



**First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
<b>ALCOCK, Reg</b>	Osborne	LIBERAL
<b>ANGUS, John</b>	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BURRELL, Parker</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>CARR, James</b>	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
<b>CARSTAIRS, Sharon</b>	River Heights	LIBERAL
<b>CHARLES, Gwen</b>	Selkirk	LIBERAL
<b>CHEEMA, Gulzar</b>	Kildonan	LIBERAL
<b>CHORNOPYSKI, William</b>	Burrows	LIBERAL
<b>CONNERY, Edward Hon.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.</b>	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
<b>DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>DOER, Gary</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James Hon.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Herald, L.</b>	Niakwa	LIBERAL
<b>DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>EDWARDS, Paul</b>	St. James	LIBERAL
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>ERNST, Jim, Hon.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>EVANS, Laurie</b>	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
<b>EVANS, Leonard</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary, Hon.</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FINDLAY, Glen Hon.</b>	Viriden	PC
<b>GAUDRY, Neil</b>	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
<b>GILLESHAMMER, Harold</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>GRAY, Avis</b>	Ellice	LIBERAL
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HELWER, Edward R.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>HEMPHILL, Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>KOZAK, Richard, J.</b>	Transcona	LIBERAL
<b>LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.</b>	Inkster	LIBERAL
<b>MALOWAY, Jim</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>MANDRAKE, Ed</b>	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
<b>MANNES, Clayton, Hon.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McCRAE, James Hon.</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>MINENKO, Mark</b>	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
<b>MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.</b>	River East	PC
<b>NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.</b>	Rossmere	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte Hon.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald Hon.</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PANKRATZ, Helmut</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>PATTERSON, Allan</b>	Radisson	LIBERAL
<b>PENNER, Jack, Hon.</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>PLOHMAN, John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>PRAZNIK, Darren</b>	Lac du Bonnet	PC
<b>ROCAN, Denis, Hon.</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>ROCH, Gilles</b>	Springfield	LIBERAL
<b>ROSE, Bob</b>	St. Vital	LIBERAL
<b>STORIE, Jerry</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>TAYLOR, Harold</b>	Wolseley	LIBERAL
<b>URUSKI, Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>YEO, Iva</b>	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 14, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland):** Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition of John McDonald, Earl Moore, Mary Eastman and others calling upon the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to consider the submission made by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and others for funding to make presentations before the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

**Mr. Clerk (William Remnant):** "We the undersigned request the Attorney-General to seriously consider the submission for funding by the Justice Committee of organizations wanting to make presentations to the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

"The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry is conducting hearings in Manitoba that are of vital importance to restoring confidence in the administration of justice in this province.

"The need for effective, carefully prepared presentations by Aboriginal groups to this inquiry is obvious to anyone who understands the purpose for the inquiry.

"The success of the inquiry will depend to a large degree both on the participation of Aboriginal people and the documentation of the extent of the problems of the current judicial system."

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### BILL NO. 40—THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AMENDMENT ACT (2)

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 40, The City of Winnipeg Amendment Act (2).

#### BILL NO. 39—THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AMENDMENT ACT

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 39, The City of Winnipeg Amendment Act.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to our table where we have with our Clerks today Mr. Robert Marleau, who is the Clerk of the House of Commons of Canada. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

We also have with us this afternoon in the public gallery, from the Ross L. Gray School, sixteen Grade

9 students under the direction Mrs. Sheila Norman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Highway and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger). On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### Free Trade Agreement Regional Subsidies

\* (1335)

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst). One week from today, Manitobans and indeed all Canadians are going to go to the polls and I think that all of us, no matter what side of the issue we happen to be on, would recognize the Free Trade Agreement is the most important issue that is facing both Manitobans and Canadians. This Government has an obligation, as do all Governments, to provide to the people of this province all records and informations available to them, so that Manitobans can make the most informed and enlightened decision possible. They should be the ones making this decision, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, my question to the Minister is, in light of the statements of the former Premier that he had information in the spring of 1987 that regional development subsidies would be restricted, can the Minister tell us if he is aware of such information and, if he is, will he table it in this House?

### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** On a point of order, I think it is up to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) to ascertain the facts that she wants to bring before the House and that it is probably improper to ask a Minister if he is aware.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Government House Leader—the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) to rephrase her question.

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then, does the Minister have such information in his files, and will he table them?

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Manitoba as a beneficiary of regional development programs is well known. As a matter of fact, we want to ensure in the future that regional development programs are continued in the Province of Manitoba. The information that I have indicates that those programs under the Free Trade Agreement will continue.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** With a supplementary question to the same Minister, the previous Premier says that regional

subsidies are on the bargaining table. Can this Minister tell the House if he has had correspondence which would indicate clearly that regional subsidies are on the bargaining table under the FTA?

**Mr. Ernst:** Mr. Speaker, I have not.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** A supplementary question, will this Minister undertake today to state publicly in this House and publicly afterwards in scrum that should regional subsidies at any point be on the bargaining table that this Government will in every way disassociate itself from that kind of a Free Trade Agreement?

**Mr. Ernst:** Such issues are not on the bargaining table and, quite frankly, we do not need to have any prompting from the Opposition. That position has been our Government's position for a long time, that regional development is important to Manitoba and we want to see it continued. We are assured it will be continued.

### Manitoba Fashion Institute Free Trade Support

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a new question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), last week, the Premier of the province (Mr. Filmon) tabled with some glee a letter from the Manitoba Fabric Institute, a letter which he said indicated their full support for the Free Trade Agreement. The Fashion Institute letter did not indicate that at all. What the letter said was that one Gary Steiman did support it, and a number of their members did as well, but it said nothing about the position of the Manitoba Fashion Institute. Can this Minister tell us today if he is still of the opinion that the Manitoba Fashion Institute fully supports the Free Trade Agreement?

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** What prompted the letter that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) tabled some 10 days ago was a meeting between myself and members of the fashion industry with regard to two questions: the Free Trade Agreement and the MTN. Mr. Speaker, what prompted that to come forward was the unequivocal statement made in my office by members of the Fashion Institute that they are supportive, 100 percent behind free trade, and that is the information that came to us and that is what prompted the letter from Mr. Silver who is the president of the Fashion Institute and I would assume who makes statements on behalf of that institute, not likely.

\* (1340)

### Free Trade Agreement Impact Garment Industry

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** In a supplementary question, can the Minister then explain to this House today why that same Mr. Silver is indicating that his institute has some serious reservations about the free trade impact on the garment industry in the Province of Manitoba? He has been

joined in those concerns by Mr. Nygard, who represents the largest single garment industry representative in this province.

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Speaker, I too read the article in today's Free Press with regard to the fashion industry in Manitoba where it quotes extensively Mr. Nygard. Mr. Nygard is one player in the fashion industry. I also happened to be this morning on an industrial tour of MWG Apparel, who are also a significant player in Manitoba's market. Mr. Klapman told me this morning that they are 100 percent in favour of free trade.

### Garment Industry Job Retraining

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a final supplementary to the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Ernst), Mr. Nygard employs 800 people in this province, primarily located in the city. Can the Trade Minister tell us what plans this Government has to put into place immediately, should those jobs be lost and it appears they will be, what plans are being put into place to guarantee those individuals will be retrained? What funding is being put aside for that retraining, and how does this Government intend to protect the workers, primarily women, in the garment industry in the Province of Manitoba?

### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as usual, with Honourable Members opposite and some people who are on the campaign trail, campaigning against free trade, the question is a hypothetical one. What will the Government do if something may happen? This is a hypothetical question and is improper in this place.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you. I would like to thank the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae). Would the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) rephrase her question?

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a supplementary question then to the Minister, we have been waiting for plans, any plan for the adjustment process under the Free Trade Agreement. What plans does this Minister have?

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please.

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Speaker, the start of the planning process was to have meetings with industry sectors from all across the economy of the Province of Manitoba. Those indications were to determine if adjustment is required, not when and not on any hypothetical question but the question of, should free trade go ahead, what adjustment would be required? That was the reason for the meetings, and that indicated

that little, if any, adjustment was going to be required at all in Manitoba.

