of the key countries in terms of our ability to tap in for both economic and educational contracts that are going to benefit them, but are certainly going to benefit the Province of Manitoba and perhaps the country.

Our students, our willingness to give help and to receive students in the way that we have goes a long way to improving and setting the stage for establishing a very good relationship for business agreements down the road. That's a fairly long answer, but it is an important question and those are the things that I think have to be considered.

I have no solution today. I think that the examination would be done co-operatively by universities with the involvement of students, the Grants Commission and ourselves, but those are some of the things I would like put into the discussion and given some thought.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm glad the Minister came around to realizing that I had asked a specific question, although I was glad to hear her expand somewhat on her philosophical views.

Whether the Minister is a humanitarian or not, I'll certainly say that, as long as in one's mind you believe you are and you try and do when you are in a position of power things you can do, then I'll give any person credit for that. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, the Minister realizes fully well as the administrator of education and universities within this province that to the degree that funds are restricted and scarce, and they are indeed, to the degree then, that other people from outside of the province, indeed outside of the country, come and take positions and placings within our university, quite obviously by deduction, then our own people do without. The Minister obviously is aware of that.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister only one question: over what time frame will she be making this decision? Can we expect it over the next half year, or is this something that we are just going to talk around in her view for X number of years?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Not having any firm deadline or schedule in mind, I can say that his suggestion of looking at it and examining it over the next half year is a reasonable bench mark.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I received a letter about a month ago, opened it up and in it was a bulletin

or a pamphlet saying we have to say goodbye. It comes from the Management Studies Continuing Education Division, University of Manitoba. I'll only read the first page. It says, "Goodbye to our friends. Project Manage must say goodbye to all our friends and clients of the last four years. Regrettably, we will be closing our doors on June 28, 1985. We are a victim of budgetary restraint. While Project Manage successfully delivered a wide range of programs and services to more than 4,500 people from over 350 different organizations, we cannot fully cover the cost of our operation. Unfortunately, training costs much more than voluntary sector clients can afford to pay."

My colleague asks what the amount was involved. It doesn't spell out here. Obviously, it would be a very small amount, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't think it would be more than \$10,000 or \$15,000.00.

MR. H. ENNS: Considerably less than one Flyer bus.

MR. C. MANNES: Well, that's the point, but I only bring this up, Mr. Chairman, because here was one of those projects, similar I suppose, in some respects, to the work study program that the Minister has in place in the public school system, whereby students go out on the job sites and attempt to gain some experience.

Why is it, Mr. Chairman, it's always those areas? This was a project managed; this was more than just doing work on site. This was something where individuals went into a work situation where they had some responsibility. Why is it always those programs that, in time, will fuel the economy and in time, in many respects, are the most important? If we believe that society should work to a better day and our children and our children's children should have a better life than we do, then, Mr. Chairman, obviously the mechanism to that goal is to put into place a work ethic, a business ethic such that profit can be realized, such that they can be taxed in support of government programs.

Why is it, my question to the Minister, that it's always these projects that seem to go by the wayside most quickly, and in the first instance, when universities and indeed governments begin to cut their support of programs?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Malinowski: Madam Minister.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, first of all, to the particular project, I'm not familiar enough with that particular project to know exactly what it is they were doing and what their problems are and the nature of the program and the client population that they were serving, but if we assumed that it was a good program as you suggest and was serving a need, the decision on eliminating it would be a department and a university decision. So we wouldn't be involved in it and it's very hard for me to defend a judgment without having the factors that they took into consideration and the other things that they were weighing it against; so I think those kinds of questions have to be dealt with by the people, or presented to the people who made the decision.

I'm not sure that it's the general statement that it's always these kinds of programs that are first to go. I

know that in colleges we've given clear examples and a clear indication that we are moving strongly in the direction of working in a co-operative way, a much greater way, both in the design of curriculum and the teaching of programs on site, in co-operation with industry, where we're sharing and actually getting much better programs and much better use of resources.

So I don't think that when we're talking about continuing education programs that that general statement is true, because we have been moving in our design, in the opposite, and I couldn't say what the judgment and the reasons were without knowing much more about that program.

MR. C. MANNES: The Minister's right. It's Continuing Education Division, University of Manitoba, in the Management Studies area; and of course, that's right, the Minister can't defend it, although I'll put on the record, and hopefully she'll realize that I did not bring this into the House in question period some day in an attempt to embarrass her and saying, because of meagre increases of 2 percent, but the Minister wouldn't recognize that anyway, I'm sure, Mr. Chairman. She feels that every question that's posed is one to her political benefit and sensationalism.

Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me what the projected increase in enrolment is in universities across Manitoba in the fall of 1985?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, very stable. As I indicated last night or yesterday when we were talking, a very little increase, between a half and 1 percent.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)—pass. 6.(b) Other Expenditures—pass. 6.(c) - the Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: What share, Mr. Chairman, comes from the Federal Government in this area, or has that been answered? Do we have any idea?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: It's under EPF and is not contained in our Estimates.

MR. C. MANNES: Pass.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 52: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$156,311,000 for Education, Universities Grants Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Now we are continuing on Page 54, Bureau de l'éducation française, includes services and programs related to French Education, including all programs emanating from bilingual agreements with Canada.

7.(a) Division Administration: (1) Salaries - the Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my questions to the Minister are about the basic French program, and it was dealt, I think - I don't know if it's this week or last week - but the president of the MTS had some comments to make about the qualified teachers for basic French.

In St. James-Assiniboia so far, they have been able to keep specialists in basic French, but it's becoming

a real worry that the program is going to suffer because the teachers are getting very scarce in that area. Because of the aging population, I guess that's what you call it today, of the teachers in the division, it's harder to get the teachers to be as interested, and not only that, but become qualified enough to step in and teach basic French because what you are really looking for is someone that is almost at the level of teaching Immersion.

My question is, what is the government doing in the way of education and encouraging education, and how are the divisions going to be able to get good basic French teachers because this is becoming of vital importance? Most of the divisions, I think, are into having the basic French and, as the Minister knows, from year to year I am one that would like to see it go down to start at Grade 3 even rather than Grade 4, but it looks like we are going to have problem just keeping teachers.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Kirkfield Park has identified one of the major issues and one of the major concerns that we have in the French language program and that is the ability of teachers and our ability to train teachers to keep pace with the growing pace of the programs. We're fairly stable in the français program and the French Immersion program is increasing as is the Core, and the conversational French program is going down, which is what we expected. But as the Core Program increased and went into the schools, the conversational program, which is not seen to be as good, would reduce, and that's what's been happening.

We have been trying to take steps, because we certainly think that we should be making every effort to meet our needs in Manitoba with Manitoba teachers and want to reduce as much as possible the requirement of going outside of province. We've been able to do that to some extent. I think last year - what was the figure, the numbers of teachers out of province? - it wasn't large, 15 teachers. There was something like a couple of hundred teachers hired out of province and when we looked at the breakdown of them, thinking that a much larger number might be for this reason, there were only 15 of them that were hired out of province for the purpose of working in French language programs.

We have taken a number of steps and increased our bursaries and some of our programs. We've put an increase of \$14,400 in the 1985-86 bursaries for teachers participating in summer language programs, and it brings the total provincial amount in that program to \$136,600.00. We have an additional \$13,400 from the Federal Government for that which brings our total up to \$150,000, which is a 23 percent increase in that area.

Last year we awarded 131 teachers bursaries, and this year 210 teachers will receive bursaries, so that there's a fairly significant increase in numbers of teachers that can tap into that.

Apart from that, we have other options and have had for the last 10 years to allow teachers and student teachers to train or upgrade their teaching skills in French. We have the bursary program that I mentioned. We have summer language bursary programs, in or

out of province. We have a six-week course in France, albeit that's for a small number of teachers, but it's still an important program, and adult evening school programs for 1,500 teachers or student teachers.

We also have co-operative efforts between school divisions, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Bureau, St. Boniface College, for the purpose of offering intensive language training courses to teachers. So where there is agreement on a co-operative program between those groups, they can be set up. We had a one-time grant and there was some feeling that this program had been cut, but at the time we knew it was a one-time grant from the Canadian Government that allowed us to offer an intensive six-week French language course in St. Boniface last spring. While it was a one-time grant, it still gave us a boost in terms of the number of teachers that were trained.

So I would say that we probably would still like to expand the bursaries and to improve the opportunities more, but in combination of all those things that have been made available and the increases given, we believe that we have moved a fair degree to meeting the needs.

Also one of the ways of dealing with the issue is not just the training and retraining of teachers, but as I mentioned last year, it's the identification of teachers who are out in the field who have the skills and ability to teach in the language programs but are not being timetabled into them. One of the things that the department is working with school divisions is identification of all those people, so that we're not losing skills because they've been timetabled into other programs and either their skills and knowledge aren't recognized or aren't being utilized. So I think it's a combination of those two things, using the skills and the people that are developed and that are there and expanding the opportunities for teachers in the field to upgrade.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, how long does it take a teacher to be trained? Are they able to do an adequate job after just one summer training or do they need a fair amount more?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, it would depend on the assignment. If they were going to teach, and obviously there are requirements and skills required to prepare themselves for a basic French or a conversational French would be much less than going into, say, the Immersion Program, so it would range from perhaps 12 weeks, where they could receive their upgrading required in a 12-week program to a three-year program where they would require a program taken each summer for perhaps three years.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, has the department done any studies to see just how fluent the teachers are that are coming out of the areas and I'm specifically talking about the basic French, not the conversational French, but I'm looking at the basic French which needs a fair amount of fluency, because this is where they're taking the teachers for the Immersion programs and that's the quality of teacher that we're looking for the children that stay in the English language program. They want a good quality French teacher, not just somebody that's going to get by. It's most important in this course,

because otherwise parents are going to feel more pressured to put their children in Immersion classes and I don't think that's an option that they should have to make because of lack of teachers.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: We couldn't agree more on the importance of quality, because it doesn't matter the amount of time that is designated. When children are in the program, they want people that are skilled and knowledgeable and that can teach it to them. So we agree with that; we do monitor.

The question was what do we do to check out their skills and their abilities and the consultants in the bureau do go out into the field and do monitor. As a general statement I can say that generally they feel that the response is positive and they feel that the skills that are developing in the courses that they're taking, related to the requirements that they need to teach in that particular area, are fairly good.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'll ask two questions. How costly or what is the cost for the six-week course in France, and I'd like to know then the cost for students going to St. Boniface College and how many they're able to handle in the summer for a basic French Program?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: In the first course, the Government of France pays most of the costs; the individual pays \$1,000 and the balance is paid by the Government of France. I'm not sure we have the total figure.

The St. Boniface costs are \$200 per week, for a possible maximum of six weeks.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many students is St. Boniface able to take during the summer?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Sixty teachers, Mr. Chairman, per summer. Mr. Chairman, I should just add a bit of information; it's 60 for the summer, 1,500 during the year for language training.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Maybe I should try and get this straight then. I understand that there are bursaries available for 210. I guess I was assuming that they would all be taking summer courses. To the Minister, does that mean that they're taking them all year long, or just exactly how are we accommodating 210, when St. Boniface can only handle 60?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, courses are taught in a variety of ways. There are 210 opportunities for the summer program through bursaries. Sometimes they go to other universities and school divisions are offering some course and programs, and the others are taken through adult evening programs.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister tell me which divisions are teaching the basic French? Excuse me, I'm not talking about the courses, I'm talking about the teaching training still.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: River East and Fort Garry.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What encouragement has been given at the university level for students taking

education, other than bursaries - I'm looking for something a little bit more in a PR package to encourage students to take French - to major in French even - along with their studies at university.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that our universities are offering a greater number of courses in French than they were previously and that they're making every effort to make sure that the students are aware that those courses are offered.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Has the bureau had input into the courses that they are teaching, so that they're coming out able to teach at the basic French level?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, our consultants are involved in drawing up the curriculum.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, there's a couple of questions for the Minister; one that I think may have been discussed previously. Just briefly, can the Minister indicate again in the change of the department in terms of the unofficial name that she favours of Manitoba Education - was that selected because it is the same in both French and English?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, it isn't the same in French and English, so that wasn't the reason that it was selected. It was raised previously. We have had full discussion of this at another time. I don't mind just commenting on it in a very brief way. That decision was part of a central program, as I described. It relates to a visual identity program, and there were changes made in the names of a number of departments. It has to do with nothing else other than that.

We still use the Department of Education when we're having legal documents and legal contracts. We go by the Department of Education.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just in regard to that Manitoba Education, can the Minister give me an illustration of how she uses it. For instance, does she say Manitoba Education thinks this or Manitoba Education believes that? It doesn't sound like good English. I'm just saying to the Minister, how is this used in terms of correspondence, etc.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, when one might have used the Department of Education previously, one would use, I suppose, Manitoba Education. I can assure the member, when we're writing letters in the Department of Education, we always try to use both good English and good grammar.

MR. R. DOERN: I simply say to the Minister, the first time I saw the use of that expression was in her now infamous letter or the Minister of Cultural Affairs' letter in regard to HERizons. When it suddenly said, "Manitoba Education," it looked to me like a misprint or something. I thought that I had misunderstood what was being said or something was left out. So maybe she should undertake a massive public education

program and P.R. program to educate Manitobans about this important and significant improvement that she has undertaken.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to discuss with the Minister again the controversy in St. Pierre, and ask her if she can make some general observations here. There are, of course, the specifics of the case which is interesting and of interest to all of us, but there are also the ramifications of the issue which may be of greater importance than this particular occurrence in the Village of St. Pierre-Jolys.

Mr. Chairman, I would say to the Minister that, in terms of the issue, it has been somewhat interesting to observe. I gather that the latest development is that one of the parents is calling for a referendum on the issue. It seems clear that the overwhelming majority of parents in the community feel that their children are being short-changed or are not getting a good education because they live in a province which is predominantly English-speaking. When their children graduate from school in the local community and go into the working world, some of them feel that their children are being put at a disadvantage.

For example, I'm just looking at different reports here in the newspapers in no particular order, on June 10th, the lady who has been spearheading the fight, Marie Hébert, leader of a group of parents opposed to majority French language instruction, was flown into Nova Scotia for a meeting and addressed the people in the area. In reference to that particular occasion, it says in the Free Press: "A program similar to that proposed for Cheticamp . . . "- or whatever the name is . . . "has been in place in St. Pierre for several years, and Hébert said "the students were used as guinea pigs." Now that's a pretty powerful statement by the lady from St. Pierre.