That was not my position, and that was not the position of the Government side of the House. That was the position of industry representatives, who appeared in my office and to whom I asked that specific question. They were advised in advance of the questions that were to be asked and what the discussions were to be about so they had opportunity to deal with their own specific industry. The indications were little, if any, was going to be required.

### Selkirk School of Nursing Closure

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** I have a very direct question to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). It has arisen because of some very strong concerns among residents of Selkirk, employees of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre and residents and employees and students at the Selkirk School of Psychiatric Nursing about the rumoured potential closure of that school.

My question to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is, can he clearly indicate to this House and to those who share those concerns if his department is currently reviewing the possible closure of the Selkirk School of Nursing.

• (1345)

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** The one individual who probably voiced a concern most would be the former Premier of this House, Howard Pawley, who is in the middle of an election campaign in none other constituency but Selkirk, possibly bringing up this issue. The reason I say that, Mr. Speaker, is that for at least four Budget cycles, three of which were NDP Budget cycles with Premier Howard Pawley in the Chair, considered the closure of the Selkirk School of Nursing at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Now, as my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, has just said, yes, they stopped it. When that option was presented to me this spring in preparation of the Estimates we are now debating, I said, no, it will not be closed.

**Mr. Cowan:** The Minister was very careful in his choice of words when he said, "In preparation for the Estimates we are now debating." The closure which is rumoured and very strongly rumoured in the area would not take place under these particular Estimates but would take place in future Estimates—

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**Mr. Cowan:** Yes, I do.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member kindly put his question now.

**Mr. Cowan:** Can the Minister indicate whether or not his department is seriously considering the closure of

the Selkirk School of Nursing, not in this particular Estimates cycle but in Estimates cycles to follow within the next couple of years, namely, the cycle that would take place for the 1988-1990 year?

**Mr. Orchard:** I suspect three years and four years ago, and two years ago, and indeed one year ago, the rumour went through Selkirk that the school for psychiatric training would be closed. That rumour has been around for some time. It contrasts rather directly with the rumour that was prevalent in Portage la Prairie five years ago where unilaterally my honourable friends closed the School of Nursing and Care without consultation.

In the preparation of Estimates, because the school closure has been proposed for the last four years, I can speculate to the extent that it may well be offered as an option for cost savings, for amalgamation of program again this year.

Mr. Speaker, all I can indicate to my honourable friend is that no decision has been made by this Government to close the Selkirk School of Nursing. The rumours persist, I will admit, as they have persisted for four years and are brought to life now—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that the Minister will not answer a question directly but instead attempts to deflect attention on to other issues.

### Future of Facility

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** The question to him directly, and it arises out of a meeting that his staff held in Brandon where it was seriously suggested that the Selkirk Psychiatric School of Nursing would be closed: can he now indicate very clearly that the people who were speaking on behalf of his department at that meeting were wrong in suggesting that the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Selkirk would be closed in the near future? Can he try to project his answer not just one Estimates cycle ahead but ahead far enough - (Interjection)- so that we can—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Health.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I have a November 14, 1988, letter from my honourable friend, the NDP Health critic, MLA for Churchill (Mr. Cowan). It says in the second paragraph of this letter, which I guess was subject of a press conference at noon today, I believe, but I do not know whether any of the questions asked of the NDP Health critic revolved around how his former Leader, Mr. Pawley, was doing in the Selkirk election; it possibly should have because I understand he is running third—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order. I would like to remind the Honourable Minister that answers to questions should be as brief as possible.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Speaker, in the second paragraph of my honourable friend's letter, it indicates, "It appears

that these rumours originated with comments by Mr. Don MacLean in a meeting in Brandon on November 7, 1988, at which time he stated that the School of Psychiatric Nursing at Selkirk would be closed and that an official announcement would be made in the near future to that effect. Mr. Speaker, all I can indicate is that no decision has been made to that effect which would allow Mr. MacLean to make that statement.

\* (1350)

### Interlake Constituency Representation

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** Given the fact that the Minister will not answer this question directly and given the fact that he is more interested in the politics of the federal election in Selkirk than the needs of the people in the Interlake, my question is to the Acting Premier.

Will the Acting Premier immediately undertake discussions with the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) to ensure that the First Minister as soon as possible brings into Cabinet some representation from the Interlake area of this province so that, when these issues are discussed, they will be discussed on the basis of the needs of those residents and not on the basis of the political motivations of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I would be more than pleased to take my honourable friend from Churchill's (Mr. Cowan) suggestions as to what process ought to be followed in making any decisions of Government, because my honourable friend knows from experience that you do not, as the previous administration did, unilaterally close a nursing school like they did at Portage La Prairie without consultation with staff, without consultation with the Registered Psychiatric Nursing Association, without consultation with any of the players in the mental health system, but merely exercise a unilateral decision.

Any decision made by this Government, rumoured or otherwise, will be made only after full and complete consultation. I accept my honourable friend's advice. I wish he had followed it himself four years ago.

### Feedlot Industry Tripartite Stabilization Plan

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** I will direct my question to the Acting Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Downey). We on this side of the House were pleased to note that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) had given official notification to the federal Government of the province's intention to enter the tripartite stabilization program for cattle and lamb.

My question is to the the Acting Minister. We realize that there are many steps from the Letter of Intent to the actual situation where the program is in place. Can

the Minister outline the steps that will be taken in order to have Manitoba enter this plan as a full participating member of the plan?

**Hon. James Downey (Acting Minister of Agriculture):** The exact detail of the steps of entry, I will ask my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). One of the steps that was most important was, unlike the other administration prior to us, to cooperate to support the beef industry, not have it destroyed as happened under their administration. I will have that information brought back to the Member.

### Manitoba Cattle Feeders Interprovincial Competition

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** I think one of the major concerns is the so-called lack of a level playing field. We know that the plans in Saskatchewan and Alberta are very lucrative compared with what we are faced with here in Manitoba. Can the Acting Minister indicate just how that so-called level playing field is going to be achieved so that Manitoba cattle feeders are fully competitive with those in Alberta and Saskatchewan?

**Hon. James Downey (Acting Minister of Agriculture):** Again, it is our desire to support the beef industry because it is a major user of feed grains, user of feeder cattle in the province, and one of the best ways to improve the economic conditions in Manitoba are to use those resources that are immediately available to them. I know that my colleague has been in full discussions with the feedlot industry and developing a way in which it can be brought into place, where we are in fact on a level playing field in the industry.

### Feedlot Industry Interim Support

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** A final supplement, again to the Acting Minister (Mr. Downey), and that relates to his answer regarding the feedlot operators. My question to the Acting Minister is will the so-called level playing field be achieved early enough to be of benefit to those who are currently feeding cattle, or does the Minister have some plans for interim support that would assist those while the actual stabilization program is put into effect for Manitoba?

**Hon. James Downey (Acting Minister of Agriculture):** Again, in my answer to the first question, one has to appreciate the fact that the feedlot industry in Manitoba has virtually been lost during the terms of mismanagement of the former administration. The feedlot industry is in dire straits and I will take as notice the question from the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans) as to what stage the discussions are at with the feedlot industry and how quickly it can be implemented to save what is left of that very precious industry.

\* (1355)

## Wife Abuse Shelters Funding Discrepancies

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson). While we on this side of the House applaud the increased funding for wife abuse shelters in the province, we still have questions about the manner the funding was established. Steinbach and Selkirk Crisis Centres are nearly identical in all aspects except funding. Because the Minister has indicated in the Estimates process that they are classified as the same type of shelters, can the Minister explain why a continuing discrepancy exists in funding?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Mr. Speaker, it is quite evident there is a discrepancy in the funding of wife abuse shelters. That is why we have undertaken to try and come up with a better funding formula for them and so staff are working on that in preparatory to next year's budget.

**Mrs. Charles:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for her answer.

## Child Per Diem

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Per diems as well for support of children in the city crisis shelters are six times higher than those in rural shelters, yet both provide similar services. Will the Minister explain why the cost for clothing, feeding, housing and, if necessary, counselling a child in the city is six times more expensive than it is in Steinbach or Selkirk?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Mr. Speaker, that is one of the discrepancies which of course we have discovered in the system and that is historical. The centres, such as Selkirk and Steinbach, were funded as if they were safe homes, which is a different type of shelter and is not really appropriate for the use to which those shelters have now been assigned. These are difficult problems. We are trying to address them and as I say preparatory to next year's budget. We did address the situation to some extent this year with extra funding for one other aspect of those shelters. We do realize there is a great deal of discrepancy to do with per diems but it was how they were set up in the first place and how they were funded in the past, and we are trying to address that.

## Funding Guidelines

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister explain what guidelines will be in place for the new funding process and will they be in consultation with the shelters that exist? Also will the deficits be covered that the shelters will be running this year in this budget?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Mr. Speaker, of course the shelters will be consulted. The group under the direction of the Member

for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) with the Women's Initiative is, as you know, out in various parts of Manitoba. That is one of the things that they will be addressing and talking to people who run shelters, and people who work in them as well to determine just how best to fund them. With regard to this year's deficit, we are looking at that problem and ascertaining what is necessary.

## Deputy Attorney-General Announcement

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** Mr. Speaker, recently the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) raised a question about a vacancy in my department at the level of the Deputy Attorney-General. I am very pleased today to welcome for his first day of work as the Deputy Attorney-General of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. Gordon Pilkey, Q.C., who served in the capacity of Deputy Attorney-General in the Province of Manitoba from the year 1965 until 1984 with one year's hiatus when he served as Deputy Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I assume all Honourable Members will join with me in welcoming to a very important position in our province, Mr. Gordon Pilkey. The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has raised the matter of competence in the justice system and stability, and I cannot think of anyone who would help to bring those two things to our system in this province, competence and stability, than Mr. Gordon Pilkey.

\* (1400)

## Winnipeg Police Racism Allegations

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). I am sure that we were all concerned when we heard reports about an incident that took place in the Inner City last night, an altercation between police and four members of the East Indian community. While it is not exactly clear what happened during that, there were reports from observers that suggested that the members of the East Indian community did nothing but that they were subject to racial slurs, they were threatened, and there were attempts to provoke a fight.

My question to the Attorney-General is, has he, does he intend to investigate this case and, if he does, will he please report the findings to this House?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** I understand the City of Winnipeg Police are investigating the incident. If the allegations contained in the newspaper reports of today are true, then it would be a matter of concern not only for the Honourable Member but for myself and all people who would be concerned about allegations like that.

The Winnipeg City Police is investigating. In addition, the Law Enforcement Review Agency is available for anyone who feels they have been mistreated by the Police Department.

**Ms. Hemphill:** I thank the Attorney-General for that answer.

### Law Enforcement Review Agency Public Awareness

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** I would like to ask the Attorney-General if he feels that with members of minorities and members of the ethnocultural community that they would even know that the Law Enforcement Agency exists? I wonder if he would attempt to see how widespread this is by setting up either an inquiry or some consultation with the Manitoba Intercultural Council which is set up to communicate to the Government and this body on issues related to the people they represent; whether he would set up a committee between the Government and the police on race relations; whether he would consider any of those. First of all, find out how serious and widespread this issue is and then to set up a committee to begin to deal with it.

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** I will take the Honourable Member's question as a representation and follow up the specific matter that she raises today.

### Race Relations Committee Immediate Implementation

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** A further question to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson), I, first of all, would like to commend her on the release of the Multiculturalism Task Report to say that it appears to be not only a fairly good size, but that it appears to be a very good report with some excellent recommendations.

I understand that it is the Minister's intention to consult, to send the report out and to get some feedback on it. We commend her for that. I would like to ask her, and my question, Mr. Speaker, is, although some of the recommendations will need to be studied, there is one that suggests the establishment of a race relations committee and mediation services for the Human Rights Commission and a special investigator for ethnocultural affairs in the Ombudsman's Office, would the Minister please move immediately on these recommendations and not wait for the lengthy time for the consultation and recommendations to come in?

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my honourable friend for that question. Yes, there is going to be extensive consultation and there are some recommendations in the task force report that can be acted on more quickly. I think that in consultation with the Attorney-General and his department, we can move on this a little more quickly than some of the others. I do want to indicate that there will be broad consultation. I want to get down to the grass-roots level and find out what the community out there is feeling. If we want to work together with the multicultural community, we have to start at that level.

### Native Policy Development Impact Justice Inquiry

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** On July 21, this Government announced in its Speech from the Throne that an Urban Native Adjustment Strategy focusing on economic and social issues was to be developed, as was an Illiteracy Strategy, as was a Rural Development Strategy, as was a Water Strategy, a Child Care Strategy, a Strategy for Seniors and Elder Abuse and so on. It has been more than three months since these strategies were proclaimed.

One would have thought that six years in Opposition would have provided ample opportunity for the Conservative Party to set direction, establish policy and develop an agenda. When will this Government go beyond strategizing and start acting?

My question to the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) is, "based on the activity," resulting from these strategies, are we on this side to believe that the Government's major thrust in developing a Native policy is to be served by the inquiry into aboriginal justice?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, let me respond to the Member by saying, first of all, it was a commitment by our Government prior to the election that we would develop in conjunction with the Native community an Urban Native Strategy. It is in the process of being developed between the different departments of the Government where the different jurisdictions fall and to proceed to have full and meaningful discussions with the Native community on that strategy.

### Urban Native Strategy Status

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** The mandate of the Review of the Native Affairs Secretariat, as read in this House by the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) on Tuesday, August 2, makes no mention of the urban Native.

Will the Minister responsible for the Development of the Urban Native Adjustments Strategy advise this House now, not as to what his previous answer was, but as to the status of this strategy? Where is it exactly and when can we anticipate some action?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs):** Let me first of all say that the Review of the Native Affairs Secretariat has been completed. Let me say that the Native community participated very fully and their input is very valued and I am sure that there will be some positive results seen from it very shortly. Let me say to further the answer, as far as the particular Urban Native Strategy is at, I have indicated the different department jurisdictions are developing through a committee stage to have full and open discussions with the Native community and he will see progress on that very shortly.



## Native Affairs Secretariat Review Tabling Request

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** The Minister anticipated just a little bit my last question. The Review of the Native Affairs Secretariat has been completed. I now ask simply, when will this review be tabled in the House?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs):** I hope to be able to provide that information very shortly to the Members of the House.

## Computerized Mapping Production Output

**Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources):** The Honourable Member for Niakwa (Mr. Herold Driedger) asked last Tuesday why the production of provincial maps under the new digital mappings program that we had announced back in February, or had initiated back in February, was not proceeding more rapidly than what it was.

I want to indicate to the Honourable Member that we are in fact proceeding as we have planned. The last piece of equipment that had been ordered by the branch was received in November of 1987 and was installed and operational by February.

The program that was announced for Churchill was a training program and we intend to still be able to produce between five and eight maps by the end of this year. Hopefully, by the end of 1990, we will be able to produce the 300 maps that were indicated when the program was announced. We have also, I believe, initiated a cooperative effort between the federal and provincial Government and the City of Winnipeg, a system which will allow us to become even a lot more efficient than what had originally been projected.

## Grand Rapids Forebay Effect on Community

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** I have a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey). When the Grand Rapids Forebay was created in 1966, the community of Cormorant was not taken into consideration as an area that would be affected. But since that time it has become clear that they had been affected, their agricultural area, the trapping and the fishing were affected. There was a committee struck, made up with the Department of Natural Resources, the Northern Affairs and the community members along with Energy and Mines to deal with that problem. The committee submitted a report to the Minister of Northern Affairs. What has the Minister done with the recommendations that were made to him early this year?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs):** Let me respond to the Member by saying that the community that he refers to, where there have been some brief discussions directly with the community, and as far as the report is concerned, I have not, to my knowledge, seen that report directly

or it has not been brought to my attention by the department and I will check as to where its current whereabouts is.

## Committee Meeting

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** It is unfortunate that the Minister does not keep track of the questions that were asked previously in this House because this question was raised to him previously and he said that he would get back to me. Is that committee still in place and when will be they meeting again?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs):** It is unfortunate, it is extremely unfortunate that the Member is so concerned about one slight issue, when he stood by, when his Government were devastating the community which he represents, like the removal of an agricultural representative, like the disallowing of young people to be trained at Moose Lake Loggers so that they could provide jobs for the young people of that Moose Lake community. He stood idly by while his colleagues devastated the community which he represents.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member for The Pas, with a final supplementary question.