But I just wondered on that particular point for starters whether the Minister has heard that allegation that, over and above the big question which I want to discuss, namely, the ratios of French to English in the community and in the province in general, whether she has in fact heard fleshed out any comment or charge or allegation that the children in that school, in that community are being used as guinea pigs for whatever purpose.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. R. DOERN: Then I would simply ask the Minister whether she would also investigate that particular allegation, because I think that is a fairly strong statement.

Mr. Chairman, I would then also say to the Minister that one of the fall-outs of this particular controversy again was the fact that there were three Francophone teachers - I am reading now from the Winnipeg Sun - who were transferred from St. Pierre-Jolys secondary school for opposing the amount of French taught there ". . . are being shafted by the school board, one of the teachers said yesterday."

So you have people who live in the community. Presumably a person who's a teacher is also a citizen and presumably a taxpayer and you have one of them here named Denis Gregoire who taught at the school for 17 years, who said to the Sun that he had been

ordered to teach junior high school at Ste. Agathe. He said, "They want us to quiet down. They want to intimidate us." Then he went on and said that he signed a petition along with Edmund Lacasse and Regent Catellier. They were among the people who signed the petition. He said, "I signed the petition as a parent." He unnecessarily said, "I'm not anti-French but my children are learning information which I am convinced will be useless or obsolete in Manitoba."

So, I'm simply saying to the Minister again, is there any action she can take? Is there any comment she can make or is she helpless in a situation where the board is clearly being vindictive where you have people who are professional educators who live in the community and who have taught in the community who are now being transferred as punishment for expressing an opinion on a particular program which they think is harmful to the children in the area and to their own children, in some cases, who are students in that particular school division?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I had meant to comment before we got into the question of the language programs. I just feel compelled to comment on the Member for Elmwood's point about the Education Department and the name. I only want to say to him when he was making the suggestion that it was such a momentous, important thing, that he chose to raise it in this Chamber as one of the items that was the most worthy of questioning and discussing. I suggest that the question of its importance is in his mind, not mine. — (Interjection) — In terms of substantive issues in the education system, yes.

In order to answer the question that he asked about what are my feelings and what am I doing, I think he's probably aware that I have met over the period of the last two or three days at great length with the parents on both sides and with the board today. Those meetings took about three hours with the parents and an hour and a half or so with the board, and were very open and very good discussions. What is coming out of it and the role that I took was to talk to them and to try and explore ways of finding some constructive, co-operative way of having this resolved at the local level where it must be resolved, where it belongs and where it can best be dealt with, between the two parent groups and the board.

I'm pleased to say that in those discussions there was a reaction and a response from all as individuals and all groups, in other words, the board and the two groups of parents were willing to talk about a process that would allow them to sit down in a non-confrontational manner, in a manner where they agreed to be open-minded and to listen to each other and for the purpose of identifying options that they could agree to together - the two groups of parents and the board - to try and resolve this issue for the betterment of their children's education which, of course, is what they all are ultimately concerned about. Their major concern is the education of their children.

I think there was general agreement and recognition that if the controversy continues and is continued to be in some ways either blown out of perspective or as many of them feel that way on all sides, or used because we know that things that are controversial and conflict

get more attention than those that are constructive and positive; that it can cause problems for their education and nobody wants that.

I think there's general agreement to respect the position on both sides, to believe that nobody is right or wrong in this issue. There isn't a good and bad side and a right and a wrong side or a right and wrong answer, but parents on two sides of an issue, all of whom are concerned about their children's education and two groups who have different beliefs and ideas of what the best education program will be for their children now in the short run and in the long run, and that agreeing to that and that their principles and their purposes are the same regardless of the differences in their position on what that is, then I see no reason to believe that if the will is there that they can't sit down and resolve that.

The discussions to date have led to an agreement, I think, that they're all willing to sit down and discuss it; that the agreement is that the issue belongs there; it belongs in the community between the two parents' groups and the board; that that's where it should be resolved; that it cannot be resolved by other people on the outside mandating or dictating or judging, and that they're all willing to do it. I think that will be undertaken in the next while.

I can only say to members like the Member for Elmwood that I hope you're going to give them a chance. I hope you're going to give them a chance to resolve this without trying to rabble-rouse, without trying to raise it into a controversial issue and give them time to see if they can resolve the issue constructively between them. That's where the resolution belongs. I believe that if they were able to resolve it and it was a satisfactory resolution to the two parent groups and the board, I don't know why the Member for Elmwood would have any problems with the resolution. Since they haven't yet had the opportunity to do so, I don't think he should prejudge what that solution might be.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to get into a slugging match here with the Minister. I wouldn't want to examine her cynical views on multiculturalism or her cynical views on bilingualism, so I will simply allude to them but not expose them.

She's the Minister of Education, she presumably is the person who has the most concern and interest and experience and expertise at her fingertips and I want to ask her whether she thinks, in general, going far beyond St. Pierre but across the province, whether there are any harmful effects, any fallout, any detrimental indications from the whole Immersion program. I'm going to hold aside the fact that it certainly has, I think, proven harmful to the teaching profession and to the schools of Manitoba as a whole in the sense of they're under a twin attack in terms of declining enrolment and increasing enrolment in French Immersion programs which I think from a practical point of view are almost a waste of time. A passing knowledge of French is useful as is a knowledge of Spanish and German and Ukrainian and Chinese and everything else in modern society, but to consider the massive amounts of time and money and effort that are being put into this program, I think there is a very, very small payout.

I'm saying to the Minister, I'm getting increasing correspondence from citizens who are saying to me

over and over again, we want to go back to the basics. We're concerned about the fact, and I'm now talking about not the parents of St. Pierre, but including the parents of St. Pierre, people who want the English language emphasized along with probably history and science and mathematics. There's an increasing concern across the province. I'm getting letters from all over; people who say they want to go back to the basics.

Now I don't want to get into a debate on precisely what different interpretations there are of the basics, but what could be more basic than the English language itself, which is the key means of communication in our society. Unless a person can write and read and speak fluently in that language, then they are blocked in effect from expressing themselves, writing exams, communicating in public and studying many other subjects which are, of course, directly related, like history and so on. Mathematics, I think, one obviously needs a basic understanding of the English language, but it's not as crucial to say a study of history, etc., where you're reading dozens of text in the English language.

Ironically I get one letter from one lady who wrote to me saying, in effect, that she wants a back-to-the-basics for students, and I just looked at her letter, and as I read it - being an old teacher - I circled some of the mistakes that she made. There's her letter. I don't know if the Minister can see that far, but in this brief letter there's - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 mistakes - and I don't make fun of this lady who wrote that. But I mean there's an irony right there, that here's obviously a mature person saying we must emphasize to our children the basics of education and here are such fundamentals as spelling and writing, etc., and that of course minimum is not exceeded.

So I'm simply saying to the Minister that ever-increasing amounts of money and resources are being spent and a lot of people are concerned about it, and I can tell her that I'm very concerned about it. So I would ask her for an initial response and then I'm going to read her one or two other things and then make some comments.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, a few points. One is that the students that are in the programs, you must remember, are choices that are made by parents and students. I mean these are optional programs and parents and students are opting to take these courses in increasing numbers. I hope that the Member for Elmwood isn't suggesting that he wants to interfere with parental rights. One of the things he's always trying to indicate that he's concerned about is how the people feel and how the public feels. In this case you're got the exercising of options that require both community and parental and students accord. I don't know why he would have any problem with it. Those that don't want to be in, aren't in; and those that want to be in, want to be in; and why is he concerned about that?