\* (1410)

## Special Forebay Committee Economic Development

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). In that same area there are the Bands of Moose Lake, Grand Rapids, Easterville and The Pas. There is a committee set up called the Special Forebay Committee set up to deal with the economic development in that area. Has the Minister of Natural Resources consulted with that committee and when are they meeting again to deal with economic development opportunities in that affected area?

**Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I have not met with the committee from that area although I am in the process of establishing a meeting to discuss that very issue with them.

## Manitoba Dental School Accreditation

**Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). Earlier this year concerns were expressed that the University of Manitoba Dental School was in jeopardy of losing its accreditation. Can the Minister give us an update on that situation?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my honourable colleague for that question. I would like to inform the House, and indeed it is a credit to all Manitobans, that the Canadian Dental Association has restored to the University of Manitoba's

Dental School full accreditation. That has resulted because this Government has seen fit to put forward to the University of Manitoba's Dental School some \$3 million to assist in their renovations of their dental school. In 1986, the Canadian Dental Association did in fact give the dental school conditional status because of the fact there was overcrowding and the equipment was in such bad shape. Unfortunately, the former Government did not see fit to address the situation, so therefore I am very pleased today, Mr. Speaker, to be able to say that the dental school at the University of Manitoba has achieved full accreditation.

### **Winnipeg Police Minority Representation**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). Yesterday Manitobans heard of an allegation of racism and abuse of authority by City of Winnipeg Police in dealing with a member of Winnipeg's Sikh community, which raises great concern to the Official Opposition. This is an allegation of racism against a community already poorly treated as we know by the federal Conservative Government, and the Official Opposition is extremely concerned that this not continue to be a trend in our city.

My question is, will the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) raise the issue of the numbers of ethnic minorities represented in the City of Winnipeg police force at his next meeting with the City of Winnipeg Police officials?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** A question with a preamble like that, Mr. Speaker, hardly dignifies an answer, but the Honourable Member did seem to find somewhere in there some substantive questions which are matters of legitimate concern. Miraculously, I swear I do not know how he did it. He asks if I will raise the matter of ethnic minorities in the police department in my next meeting with police officials. I can tell the Honourable Member I did that at my last meeting and I will continue to raise that as long as it remains a problem.

The allegations coming from the newspapers tell us that we still have some problems, but what we have at this point are allegations. As I said to the Honourable Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) who raised the question in the first instance, the allegations will be followed up. The Law Enforcement Review Agency is there and the police investigation is there and, as I say, allegations will be followed up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James has time for one final supplementary question.

### **Federal Judges Appointment Committee**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, again to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), a few weeks ago I asked the Attorney-General about the setting up of a committee in Manitoba to nominate members for appointment to the federal Bench. This idea was

originally proposed by the Solicitor General many months ago and the Attorney-General took notice of my question. Has the Attorney-General had a chance to speak with his federal counterparts and to consider the setting up of a committee in Manitoba? In particular again, what non-legal members of the community does the Attorney-General foresee being a member of that committee?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member did raise this matter. The federal Government has set up a committee to advise it on appointments to the federal Bench. Included on that committee are representatives of the Law Society of Manitoba, and in that case it would be its president, Mr. Allan McInnes. The Bar Association of Manitoba has appointed Mr. Jack McJannet. The Chief Justice of Manitoba has appointed the Honourable Mr. Justice A. Kerr Twaddle of the Court of Appeal. The federal Government has appointed Lawrence Pollard and the provincial Government has appointed Arthur Mauro, president and chief executive officer of the Investors' Group.

**An Honourable Member:** Hear, Hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for oral questions has expired.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Prior to Orders of the Day, I would like to acknowledge the fact that in the loge to my right we have Mr. Jim Galbraith, who is a former Member for Dauphin. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

### **SPEAKER'S RULINGS**

**Mr. Speaker:** I also have a few rulings for the House. On October 14, the Honourable Member for Wolsley (Mr. Taylor) rose on a point of order concerning words referring to him, allegedly spoken by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) from his seat, and asked that they be withdrawn. The Honourable Member did not identify the words spoken.

I have examined Hansard and I did find in it the words "the Honourable Manhole Taylor," but they are not attributed to any particular Member. As I recall, there was a considerable disturbance at the time.

Order, please; order. I am therefore unable to take any action on the point of order raised. However, I will take this opportunity to again remind all Honourable Members that in this House, the accepted practice is to refer to other Honourable Members as the Honourable Member for \_\_\_\_\_, or the Honourable Minister of \_\_\_\_\_, identifying the constituency or portfolio as appropriate.

On October 21, the Deputy Speaker took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) respecting statements made by the Honourable Member for St. Johns to the effect that Government Members, in debate, had made personal attacks on

her. The Honourable Minister requested that the Member either identify the individuals concerned or apologize to the House.

I have reviewed Hansard and, in my opinion, the Honourable Member was making a general observation about Members on the Government side of the House. I have reviewed the Rules and precedents of this House and have consulted other parliamentary authorities. I have found nothing to confirm that the Honourable Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) used unparliamentary language or otherwise breached the Rules and practices of this House. I am therefore ruling that the Honourable Minister had no point of order.

I have mentioned before that this is a place in which Members hold strong and frequently opposing views. Competition and confrontation are the norm. Discourteous and provocative words can be expected from time to time. We have been here for a long time and we may be here for some time yet. If all Honourable Members could exercise care and restraint in their choice of language, I believe it would assist the House in getting on with the work before it. As Erskine May states, "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language."

\* (1420)

On October 21, the Deputy Speaker took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Member for St. Johns respecting comments made by the Honourable Minister of Finance and by the Honourable Minister of Health. I have reviewed Hansard and conclude that what occurred was a dispute over the facts. The Honourable Member for St. Johns did not have a point of order because a dispute over the facts is not a point of order. My earlier remarks respecting the use of caution in the choice of language apply in this case also.

On November 2, 1988, the Deputy Speaker took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) respecting the manner in which unanswered written questions appeared on the Order Paper for that day, which he felt did not comply fully with the Rules of the House. I concluded that an examination of the Rules and practices of the House in this respect would be appropriate.

The amendment to the Rules of the House establishing the current practice substituted a biweekly listing of unanswered questions for weekly republishing. This amendment was recommended to the House on March 17, 1975, and concurred in on March 17.

A review of Order Papers since has revealed that the practice followed on November 2 is identical to what has been done consistently since 1975.

I believe that should conclude this matter.

On November 4, the Honourable Member for St. Johns tabled in this House a document respecting the Free Trade Agreement.

Following precedent, I took the admissibility of the document under advisement because it was unsigned,

not directed to any specific individual or organization and its origin was in no way identified.

Neither the Rules of this House nor the practices of the House of Commons specifically address the question of admissibility of tabled documents as it applies in this case.

Reviewing previous Manitoba Speakers' rulings, I noted that Speaker Hanuschak, in a 1970 ruling, stated that "all letters, when read, must be signed and they become part of the documents of the House." In the same ruling, he indicated that it would not be correct to allow the tabling of such a letter (i.e., an unsigned letter).

In 1981, Speaker Graham ruled that "an unsigned and unidentified document is an incomplete document and cannot be considered to be properly before the House."

Based on these precedents, I must rule that the document, in its present form, is inadmissible and cannot properly become a document of this House.

I have consulted the Law Officer of the Assembly on this matter and have been advised that, in her opinion, if the Honourable Member for St. Johns were prepared to make a declaration on the document, similar in content to her remarks about the nature of the document on November 4, and sign the declaration, the document would then be in a form acceptable to the House. If this were done, I would be prepared to accept the document.

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** I would be happy to accept the advice of your ruling and make a declaration on the document similar in content to my remarks about the nature of the document of November 4 and sign the declaration.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Johns. That concludes the rulings for today.

The Honourable Member for Brandon East, on a point of order.

**Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East):** With regard to your ruling on written questions, it is really a query of whether the review of Rules on page 31 of the current Rules Book could be examined, could be undertaken because there is some confusion in the wording and your particular ruling. I am not questioning your ruling. I am simply saying there is some confusion in the way this is written.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Brandon East, and I did make that point. When I was doing my researching this is where I found out there is a little bit of discrepancy there. That is why I brought it to the Honourable Member's attention.

## COMMITTEE CHANGES

\* (1430)

**Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli):** Do I have leave to make changes? (Agreed) The composition of the Standing

Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Gilleshammer for Ducharme, Burrell for Neufeld, and Praznik for Pankratz.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the leave of Honourable Members—(Interjection)—to allow—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order.

**Mr. McCrae:**—the Estimates of the Department of Government Services to come immediately after the Estimates for the Department of Education, after Government Services, to be followed by the Estimates of the Department of Highways. I have spoken to the House Leaders and I understand that there would be leave on the part of all Honourable Members to proceed in that way.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) have leave to change the—(Agreed)

**Mr. McCrae:** I have canvassed the House Leaders for the Opposition Parties and I understand there is a will on the part of all Honourable Members to forgo Private Members' Hour today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the will of the House to forgo Private Members' Hour today? (Agreed)

**Mr. McCrae:** I understand it may be that the Estimates of the Department of Education will be completed today and the order following Education outside the Chamber would then be Government Services and then Highways and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), 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 Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Education, and the Department of Government Services; and the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Health.

\* (1440)

### CONCURRENT COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—EDUCATION

**Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer:** I would like to call this meeting to order to consider the Estimates of the Department of Education. The Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have responses for questions that

were taken as notice that I would like to hand out at this time.

First of all, in response to questions raised on November 10, we have a handout here which includes the overview of Core Area Initiative Employment and Training Procedures, the Process of Evaluation Guidelines, a sample of Occupational Program Evaluations, a sample of Central Park Learning Centre Evaluations, and the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative Program Summaries to August 31, 1988.

In addition, also responses to questions that were raised on October 27 regarding capital funding to schools: (1) criteria for installing lifts and/or elevators into schools and associated costs; (2) how much has been done to render school buildings accessible province-wide; (3) the high quality relocatable classrooms and where they have been constructed; (4) the capital funding to small schools; (5) the length of time it takes to approve capital projects.

In addition, there is a response to a question that was raised on November 10 by the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) regarding enrollments in Continuing Education Programs at the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg. Both universities have had increases in enrollment in non-degree Continuing Education Programs in the last year. At the University of Manitoba, enrollment rose from 8,900 in 1986-87 to 9,300 in 1987-88. The University of Winnipeg was unable to provide me with the specific figures but did indicate that they had also had an enrollment increase in this area. Both universities feel that there continues to be strong demand for additional Continuing Education Programs.

I might also note, for the Honourable Member, that non-degree Continuing Education Programs at the university are self-financing through fees charged to students. The Universities Grants Commission has recently been discussing this entire area with the universities with a view to determining what additional actions are needed.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to date with regard to questions that have been taken as notice. I think that concludes all the information that needed to be provided to date.

**Mr. Chairman:** Under 6. Universities Grants Commission (a) Salaries \$213,800—shall the item pass?

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** I do not know what happens after today. If we finish today and there are any questions that come out, I assume that more piles of paper will be delivered to my door or to the caucus room. At this point, I do not know whether I have any particular questions that would require written responses.

I do have some concerns with the universities. The university with which I have been most closely involved because of my family's involvement since actually 1904—I was not around then—is the University of Manitoba. It is the prime location for graduate and professional education in the province and I believe that the graduates who come from this program provide

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a tremendous service to the community. It has been demonstrated that individuals with university degrees have the lowest unemployment rate and they have the lowest incidence of low income and contribute to a great degree to both private and public good. I am concerned with the low degree of funding to the universities. I am also very aware that because of the economical situation that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) found himself receiving from the previous Government that there are some difficulties in keeping the level of funding above the level of inflation. I did have some difficulty in trying to locate the actual enrollment figures.

Because of a discrepancy, I received a news release dated September 6, 1988, and I also have a copy of Plan '89. In the news release, the statement of the actual enrollment figures, total enrollment is 22,648 as of, I believe, September 1988. The figure for the total enrollment number '87-88—and I do not know whether that means the previous September 1987 or just what it means—is 29,944. That is a difference of 7,000 people and I am wondering what the actual total enrollment figure is for September '88.

**Mr. Derkach:** We do not have the final enrollment figures. We get them as of October 1 and to date all of the figures have not been compiled, but I can indicate to the Honourable Member that the overall enrollment is up about one percent over last year's enrollment.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is the percentage increase of 9.1 percent true for the Faculty of Arts?

**Mr. Derkach:** Those figures have not been confirmed but certainly we can try and get them confirmed and get back to the Member. In the first-year Arts program, we know that the enrollment figures are up substantially, but I cannot substantiate whether it is 9.1 percent or not.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The end of this news release the statement says that last year there were 4,168 students and this year there is 4,549, which I say is an increase of 9.1. My concern would be that if there is an increase in first year Arts students, is there a rise in student-staff ratio or is the student-staff ratio maintained by increasing the number of staff?

**Mr. Derkach:** The student-staff ratio is really a matter that is left up to the universities, but I can indicate that over the last number of years, the student-staff ratios at the universities have not really changed substantially.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me if the 8 percent tuition hike is a true figure or—

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, it is, Mr. Chairman.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Are there any plans to try and hang on to that and not to have another 8 percent hike as of September 1989? What are the plans in the offing?

**Mr. Derkach:** It is still premature to be speculating at what the tuition increase, if any, might be for the next

year and this is a matter certainly that is in the responsibility of the universities. I think it is rather early at this time to indicate whether or not that figure will stay constant or whether in fact there will be an increase.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Research is a vital function of the university. What plans are in the offing to enhance the ability of the various faculties, the various schools, to continue with a modern up-to-date calibre of research?

\* (1450)

**Mr. Derkach:** Research at the universities is really funded through the federal Government, but I might indicate that the province has contributed substantially to the tune of some \$4 million towards the establishment of the network of excellence. This is funding that in one way or another goes directly towards those kinds of research projects.

**Mrs. Yeo:** There is some sort of cry in the air that perhaps the general—I believe it is called the general Baccalaureate Bachelor of Arts Program—is going to be phased out. Can the Minister indicate if this is a true statement?

**Mr. Derkach:** I cannot substantiate that. That matter has not been raised with the Universities Grants Commission, nor has it been raised with me to date.

**Mrs. Yeo:** It is my understanding that the continuing viability of the program has been discussed at great length by different groups within and without the university and I am surprised that the Minister has not been involved or has not heard of these discussions.

**Mr. Derkach:** Although there may have been discussions in this area, and I guess discussions about programming go on all the time, but in terms of phasing it out and that kind of specific discussion, I have not had that with the Universities Grants Commission and that has not, to my knowledge, been raised with the Universities Grants Commission to this date.

**Mrs. Yeo:** We applaud the Government's commitment of \$4 million to establish the Manitoba Centres of Excellence Development Fund. This, of course, is in support of the federal Government's Centres of Excellence Network. Can the Minister provide a list of the proposals submitted by the Manitoba universities to the ministry of Science and Technology for consideration under this particular initiative? I said I was not going to ask for a list and now I am asking for a list.

**Mr. Derkach:** I cannot provide those at this time because the final lists will not be prepared for proposal until the end of November.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Minister is saying that by the end of November we can expect some sort of decision as to what proposals are submitted?

**Mr. Derkach:** By that date, we will have some knowledge as to what the university is suggesting or is submitting for proposals.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The provision of Miscellaneous Capital to fund the upgrading of universities' facilities has been one of the major limitations to university maintenance. Has the Minister identified this as a high priority, and if so, what is he planning to do about it?

**Mr. Derkach:** This situation has been addressed by the Government in that there has been an increase to the Miscellaneous Capital Grants from \$5 million to \$7 million. Certainly, it is too early to say specifically what will happen in the coming years. We understand the problems that are associated with facilities at the universities and I think the announcement to the School of Dentistry was a realization on the part of the Government that we have to do something very concrete and positive towards those kinds of deteriorating conditions. We will be addressing that in the next Estimates, but there is no way that I can give the Member a definitive answer in terms of how much money will be allocated to those kinds of grants.