In terms of the question of the English and the basics, and we have already had a full discussion about the basics and the requirements under the normal curriculum, but I'll just deal with a couple of points. One is that our English language requirements, of course they're very important. The ability to handle

themselves in English is important for all of our students, including our students taking French Immersion and français programs.

It is very very important that they maintain that and it's something we're very concerned about, so we've done a couple of things. One, we not only continue to have the same requirements in English, but we've even expanded them, so we are - I think I said before - the only province in the country that requires English courses in Grade 12 as a required course.

We have also taken the step of doing a fair amount of testing, in fact scores of tests, to check out how the students that are taking the français programs are doing. We've done CTBS tests and we've done other tests and what we find in all of them is that the Immersion students are at least equal, and in some cases superior, to students that aren't taking the Immersion program. So there is nothing that suggests to us that there is a loss of ability in the English language that is related to the taking of the français language courses.

Now there are some general feelings and we hear this from people in the university and members of the public that they feel the kids can't read and write. I know that if you check any year or any decade, parents were saying the same thing. They were probably saying the same thing when the Member for Elmwood was a teacher in school. So that hasn't changed and that's a general concern, but it really cannot be related and blamed on - which is what he's trying to do - the français programs.

In fact we also checked out their ability to take tests. When they take their tests in science and social studies and other courses, they don't take them in French. They take them in English to make sure that they have the ability to do what needs to be done, which is manage a test on the other courses in the English language. So those are, I suppose, my initial comments dealing with the most substantive points that he raised.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I simply ask the Minister a question. Is she telling me and telling this House, if you have two students with identical background and identical IQ, and one student goes into Immersion for three or four years; and one student is in a regular English program for three or four years; that there will be absolutely no difference whatsoever in their ability and their facility in the English language. Is that what she is telling me? That you can, for example, in one case take eight hours a day, or whatever, six hours a day in total French, and six or eight hours a day in total English, and there is no bearing whatsoever on your facility with the English language?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I'm telling him exactly what I said and I thought I said it quite clearly before, and that is we have tested the students for the purpose of seeing whether there was any loss of ability in the English language for those students that were taking français programs; and that all factors, all testing, all indicators that are done in both Manitoba and across the country on this same issue, indicate that those students that are taking français programs do as well - at least as well and in some cases better than do students who are not - so that there is no identifiable

loss to the English language ability that can be blamed on or put on the backs of the language program. I suggest that it would be very difficult to do the testing that he suggested where you take two kids of the same background and the same IQ, identical IQs - we're not even sure how important IQs are, are we, there's a debate about that - but IQs aren't the only important matter, in terms of a child managing an examination. There could be many factors that influence how they do, other than their intellect, so that it would be very difficult to set up that hypothetical test that he suggested.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just a few comments there. I would simply say to the Minister that she must be aware of the phenomenon of people who speak a language as children and then no longer speak for many years or people who come from another country, move to Canada, in this particular example, who over a period of time lose the ability to speak their native tongue because of the fact that they use it infrequently or not at all.

So I find it sort of passing strange that it would seem that use would be one of the criteria for ability and that disuse would tend to result in a lack of being able to communicate in that language. I can think of many illustrations of people I know who once spoke a number of languages, who then get away from it and can no longer express themselves. For example, they may have been bilingual, let's say, in German or French or Spanish or whatever, as children, but then after a number of years they no longer have the ability to speak but can sort of understand. So it seems to me if it works that way, it clearly should also be the case where you have somebody who is immersed in a language, and you're telling me that by being immersed in one language you then develop a facility there and there are no adverse effects in the other area. That to me, Mr. Chairman, is counter-intuitive; and the people in St. Pierre are telling you that and I'm telling you that and there are people who believe that, based upon their own experience, they are finding that their children are losing ground in regard to the English language.

I would also say to the Minister, when it comes to demand for courses, that the policy of the department might be something that could be examined. I don't know under whose authority guidance teachers operate, whether there is any government or department policy in favour of Immersion or in favour of the French language and whether any of that goes through into the guidance area. I don't know whether the Minister has any direct communication with people who are advising students in regard to careers or not.

I also want to tell her about one, I think, common and sad experience that I encountered a few months ago, in terms of what's happening in the Winnipeg school system where I was taking my daughter and some of her friends to a gymnastics class. These are kids from ages 10 to 12 and the youngest girl in this car pool, out of four, lived in the Corydon-Stafford area, a very bright little girl about 10 years old in Grade 5 or so. Only a block away from her house was a large public school, and I said, do you go to this school and she said, no, she didn't, that she went to another school, I think Harrow School which was one or so blocks over

and then by bus down Corydon and then by bus down Stafford and then walk a few blocks, etc., and that's an experience that is of course common.

You have the people who want Immersion and then you have the people who don't want Immersion and then you have the people who, by circumstances, are being terrifically inconvenienced because of Immersion, the neighbourhood school; and this is only one example where a little girl, instead of being able to walk a block and go to her neighbourhood school, and I'm talking now about somebody who could easily handle anything in school. She and her parents don't want her in Immersion and so she has to be bused out of the area. So we have this idiotic situation where you have kids being bused all over the city to get to a school for an Immersion program and then you have kids being bused all over to get to a regular school.

One of these days we're going to have collisions of buses resulting from everybody's being on a school bus. I had that decision to make many years ago, Mr. Chairman, where my own daughter, the question was, well, should we put her in an Immersion program or not and my answer was no, it's not necessary. The choice was to put her on a bus and send her for an hour across town into Sacre-Coeur, as opposed to go to a neighbourhood school. So I'm simply saying to the Minister, we're spending a lot of money and inconveniencing a lot of people because of what I can only regard as a trend or a fad, so I would ask the Minister for a comment and then make another point or two.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: There wasn't a question there that I heard and I'm not sure which elements to comment on. I might pick just a couple of them. — (Interjection) — The question was, what do I think about everything you said? You really wouldn't want me to say that, would you?

There are a couple of points that I'm prepared to make . . .

HON. V. SCHROEDER: She's just forgotten half of what he said.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: That's 90 percent of it. One in and one out. I don't think there's any relationship. He likes to suggest that there's a relationship between an adult who has a language in a different tongue that they used and have not been able to use over the period of time and that they lose it.

He's trying to suggest that has something to do with the students and the education program and there really isn't any relationship to adults who have a basic language that they have been taught that they are not using and what students are learning through the education system. First of all, we know that there's a transfer of learning from one language to another and that means that when somebody is learning one language, although it's that language they're learning, some of the skills and some of the ability in language is transferrable to other languages and that's a proven point.

Also, in terms of the students, you have to remember that their language doesn't just come through the curriculum, but there's a limited period of time they

would be learning French and a lot of other time during the day when they would be using English; so that he hasn't said anything that demonstrates that the learning of one language requires the loss of another - the idea that if you learn something, you lose something else - it's in and out. Something comes in and in order for it to come in, something else has to go out. Well that, in fact, is not so, in language or in anything else.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I'm beginning to appreciate the glibness of the Minister. I mean, I think she's reaching some new heights here.