**Mrs. Yeo:** When we last sat in Estimates, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) asked questions with regard to the national forum on post-secondary education. I believe he alluded to or asked a definite question with regard to establishment of ongoing committees.

Can the Minister tell me from the Saskatoon forum if there are committees that have been established and, if so, what are the committees and when will they be meeting? Are there dates set for their meetings?

**Mr. Derkach:** I guess there are three committees that have been established now and are meeting on an ongoing basis whenever it is appropriate or whenever it is suitable for those committees to meet. One is an intergovernmental committee on Student Aid which was meeting just last week and is co-chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education; another intergovernmental committee is on International Activities and is co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of our department; and there is also a Database Committee which is meeting. There is a proposal to establish a fourth committee but that will be discussed by the Council of Ministers at their meeting in February, I believe.

**Mrs. Yeo:** What provinces are involved and sit on these committees?

**Mr. Derkach:** Every province has representatives participating on these committees.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just a couple of questions about the Universities Development Fund, Mr. Chairperson. I believe that that fund was a \$20 million allotment that would be issued over a five-year period. Am I correct?

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, that is basically the way the program was established.

**Mrs. Yeo:** If the Government were to provide—and I will use the Dental College as an example. I assume the Dental College, that some of the funding came out of the Universities Development Fund?

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, half of the money did come out of the Universities Development Fund.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Are all the grants on a cost-sharing basis and, if they are, is it private enterprise that raises the other half? Is that the idea?

**Mr. Derkach:** The matching is not on a per project basis, so therefore there can be monies raised for other projects and then transferred to a specific project. Although the funds are kind of matching funds, they are certainly not matching on a specific project.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Universities Grants Commission, I do not know when it was established, but I understand that it is the body that sits to formulate the budget for the five universities in the province. Am I correct?

\* (1500)

**Mr. Derkach:** The Universities Grants Commission deals with the four universities in the province. What happens is the Universities Grants Commission recommends to the Government the allocation of sums of money for the purpose of university education. Then the Universities Grants Commission receives the money from the Government and allocates it to the various universities.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Does the Minister believe that this is the most efficient way of budgeting for the universities and is it a copy of the way other provinces fund universities?

**Mr. Derkach:** I cannot really comment whether this is the most efficient method of dealing with universities. Certainly it is a way where we have sort of an arm's length organization that does deal with universities and has worked somewhat satisfactorily in this province. With regard to the question, is this the way that it is done in other jurisdictions, certainly there are some provinces who use this method, others use a different method and certainly we will be examining the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Universities Grants Commission as it relates to the universities.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I realize I have not been involved before and with the pile of material that I have been receiving in very substantial ways daily, some of the information has involved the university, the Universities Grants Commission. I basically do not understand exactly how the UGC works and wondered why perhaps the faculties could not submit their own budgets in a different sort of a way. It seems to me that the UGC is sort of a middleman between the Government and the individual faculties at the university. Is this correct?

**Mr. Derkach:** In a general sense I think the universities in this province favour having kind of an arm's length organization to deal with the universities and it is not the faculties that submit their budgets to the Government or the UGC, it is the universities themselves that do it. It is a method that has been used in this province satisfactorily to date, I do believe. Certainly we cannot say that we will never take a look at whether there are other ways of dealing with universities.

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I think that has to be kind of examined on an annual basis to see whether there are better ways to deal with our universities, and that will be done. But certainly to date the Universities Grants Commission has worked, and has worked very hard I might add, at trying to be the spokesman for students and for universities across this province.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I guess I was rather surprised, too, to see that the Universities Grants Commission was stating the role and mission for the university when I thought that actually the universities were the ones that should be stating basically their own roles and missions in that the four universities are autonomous bodies, I believe. I would think that each university would have their own specific objectives that they would want to follow.

**Mr. Derkach:** It is true that each of the universities has their own sort of mission role and mission statement, but what the Universities Grants Commission was doing in the statement was expressing in a general sense what they felt was the role and mission of the universities in the province. Certainly, it was left up to the universities to either accept or reject that particular statement or not to respond. We saw some response and then we also saw some silence on behalf of the universities as well. So it was not a matter where the Universities Grants Commission was trying to dictate to the universities. It was simply a Role and Mission Statement as expressed by the body, the Universities Grants Commission.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me what sorts of activities are involved with accreditation for different faculties or schools at the university? Do all faculties have to be accredited? Do they have to follow an accreditation process?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, Mr. Chairman, all faculties do not have to be accredited. There are certain faculties that do need accreditation.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me the difference between a faculty and a school? What criteria is involved to label one a faculty and the other a school?

**Mr. Derkach:** This is all an internal matter. Usually what happens is a department starts out as a school and then, through some complex steps, works its way to becoming a full faculty. But certainly it is an internal kind of situation whereby it is left up to the universities to determine that kind of situation or issue.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just a couple of questions with regard to the issue of pay equity which surfaced, I believe, last week as well, can the Minister tell me when there will be some actual paperwork, some definite commitment on the part of the Government to assist the universities with the funding of pay equity?

**Mr. Derkach:** There has been indeed a large amount of paperwork that has gone back and forth in terms of pay equity. Now, as I indicated in the Estimates last week and also in Question Period, this matter is now

being considered by the processes in Government, that being Treasury Board and Cabinet. Once it has gone through those steps, Government will be in a position then to make an announcement with regard to pay equity.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Minister would not hazard a percentage guess today?

**Mr. Derkach:** I am sorry. Perhaps the Member could clarify her question with regard to what she means here.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I am wondering if there could be a stab at what percentage of the \$4.1 million can the universities hope to receive from the Government. Would it be the total amount for them to pay for the pay equity portion of their budgets?

**Mr. Derkach:** The universities do not require the \$4.1 million this year. It is only a portion of that that is required this year. If I were to try and guess at what percentage we would be paying, it would just simply be very hypothetical. I would rather not get into that kind of a situation.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me what the state of applicants—now how can I word this? If an I.B. graduate, an International Baccalaureate graduate from one of the high schools in Manitoba were to apply to, let us say, the Faculty of Science, what would their status be? What credits would be granted to those students who were full I.B. graduates?

\* (1510)

**Mr. Derkach:** The only status that those students would have would be a Grade 12 full accreditation, but there is some consideration now being given to recognizing the advanced programming for those students. But that is being done more on an individual basis rather than on a carte blanche basis for all students who take the I.B. Program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I have talked to several International Baccalaureate graduates who initially, when the program was not offered in Manitoba and was only offered, I believe, through Lester Pearson College in Victoria, a lot of these students—well not a lot. There would be a couple of students who would go to the I.B. Program in Victoria from Manitoba.

These students, prior to 1980, were distressed because they could not access the universities in Manitoba as they could in several other provinces. One graduate from Lester Pearson College I see sitting up in the press box with great frequency. She in fact went to McGill because she could not receive advanced credit for having taken her I.B. course.

I am wondering if, now that we have a significant number of International Baccalaureate graduates, some of them with the full certificate and some of them, I might agree, would have to be given very careful consideration if they have the I.B. Program in only one or two subjects, but we are losing, in fact, some of

these top graduates because they feel that they are not getting the recognition that they feel that they merit by having worked very hard to achieve the I.B. status that they achieved.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, certainly it is not the department's responsibility to set admission standards for the universities. That is something that is done by the universities.

Those students who attend Lester B. Pearson College, for example, would go there at the end of Grade 11 and would take two years rather than the one. So they in fact will come out of the program and perhaps be recognized in an advanced placement or advanced program area, whereas most of the students who do come from Manitoba, who graduate from our high schools here, may get an advanced standing in one particular program but it is done on an individual basis. There is not sort of a general rule for all students who come out of the I.B. Program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Well, I beg to differ with the Minister and will not bow to his wisdom on this occasion.

I believe that students who went to Lester Pearson College went after Grade 10 and took advanced courses in 11 and 12, many of them. They then could go to McGill and enter in the second year of a particular program, maybe not *carte blanche*. There may have been certainly a consideration, and I believe that the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg are trying to give some consideration. But I believe at this point in time, they agree to waive the introductory courses for these particular students so that they may in fact enter in Year 1 but take a Year 2 course in, say, physics or chemistry or whatever. I think that some of the students would certainly be in agreement to this. I just have great concerns that if the University of Manitoba does have statements that they will give distinct consideration to students who graduate from the International Baccalaureate Programs in Manitoba that they should advertise this and perhaps the Minister could encourage this.

I do know that we are losing some of our top students and there is a bit of a brain drain from these top students from Manitoba despite the fact that I also am aware that the university, particularly the University of Manitoba, still considers the I.B. Program somewhat of an elite type of program. Elite or not, there are students who come from very modest homes who have very enhanced brains and who are taking the I.B. Program as an enriched school experience perhaps because there are not other enriched high school programs available for all these students.

Can the Minister tell me about the status of the Advanced Placement Programs that some of the high schools are trying to provide for students who are gifted high school students?

**Mr. Derkach:** There are differences, I guess, throughout the country in terms of what the universities set as their admission standards and it is not up to any Minister to interfere in what kinds of admission standards the university sets for itself, so therefore it is certainly just

an academic argument in terms of what various universities do. I certainly do not think it is appropriate for me as a Minister to start telling the University of Manitoba or Winnipeg or Brandon that they should in fact recognize special placements for students who are graduates of either the I.B. Program or the A.P. Program.

I think that over the last year or so there has been some recognition on the part of universities in Manitoba that those students who have come through those programs should perhaps receive some special recognition in that they have taken the advanced programs, but in a more general sense, I would have to say that we are certainly concerned about the fact that we have to provide some kind of additional programming for children who are gifted.

We hope that topic is one that is going to be addressed in the High School Review, and after consideration of the High School Review Report, hopefully, we will be able to move in a more positive light in making gifted programs for students in Manitoba something that is more frequent than is now available in the province.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I certainly would agree. I would not want to see any Minister of Education charging into any university in Manitoba and telling them, but I do think that a lot depends on the philosophy of the particular Minister of Education himself or herself, and I would think that perhaps the Minister would be in a position to encourage discussion if his particular philosophy is that we do not want to lose some of our top students to other provinces because they feel that they can move along through a university program.

Some of these students are going into a faculty such as Medicine where they may be 30 years old, heaven forbid, before they start earning a living and I think that if these students can cut one year out of their program because they have worked extra hard in their high school period, I certainly would be for that. I do not think it means that they want to skip through university and get out in one or two years. They often are looking at many, many years of extra work and very hard studying. I think Dr. Glenn Nicholls, if we were to look at the numbers of years that he has spent in school, has probably spent more years in school than he has in the work force. There are some who have.

I have concern too for the research grants. I have had some faculties say that the amounts of funding that they are getting for research is dropping substantially. The Minister tells me that the province has no input into the funding for research in the various faculties in the universities?

\* (1520)

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, most of the funds come through the federal Government granting system and, therefore, we have very little influence in terms of how they are awarded or who is going to be eligible for them.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I still think that perhaps Manitoba is being dealt a bit of a dirty deal and that maybe we should



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lobby for more funding. I have been told that in other provinces there are more provincial funds or a greater amount of provincial funding available for research. I am wondering if this has been considered.

**Mr. Derkach:** In a general sense, Mr. Chairman, I think it is widely recognized that the University of Manitoba has done very well in terms of attracting research dollars over the years. I do not think that here we are playing second fiddle to anybody. But it is true that in some jurisdictions there are provincial monies available for research. That point I cannot disagree with.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me about the custodial staff the university has? I had some concerns raised to me by people working in the education building where they said that they used to have eight janitorial or custodial staff and now they have four and that in fact, in a very short period of time, there were something like 21 custodial people relieved of their positions. I am wondering if the Minister is aware of this and if he has concerns.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, certainly I do not know what the custodial staff complement is at the University of Manitoba or how it has gone up and down. In a general sense, the support staff at the university has not changed a great deal. Whether there is one area where there have been some custodial staff reduced and perhaps increased in other places, I could not comment. It is certainly a matter that we can take under advisement and check into. In terms of doing anything about it, it is certainly not within the responsibility of the department.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just an awareness concern, Mr. Minister, there was an article published recently, I believe in September of 1988, "Reach for the Mediocre." I received a copy and was upset because, as I said, my family goes back a long way with regard to the University of Manitoba. Has the Minister read the article and, if so, does he believe it is just an article written without any relevance or has he had discussion with anybody from the university with regard to some of the accusations that were raised in the article?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, Mr. Chairman, I have not had any discussions with anyone with regard to that article at all.

**Mrs. Yeo:** On October 25 in the Free Press, there was another article in response to that particular article that talked about loneliness, alienation at the University of Manitoba. I was floored when I read that particular story in the Free Press because, as at 1960s—and it refers to the 1960s that many students needed counselling because they found there was a tremendous change from the world of high school to the world of the university. Yet, now the number of undergraduate students who need counselling has increased significantly. So there are some 4,000 students annually who need to be counselled at the university. As a 1960 University of Manitoba student, I was floored to hear that it was worse now because I was absolutely dumbfounded as a young student when I went to the campus.

Does the Minister know if there are significant steps that are being taken to try and make that huge world of the university a little more compatible for the students?

**Mr. Derkach:** Again, Mr. Chairman, this is something that is certainly within the jurisdiction of the universities, and I am aware that the universities do have a variety of programs whereby they go out into the schools to not only attract students but to let them know what the university life is all about and to get students familiar with the university itself. Certainly, within the university, there are programs on an ongoing basis with regard to counselling and so forth, but it is certainly not a matter that as Minister of Education I would want to get involved in directly. In terms of encouragement to having more of that go on, I see nothing wrong with that and would be prepared to discuss that with the president when I meet with him.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I think one of the things that contributes to that feeling of not belonging, of course, is the feeling of no one really giving a darn. The professors are loaded with 200 to 250 students per class. Very often, we see a one-eyed monster at the front of the classroom and the television set does not really interact too well with these large groups of students. So I think it is a shame that the funding does not increase somewhat to address some of these situations.

**Mr. Derkach:** I can tell you that when the Member says that classes of 250, that is not the norm for the University of Manitoba or the University of Winnipeg or the University of Brandon. About 5 percent of the classes have students in excess of a 100, and I can tell the Member that there are more classes that have students of 20 or less than there that have students of 100 or more.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I am pleased to hear that. I am thinking specifically of the first-year courses, the undergraduate courses where the students are taking English, mathematics, the basic subjects, history, where it is my understanding that are very few courses where there are fewer than a 100 students, and 100 is a small number. I am surprised if that 5 percent figure were on target for the first-year undergraduate programs. Certainly, the class sizes of 20, perhaps first-year German or something, but I wonder about the courses that the majority of students take like history, etc.

**Mr. Derkach:** I guess if you talk about the first-year program, certainly there will be a lot more concentration of students there per class than there are in the subsequent years. Once again, that is not a matter that is in the jurisdiction for control by the department. It is a matter for the universities to allocate their staff time the way they see fit. They do it of course in accordance to the resources they have. I guess we could solve some of that by providing even additional resources than what we have already, but the Member knows full well that the amount of money this province has is not unlimited and that we have to be careful in terms of how we allocate the resources to, not only to the education system, but to all our departments.

\* (1530)

**Mrs. Yeo:** I certainly do not mean to knock the need for good roads, etc., in our province but I hate to have to battle with potholes, etc., to try and increase the funding to the universities somewhat. Can the Minister tell me if the Assistant Deputy Minister for PACE is also the ADM for the universities?

**Mr. Derkach:** There is no Assistant Deputy Minister for the universities because we do have the Universities Grants Commission in place which sort of takes the place of an Assistant Deputy Minister for that area.

**Mrs. Yeo:** So there would be no consideration to establishing that particular individual, that the Minister feels that the UCG fills that sort of need?