I want to read her a letter that was written by somebody on November 5th. Mr. Chairman, I see we have a member of the SFM here and I don't expect anything other than heckling from him. On November 5, 1984, there was a letter by somebody named K. Harkness - I don't know what the K. stands for - in the Free Press. I want to read this to the Minister and ask her what she thinks of some of the points contained in this letter. This was headlined by the Free Press who puts the headings on letters, "Sinister Purpose?" This writer said as follows: "The article 'Shift to French' may force a review of English schools, Free Press, October 3rd, brings to light many startling facts. Enrolment in French Immersion classes has risen by 22 percent last year forcing school boards to close more English program schools. These demands are being made by Anglophone parents seemingly unaware that they are threatening our English educational institutions. First to go are the public schools and before long the chain reaction will reach our universities. Ironically, many Francophone parents have opted for half French and half English schools, a reasonable system to guarantee truly bilingual graduates.

"The executive director of MAST was quoted as saying, 'You could ultimately end up with two systems. One French and one English. It is only an administrative problem that requires the attention of trustees and administrators.'

"He went on to say, 'The more bilingual or trilingual students we can produce the better.' He also said that enough unilingual teachers will retire each year to allow divisions to hire more French speaking teachers without laying off English only staff.

Now, here's the concerns of this person.

"1. If French Immersion classes keep snowballing, how much longer will English teachers be needed? 2. When did it become a policy for Manitoba's public schools to produce trilingual students? Those of those who are of immigrant ancestry are proud of our language - that pride never has and must never become a burden to the country that opened its doors to our forefathers. Preserving it is our responsibility. French studies have always been part of the English school program. Many have graduated from university fully qualified to teach French. This fear of pupils not being able to master French unless they go to French Immersion is being instigated by forces that must have a purpose that goes far deeper than the mere learning of language."

I just wonder whether the Minister would comment on the concerns of this writer and parent about the adverse effects of the French Program in terms of the English Program.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, I don't know who that person is and I suspect from the way he talks about it that the Member for Elmwood doesn't either. I don't know. That's the opinions of one person. There was a lot said in the article but is unsubstantiated and it is very difficult to respond to, so I don't think have - other than a couple of points to make that to my knowledge we haven't had any schools that have closed because of the French language program and the decision on how to utilize the schools and where to put the programs is done by school trustees that are elected by communities who surely are in the best position to represent those communities and make decisions about what programs they want and how to handle them.

To my knowledge, not one teacher has lost his/her job because of a French Language Program.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister whether there is any policy on the part of the government into French language instruction and French Immersion? Is the Minister telling me that there is no policy, that she has no approach? Is she telling me that she is encouraging the greater use and study of French? Is she telling me that it is the school board which decides? What is the policy, if there is one, or is there not a policy on the part of her administration?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, when you have what I have already described as an optional program where it requires the parents' and the students' initial decision to enter the program, then clearly, any policy from the department that mandated or dictated would be inappropriate. The department's role is to act in a support way, first of all, to develop good curriculum, good materials. I said before, and I'm pleased to say again and put on the record, that our curriculum and these programs is recognized as some of the best in the country.

It's our job to prepare resource materials and to help in things like teacher training and teacher education and to give support and resources required to school divisions and people in the field. But it is not our job nor do we take the role to dictate or require.

There is a wide variety of options. Imagine having four programs that they could choose from and then telling them what they had to do. We give them the information that they require and they make the decision.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I'd just make a few general comments at this point and then turn the questioning over to the Member for Morris.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that there is a concern on the part of a lot of people about the effects of Immersion on our students and the effects of Immersion on the system. We're seeing some people in the French community saying that they are concerned about the adverse effects of Immersion on their children in terms of preparing them for the working world. We're seeing the concern of some parents in regard to students who are being bussed, in regard to the fact that a lot of money is being spent on something which seems to have very little value in our society.

In fact, we're even getting the reverse. I had somebody come up to me a couple of years ago. Their

daughter had been studying French both in Canada and in Europe and they said to me, in effect, we have invested all this time and all this money, my daughter has spent all this time studying and now she's graduating and there's no job for her. The implication was, why don't you create some jobs for bilingual graduates where there isn't any so that you can justify their investment. — (Interjection) —

Well, I'm telling you what the implication is in terms of these people being misled into thinking that by speaking French, they're going to have all kinds of doors opened to them and then when they're not open to them, they're almost saying to us well why don't you open some doors and build some buildings so that all this investment which was largely a waste of time can be justified. I mean that's really going at it backwards isn't it?

Mr. Chairman, I simply say to the Minister that we have had a big, trendy period in our history. We've had a period which began with the enlightened members of our society sending their children into Immersion programs, so that they could become bilingual, so that they could become the new elite in Canadian society, and then they were followed, naturally enough, by other people who felt that this is the way to go. If you want to get ahead in society, then you have to learn to speak French.

Well, I hear some muttering from the back bench, but I know where the smearing is coming from, it's coming from the back bench. I'm simply saying that what may be trendy and what may result in inertia is not necessarily a good thing. I think that there are adverse effects — (Interjection) — Well do you mind if I make my speech? You're free to make your speech, and we'd be happy not to hear from you at any time.

Mr. Chairman, I simply say that I think we have learned recently that people who are bilingual have certain natural advantages, but they have no guarantee of employment and they have no guarantee of advancement. If somebody is interested in a job with the Federal Government, if your young son or daughter is interested in becoming a federal civil servant in certain areas, it may be of value. If your son or daughter is interested in becoming a translator in Manitoba for the next 10 or 20 years, then there may be some future. Other than that, there is only the prospect of **working** for some organization like the SFM as a professional agitator, which probably has a lot of security, but doesn't provide too many openings.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would simply conclude by saying to the Minister that I would like to get some statistics and see some studies made on comparable groups. I'm not talking about the kids in Immersion who started out from the "better part of town" with the higher IQs, who were the first to go through and maybe maybe could handle Immersion and maybe could do so in a sense of maybe they started out on a higher level.

But I would say that if you were to compare groups of students who had equal IQs and you put one-half in an Immersion program and you put one-half in a regular school program, then I would think that the English skills of that one group that was in the English program would be noticeably higher and noticeably improved than the group which was spending 25 or 50 or 75 percent of their time learning a second language.

So I'm saying to the Minister that I think that our resources are being too heavily concentrated in this area and I think it's time that some studies were made, quantitative studies, and some reassessments were made in regard to this program, as to whether or not this is the direction that we should be going.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to rise and to give my full support for the enhancement and the improvement in the French language capability in our regular school system. It is somewhat ironic that years ago, back in 1968 I believe, French was significantly de-emphasized in the school systems, in the English language school systems, right throughout Canada. I think that was a great failure on behalf of provinces right across the country in their participation in this country of Canada, which is clearly a bilingual country. I do not like the **idea** following up for our children and I wish I had the opportunity, as a young student, to have been able to go through a system with a much improved pedagogy in the teaching of second languages, in particular the French language.

I went through a school system when we never started **learning** French until Grade 7; by the end of Grade 8 we could quit if we wanted to. I had taught for a very short time up in Lac St. Jean, the Village of St-Félicien, in the Province of Quebec. The students in that school that I taught had no choice from about the fourth year onwards to take English as a second language. Children who would normally be in the programs - we used to call them a general program at one time - the non-academic stream, the children who are still in school and grades equivalent of Grade 10 or Grade 11 where they are concentrating on vocational sorts of programming, be it metal shops, be it home economics, be it clerical work, whatever.

Those students equally had to continue studying English as a second language, and yet we had other provinces right across the country abandoning the teaching of our second language, the French language, in the English language schools, and I think it was a great great mistake. I'm glad that in the past better part of a decade now, we have had a significant reversal of that trend by the implementation of the Immersion programs.

The Member for Elmwood I think has done a great disservice to both the students and the parents of people right across the income spectrum, when he insinuates that it is only rich people or people who are on the avant-garde, as he likes to associate himself and the trendy, as is no one in this House is more trendy than the member for Elmwood, I don't think, and his little kicks that he gets on from time to time, be it in dress or be it in a mental state of mind, Mr. Chairman.

That is totally refuted in my own constituency. We have a significant lack of space within our schools for parents who want to send their children to French Immersion programs because of a lack of space for those programs. We are in the planning stages now of having an additional school built which will offer another couple of hundred spaces in Immersion, and I can

guarantee you that every one of those spaces will be gone in no time flat, because the parents - not only the parents, but the students themselves - are very much appreciative of the opportunity to exercise their own innate abilities to learn the other official language of this country.

Mr. Chairman, just this morning I was at the graduation exercises for the Sisler High School and that school today graduated their first class of students who had started the Immersion program back a number of years ago. They had one student there who had won a scholarship to attend the College Universitaire De St. Boniface this fall and I think that's a remarkable step forward in that school, I would doubt in the past if any of their graduates would have been able to go to a French language university in this country or outside this country. I'm exceptionally proud of that school and the fortitude it has had to stick with the program through the thick and thin of things and to give their students the opportunity to complete their education and have themselves completely bilingual, completely conversant and fluent in both languages of this country.

Mr. Chairman, the record of the students who have been in the programs, I have seldom heard of people who have, at all, used the idea that their children are in a bilingual program, therefore they're having a more difficult time than they would have if they were in a unilingual program.

One can go back years ago to the late Dr. Wilder Penfield, the noted neurosurgeon from Montreal, who in the studies that he had done back in the Fifties and the Sixties formed the basis of an awful lot of new pedagogy in development of language programs, not only in this country and in this continent, but in the world; and his early indications, which I have only heard of being reaffirmed in subsequent studies, is that when children are taught to speak and to learn how to speak and to think in more than one language, especially in languages that have different bases, as does the English language and the French language, the English language being a real composite of Latin-based languages, the Germanic-based languages and even the Celtic languages. Then, to have a purely Latin-based language, that the different languages, people in different countries, we think slightly differently, we communicate differently and our thinking patterns are very much adapted to, I call it, our software.

It's like, in effect, having two different computer systems, one being a Macintosh and the other being an IBM-based system, and now when you have, from the basic communication packages, and now we have through these programs the opportunity to be able to have software developed in our own minds and the flexibility to think in more than one language sphere because you go far, far beyond the ability of just thinking in one narrow plain like we so often see as so evident of some members opposite, especially the one staring at me at the moment, the Member for Pembina.

Mr. Chairman, the Immersion program, my only regret with the program is that we don't have more spaces in it. I also wish and would like to ask the Minister what kind of work we are undertaking toward the advancement of the pedagogy skills of our teachers in the regular language stream, so that they may be in a regular English language stream but taking French as a second language. What sort of improvements are we making in the pedagogy so that the ability to . . .

A MEMBER: What was that word again?

MR. D. SCOTT: Pedagogy, you've probably never heard of it before, the people opposite. If one looks into programs, as I had an opportunity to a couple of years ago in the Scandinavian countries where students study in the basic, in this case, in Finland or in Sweden, they study the basic, either Finnish or Swedish in the classrooms as their main instructional language, but they also learn and are fluent by the time of finishing school, two and sometimes three other languages without necessarily being in Immersion programs.

I know a number of parents I've talked to who would like to put their children in Immersion programs, do not have the ability to do that because of the limitation of spaces and yet their children are now denied an opportunity to learn the French language for the first four years or so of their school, because the earliest chance of getting in a French program, I believe, is at Grade 4, unless you take the Immersion program.

I think that we could perhaps reduce some of the pressures on our excellent Immersion program if parents were more confident that their children would pick up a higher level of competency through the regular school program, as well, of an hour or so a day, starting off at an earlier stage perhaps in school and carrying through. I wonder, in the development of the pedagogy, what sorts of exercises, have we tried to look at other countries and what they have developing, how they can be so successful whereas we have been, in this country dismally unsuccessful in our regular stream of teaching second languages.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity for others to have an opportunity to enter the debate with respect to the Department of Education. I want to do so from a somewhat different position that has been put forward today.

Mr. Chairman, without any great repetition of history, I do recall with some satisfaction that I was part of the Roblin administration in the 1960s that went through that very extensive program of school consolidation in rural Manitoba and we did so for the reason to bring about greater equity of educational opportunities to rural students. That wasn't done without some difficulty and without some political costs. I can well remember that my signature is affixed to an Order-in-Council that disestablished 186 one-room schools throughout the Interlake area without the benefit of a vote or anything.

We did all of that because we were committed to bringing about educational opportunities that more closely equaled those that were available in the larger urban centres and of course, to do so, one had to bring about larger school populations where the additional courses, the range of education could be made available to students.

What worries me about the whole situation that developed shortly after that, in the Sixties, the introduction of the French Immersion courses to schools in our education system is that a good part of Manitoba will never be able to take advantage of it. My own personal situation, I don't mind putting it on the record. As a result of my recent marriage, my young son is

enrolled in the French Immersion course at Robert H. Browning School, but I have a real personal problem. My school division will never be able to offer a French Immersion course. We have enough problems with geography and student counts in communities like Woodlands, Warren, Grosse Isle.

Our students are, first of all, already spending a great deal of their time on buses, several hours a day. It's with some difficulty that we fight to retain, particularly, our elementary schools. I don't make the case for the high schools. Students are older and the travel implications are not quite as severe on them, but to cite just my own example of the Woodlands Elementary School, it's a fine school. Both my sons graduated from it and they've both gone on to a higher education, but we have difficulty in just maintaining the student count to keep that school open.

So the concept of ever being able to introduce French Immersion into that kind of setting is simply not there. I worry as we move into the '80s and into the '90s without any - it's not a question of doing so deliberately or with malice, but simply geography and student count, rule out that opportunity. We hear and we hear it mentioned often by those who are sending their children to Immersion courses, they feel that it's important to their overall educational development; it's important to where the Country Canada is with respect to the official acknowledgment of the two languages. Certainly I want my youngster to have the same opportunities that any youngster has in a larger urban setting. My choice is that I have to make arrangements and transport my son, who is just now entering Grade 2, for the rest of his academic life to the city - in my case it is to the city.

That's just a problem that I see arising, I don't think there is an easy answer for it, nor am I suggesting that one can be found for it. What I do suggest to the Minister - and this is really my request of the department - that every effort be made to enhance and to ensure the quality of the French Core Program as the best possible substitute, and that the core program not suffer any deprivation of attention by this Minister, by the staff, by the department, when juxtaposed with the Immersion course. The Immersion course has its place and its role, and even then attracts its share of difficulties.

I remind you, Madam Minister, that in the city if a school has to close because of population shifts, we're talking about children having to walk an extra block or two, or maybe even four or five, but in the country we're talking about 20 and 30 and 40 and 50 miles, and it's just not possible.

Most rural parents understanding; I certainly understand that. I wouldn't want to see a situation develop where the one elementary school that I have that we fight to maintain, because already our children have to get up at 8:00 a.m. to get to it, to put together maybe 85 or 90 — (Interjection) — Yes, leave at 8:00 a.m., they have to be on the road at 8:00 a.m. They have to get up at 7:00 and very often earlier than that if they have any farm responsibilities, or even just simply getting themselves ready for school.

We have enough of a difficulty maintaining those schools with their enrolments of 80, 85, 100 or 130, and the thought of dividing that up simply is not an acceptable answer, and I'm not suggesting that to the Minister.

What is, in my judgment, acceptable is a good French Core Program. I have some experience, some reason to believe that is the case, and is being offered in my school division. I simply want to underline with the department and with the Minister, on this occasion, that while the courses in the Immersion concept seem to get more than its fair share of headlines and attention, that I wouldn't like that that not be the case in terms of dedication on the part of resources and funds by the department, and the Minister would assure on that point, if that in fact is the case, that she is cognizant of this situation that is peculiar to rural school divisions, and I say even more peculiar to rural school divisions that don't have large centres.

My constituency is filled with communities of less than 150 people. I don't have a Steinbach, or I don't have a Portage la Prairie, or a Brandon, or a Neepawa even, or a Minnedosa. My constituency consists of the Meadows, the Marquettes, the Gross Isles, the Warrens - all of them that have very small population centres in which I don't foresee the day, ever, that we can put together the kind of student population that would justify a complete and separate system, which can be offered in the larger urban centres.

Mr. Chairman, those are my few concerns with respect to this aspect of the Department of Education and I thank you for having the opportunity to putting them on the record.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Just a few comments. The Member for Lakeside raises a very important matter, and one that we are aware of and concerned about, and it's a question of equity and quality. It was raised by the Member for Kirkfield Park, too, when she was talking about making sure that the teachers that were teaching the core program, that we were giving as much attention and consideration to the quality of their skills, and not just concentrating on the ones that would be teaching Immersion, because if that's all the kids are getting, is the point that's being made, then it's more important than ever that the skills and the abilities of the teacher and the quality of the program be top notch.

I agree, and I would only say to him, since he was asking for confirmation, one, that we recognize it, and two, that perhaps in giving us the information of his personal experience he's reaffirmed what we knew and will make us particularly cautious and sensitive to the issue to make sure that the core program, which is the only option available to a number of students in smaller communities, is an excellent program and the quality of the teachers to teach that program is good, so I thank him for that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: It seem as if I always enter upon the Minister's Estimates at opportune times, and once again this is so.

My colleague from Lakeside made some very valid points, which I have to echo because our school division likewise faces similar concerns by parents that their children have a grounding in the second language. It is not something that is easily implemented; it's not something that readily available teachers are there to be hired; and certainly, as the Minister is well aware, the budgets of schools do not allow it.

What we are seeing in Manitoba and I don't think this is any way exaggerated, we are seeing a two-tier system of education developing in Manitoba, where in the City of Winnipeg and Brandon, and I can't comment, for instance, on Portage or Steinbach or Flin Flon, or The Pas, where there are larger centres, but the availability of Immersion programs, certainly in Winnipeg and Brandon, are quite available to the students, where between the parents and the students there's a desire to take the French Immersion Course.

Rural Manitoba doesn't have that luxury, there is no Immersion course in the school division that my children attend. That presents a problem in the availability of the standard of education where students may be able to compete for positions.

This Minister knows that since the language debate in this province, that this government now advertises for more and more positions to be filled bilingually than ever in the history of this province. Students from rural Manitoba who are equally as bright, equally as capable of filling those positions will be denied from some of them because of the lack of an Immersion program in the school divisions in rural Manitoba unless it is available at the considerable expense that my colleague has laid out to you this afternoon. I certainly, as long as, I suppose, I'm an elected MLA could maintain and bring my children into Winnipeg and put them into a school division in an Immersion school in Winnipeg and pay the majority of the costs.

The point I want to make with the Minister is that the school system now discriminates against rural students from many rural school divisions. The answer to it would be for the Minister to fund adequately and make available in rural Manitoba Immersion courses, but then we would run into the constant criticism that well the budgets don't allow that. I understand that. More than anybody, the rural ratepayers, the parents in these rural school divisions, understand that problem because they take a look at their tax bills and they find, as no doubt my colleague has pointed out, my colleague, the MLA for Arthur - if I can just find that piece of correspondence that he circulated to us. In the R.M. of Edward school taxes have increased incredibly since 1981. While the municipal rate in effect, has gone down, the school tax rate has gone up from 57 mills to 78 mills in a four-year period.

When we come to rural school divisions who wish to offer Immersion courses in French and the legislation allows if 23 students so request, the division must provide it. I don't know how much obligation there is on the department to help fund it if that request is made, but I can assure you that the majority of the dollars are going to come from the ratepayers in rural Manitoba from the landowners, from the farmers, from businessmen in those small communities.

What we have here is we've got ourselves a little bit of a tiger by the tail. There isn't a parent and very few parents in rural Manitoba that don't want to have an equal access to bilingual education, an equal access that the city people have for their children. They are thinking of future jobs. You go to the Federal Civil Service and how many jobs are advertised unilingually in the Federal Civil Service now? Not very many. So, with the size of the government nowadays a student who doesn't have access to Immersion so that he can be classified as bilingual with the increased hiring in

even a province with this government of bilingual positions, you are denying rural Manitoba students from an equal opportunity to compete. That's something that's never happened before but it is starting to happen now.

The cost of rectifying that, I'm sure the Minister can't even put a figure on it, but it would be astronomical. That's where we get into some of the very real concerns that surfaced in the language debate and they're not bigoted concerns. They're concerns by the people who are footing the bill asking how much further can we go in expenditures to carry on with the extension of a bilingual program in the Province of Manitoba. That's why this government ran into so much criticism and so much problem because the people out there that are footing the bill realized the cost much more so than any of the 33 members sitting in the government ever realized the costs.

As long as the government doesn't have the money which is an excuse they've used very regularly and very constantly when it comes to expanded services in a number of areas, we are going to continue to have students in rural Manitoba being offered a second-class type of education when it comes to language instruction.

I am not making these comments in criticism of this Minister or this government in terms of the funding that they make available. It is a problem that has grown and will continue to grow as long as the emphasis in this country is on bilingual hiring. It is going to be the discrimination of students who are in the Minister of Agriculture's constituency, in my constituency, in the Member for Ste. Rose's constituency - not so much there because they do have a Francophone community there - but anybody that doesn't have access. I'm sure the Minister of Agriculture, I don't think he has any Immersion French courses offered in the school divisions in his constituency. It makes for a discrimination that rural students are discriminated against in the availability of education compared to the urban schools.

Maybe the Minister could offer a cost that it would be to extend that and make Immersion courses available. I doubt if she could even put a figure on it. It would be astronomical, I think. As long as the availability isn't there, there will be the discrimination and it'll be the rural students that don't have the equal opportunity.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Chairman, probably just to try and cover a few of the main points that were made in the debate from the Member for Pembina and the Member for Lakeside.

First of all, there were a couple of specific questions. One is the board is required if they've got 23 and what happens? Are they left to fund this entirely on their own even though they're required by law to provide it. Any school division of any size really that decides that they want to offer the programs and they will offer the programs are entitled to exactly the same funding as any other school division.

We must remember that when we're talking about costs that the costs of these programs has always been to be the extra additional costs over and above the regular programs. The intention was not to pay all the

costs of a program. They get the basic costs for their individual students and then they get these costs over and above it. They've been determined over a long period of time and they're supposed to be adequate to cover what we recognize as the additional cost of teaching another language that require resource materials and teachers and things like that without funding the whole program. They would get exactly the same as anybody else received.

I don't dispute the main point because it's something we've been grappling with, the question of equity and accessibility for Northern and remote and small rural communities. We've taken a number of steps to try and address that that aren't necessarily related to a language program but are related to addressing the issue. I'll describe what a couple of them are. One of them clearly is the equalization program with \$52 million. The largest group that gets a benefit out of the equalization program is the small, rural poor or small and poor school divisions. A large number of them were in the North and in the country. They get that money in a block sum. It was money they never received before. They get a bigger share of the pot and they can do what they want with it. One of its main purposes is to give small communities and school divisions and poor ones more money to do the job that the richer ones and bigger ones have always had to do. It doesn't solve all the problems but it certainly moves to address it.

The Small Schools Program has got the same principle, to get money into small schools, a large number of which are in the country. The small schools pilot project is an area where I'm not sure that it's being used, but it could be.

So that if a school division - and I want the Member for Pembina to hear this point - the small schools pilot project would not address all of the deficiencies or inequities, but it is there for school divisions to develop projects in areas that are very important to them and to get funding for them, and they could easily under the small schools pilot project, where the size of a school may cause them some problems, get additional support and be able to offer a program in Immersion through the small schools pilot project. There is nothing to preclude a division that is really interested from using that as a vehicle to get support.

There are presently about 10 rural school divisions that do have Immersion programs, so that there are ways. I think that one of the things that should be done, if there is a community or a division that's really interested, is find out how the others are handling it, like how are the other small rural school divisions managing with the same limits in size and the same limits in funding and the same problems of numbers of students. — (Interjection) — Well you would have to determine that. I'm not sure that you know which ones are, but maybe some others have found some other solutions. Don't assume that it's all on that basis. They may have a better way of restructuring or organizing; they may have a better way of co-operating. Certainly co-operation between school divisions, especially neighbouring school divisions, some of them aren't lucky enough to have somebody close to them, but the ones that are were very open to co-operative programs and would not limit co-operation and sharing to get a program that two school divisions wanted.

So I appreciate the points that are made. I recognize them. We've made some attempts to deal with them and there are some other options there, if the school division is really interested, that the department would be very willing to explore with them.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's comments. I missed one point in what she said about the terms of the funding that's available. For instance in a school division such as the one my children go to, probably one French Immersion school may be - and I'm theoretically thinking here - maybe all that would be feasible in a school division which has schools as of next year in one, two, three, four, five communities, spread over a distance of some, I suppose, 40 miles all told.

Now there are additional transportation costs because your students may well come from all seven communities that are part of that - we've got six schools, pardon me, I forgot about one but that doesn't matter - **but you're** going to have incredible transportation costs in school divisions. We have a neighbouring school division that has undertaken 75 percent program, 50 percent program, etc., etc., and their costs are incredibly high because of transportation and administration.

It is really the landowner that pays the cost. When you start talking, mixing two very emotional issues together, language, as was stirred up 18 months ago, with ever-increasing costs when the farmers are no longer able to afford increased land taxes, I mean you have got yourself a tiger by the tail. We have to remember that in these school divisions, it is a minority of the property owners who want the extended language education because not everybody has students in school, so that the people that do not have students going to school are being asked through the land tax base to bear a substantial amount of additional cost with the implementation of Immersion programs.

You get circumstances today where the cost price squeeze is severe on the rural community, and many of your rural school divisions, even though they may be these rich ones that the Minister likes to refer to from time-to-time, they can't afford any higher land taxes for education without something giving. When **you mix** the volatility of those two issues together, you end up with only, I believe the Minister was saying, 10 rural divisions offering an Immersion course and that's probably the main reason why.

So what I'd like to find out from the Minister is, in addition to the per student grant, which I presume is an additional grant for français program, then is the Minister also saying that additional transportation costs that may be incurred and facility etc.- or not facility because that should presumably be covered in the 250 - but is she saying that all additional costs are covered or only a portion of them?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Whatever they are entitled to, they are entitled to get. In the rural areas they are entitled to transportation costs. I mean they always argue that they're never sure that we're paying all of the transportation costs and that sometimes there is a requirement or a burden on the community. But it doesn't matter what the program is, if they are

transporting children and it's within the criteria that allows transportation grants, they can also receive those transportation grants for the français program.

There was another question in there. I wanted to clarify one thing. I wasn't suggesting that the rural areas were the rich areas. There must have been a misunderstanding in how I communicated that. I was actually saying that the equalization money goes to the poorer divisions, a large number of which are the small rural school division. It's those that are low balanced assessment, the poorest and small school divisions that have the lowest number; and that the redistribution of \$52 million into poorer school divisions, a large number of which are in the country, has given them the major financial shot in the arm to provide programs that they want to provide.

There are some so-called poor school divisions, if we were going to put them in that category, like Seine and Whitehorse and Mountain that do have Immersion programs, but to the specific question, whatever they're entitled to for transportation would also be covered under for the language programs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

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

Merci Monsieur le présidente. Je suis nouveaux étudiant en français. — (Interjection) — Pardon? Oui. Je vous poser mes questions en français, mais il y n'a pas de député ici tu me comprend, et je pense je droit poser mes questions en Anglais, et je parle en Anglais aussi.

TRANSLATION

I am a new student in French. I would ask my questions in French, but there is no deputy here who can translate this for me, so I'll pose my questions in English, and I speak in English as well.

I'm a new student in French and I thought that rather than give anybody any problems, and the time is rapidly approaching 5:30, I'll take up the time right until 5:30, but I know that I'm not going to try and prolong the debate on these issues.

I think that there are some problems concerning le Bureau De L'Education Française and I would just like to bring it to the Minister's attention so that if some corrections and some things to rectify the situation can be done, I think the Minister, who I have a nice feeling for and trust . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. A. KOVNATS: We do have some problems concerning the French programs at the schools. We have some English teachers, who are now finding that their positions are becoming extra, where they're not needed, and we're really doing very very little, I would think, to re-educate those teachers so that they can enter into the program of the French language.

I heard the Minister state that there is a program for teaching teachers at St. Boniface College, but there was a cost factor involved, and there's got to be some sort of arrangements where these people, without losing their seniority, have the opportunity of picking up the second language so that their position in the school district is secure. I would hope that - they were originally hired because of their abilities and their teaching background - it wouldn't be held against them that they only have the one language. If they do want to proceed and get some additional training, it should be provided for them.

I have complained, because in the past all of my French education, I had to pay for, and I'm not saying just throw it open, because I know there is a cost factor and I wouldn't want to embarrass the Minister into saying, you know, the cost is prohibitive. I know the cost is prohibitive, but I think that there's got to be something similar to what I was suggesting to the Honourable Minister concerning the sign language.

I think that people of French background have a right, particularly in the Legislature and the courts to speak French, and they also have the right to be understood. I think the teachers who are not quite capable - it's the security of the teachers that I wanted to bring to the Minister's attention. Can she advise what type of security those who are in the English program, who are fairly new because of lack of seniority and the program being turned over into Immersion, where we are losing the student - well, not losing students, the students are going into Immersion and there's less students going into the English program - what security have we got for those teachers that are in the English program?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

The hour now being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m. this evening.