**Mr. Derkach:** That is something that is always under review I suppose and certainly as we move along we will be taking a look at the entire structure of the department. If it is deemed necessary to make some changes, we certainly are not opposed to doing that.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I congratulate the department for the Dental College having received full accreditation and was pleased to hear that. I will await then the cardiology, the ophthalmology, what other programs are there? Certainly cardiology and ophthalmology are two areas where there is a lot of need for updating and work to try and restore these programs. Can the Minister tell us what sorts of things are happening with regard to these areas?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, to date we have not addressed any of those areas. As the Member can appreciate, I just spoke about limited funds and we would dearly like to be able to address each and every one of the areas that is in need. We will have to do it on a kind of priority basis where we will have to enter into discussions with the universities and with the Universities Grants Commission with regard to what the priorities are and how they should be addressed. We certainly could not do it all in one year and we had no intention of doing that. Certainly the School of Dentistry was a very critical area that needed to be addressed and that is why it was chosen as one of the areas that we had to address very quickly.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell the Committee if we have a shortage of dentists in Manitoba?

**Mr. Derkach:** I guess we run into the same problem we do with doctors. There is certainly a shortage of dentists in the rural areas of this province but not necessarily a shortage in the urban centre.

**Mrs. Yeo:** After having asked about ophthalmology and cardiology, etc., and I think there are some other areas as well, I do not want to give the impression that either I am all for restoring their accreditation or I am opposed to it. I am just wondering if the Minister has given any consideration or if there has been any discussion with Ministers from other jurisdictions as to whether or not it is time, because of the funding

difficulties I know all provinces have, whether universities should become more highly specialized in certain areas and then have an inter-jurisdictional exchange if you will so that students similar to our students from Manitoba who go to the University of Saskatchewan or to Guelph for veterinary medicine, if maybe some of these other areas that are costly, if we could not develop, we could not be the key place for pathology, let us say, whereas another jurisdiction could be the key place for ophthalmology.

**Mr. Derkach:** That certainly has been a topic that has been discussed between provinces. Certainly, some of that does happen at the present time. I think as time goes on we will see more of these very highly specialized areas being offered by certain provinces where others purchase spaces, so to speak, in those particular universities. It is true that more needs to be done in this area. As we move along, we will be addressing that and discussing more of that kind of issue with other jurisdictions.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I think the difficulty there is that one would not want to deprive the citizens of Manitoba. For instance, ophthalmology not being an accredited program here and there not being teachers of ophthalmology and students accessing an ophthalmology program, the difficulty there is that the top ophthalmologists, and it is a highly specialized field, then would move to Toronto or Vancouver or wherever. We in Manitoba might then be deprived of top ophthalmological services, if that is a word. So I think we have to be certainly careful of that. I have concerns, as I have concerns with, for instance, the field of speech and language speech pathology, audiology. I know that there is not a course currently for speech and language pathologists or therapeutic training for people in speech and language services. Is this an area that has been looked at, does the Minister know?

**Mr. Derkach:** It has not been looked at to date to my knowledge, but the Member cannot have it both ways. If we are going to establish these highly specialized programs in this province, you cannot go out and start looking at how we can save money by purchasing spaces where these programs are developed in other provinces. Yes, indeed, we would love to have as many of these programs developed in our province as we can. Universities do have budgets to work in and sometimes it is not possible to offer every program under the sun.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just trying to get a feel, if you will, for the Minister's philosophy. I am not just sure just which area he leans towards and I can appreciate that.

**Mr. Derkach:** Flexible.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Flexible. When he says that there are not speech and language pathologists here and that we can establish a program, I am not exactly sure if that is exactly the way he said it. We do, however, have a school for medical rehabilitation. There is a school; there is a program offered; there are students enrolled. The facilities are terribly inadequate, so either we offer

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a good program or we do not offer it at all. We are not able to complete the demands in the province for fulfilling the need for physiotherapists, for occupational therapists. Is there any hope in the future for the school for medical rehabilitation, to see their facility upgraded?

**Mr. Derkach:** I think that all graduates that come from either of our universities certainly meet the requirements. I cannot say, in any field, that our university has lower standards because of equipment or because of lack of resources. I am sure that the university is very careful when they do an analysis of a program to ensure that program in fact does meet the required standards. I think the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has indicated some willingness to take a look at the Physiotherapy Program or to do some work in terms of research in that area.

I agree with the Member that, if we are going to offer a program, we have to have the proper equipment and facilities so that we in fact would have a first-class program. Again, I point to the School of Dentistry and indicate that is why we in fact did put some substantial dollars into that program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just one last question I think with regard to the Faculty of Education, there have been some many, many concerns raised with regard to this particular faculty. As a matter of fact, as a school trustee for the past eight years, I received a lot of questions with regard to this particular faculty. They were not instructing the teachers in appropriate teaching methods, that there were many areas of that particular faculty that were lacking—a lot of concerns.

I think some of these have been addressed because, just last week, I met with about 25 teachers and they said that they felt there was more in the way of practice teaching started at an earlier year in the program. But can the Minister tell me if there has been ongoing liaison with Dean Stapleton of the faculty, and is he aware of some of the concerns that I have mentioned and perhaps many others of his own?

**Mr. Derkach:** Of course, the Teacher's Certification Branch certainly is cognizant of the kinds of programs that are being offered by the universities. I have not had anyone come to me and express a concern about the quality of education that is being offered in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba or any of our universities. As a matter of fact, I met with Dean Stapleton not more than two weeks ago where we discussed practicums and the education program. It has been my impression that the program at the University of Manitoba has certainly been an excellent one which has produced probably better teachers today than at any time in the past.

So therefore, we cannot ever say that we have reached the optimum, and I am sure that the programs will be changed as we go along. But in a general sense, Mr. Chairman, I feel that we are probably producing better teachers now than we have at any time in the past.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Are the numbers of candidates accepted for the Faculty of Education in balance with the numbers of teachers who are needed out there in the work force?

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, very much so. There is always a watchful eye kept by the universities with regard to the market and the number of students that are being accepted into the faculty.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is there anything currently being done to address the shortfall of rural teaching positions from the faculty's point of view, increasing the rural practicum perhaps?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, I met with Dean Stapleton, as I said, not more than two weeks ago and we did discuss this entire issue. Certainly, there are some concerns, some difficulty in getting students to take the practicum in the rural areas, especially if it is an area that is not their home base or home school. Frontier School Division has participated as a rural division in the practicum program and, looking down the road, certainly we want to encourage somehow students to take some of their practicum in the rural areas. That is an issue that will be discussed further with the universities throughout the next year.

\* (1540)

**Mr. Chairman:** Item 6. Universities Grants Commission (a) Salaries \$213,800—pass; 6.(b) Other Expenditures \$148,700—pass; item 6.(c) Grants \$176,240,000—pass; item (d) Access Fund \$790,000—pass.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$177,392,500 for Education, Universities Grants Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 7. The French Education Department, includes services and programs related to French Education, including all programs emanating from the Official Languages in Education Agreement with Canada, (a) Division Administration: (1) Salaries \$115,500—shall the item pass? The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I am wondering why the drop in Professional/Technical, yet the SY remains the same. Is that a new individual that has come on board that starts at a lower salary? Oh, oh, oh, I am on the wrong page. Forget me.

**Mr. Chairman:** Item 7.(a)(1) Salaries—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures \$22,200—pass.

7.(b) Curriculum Development and Implementation: (1) Salaries \$791,700—shall the item pass? The Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**Mrs. Yeo:** This amount is less, right? I am wondering why the Curriculum Development area is down.

**Mr. Derkach:** There was a reduction of one position in that area which occurred in this last year. It is the physical education consultant who was terminated or was cut out of the program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The other question I have is I am wondering if there is any move, or is there a section under BEF that looks after the universities?

**Mr. Derkach:** The bureau works very closely with the universities. However, the universities get most of their funding through the UGC and then their other funding comes through the Official Languages in Education Program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is there an individual from BEF who sits on the Universities Grants Commission?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, there is not.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I have heard many concerns raised from students who are coming out of the French Immersion programs and who are graduating from Grade 12 and want to access one of the Anglophone universities but would like to continue taking their Advanced French courses. The courses that are offered to them at the Anglophone universities are, for the main part, I understand, inadequate for the students who are advanced in speaking French and like any language, if an individual does not utilize that language, they will lose their ability to be able to speak fluently in that language. What assurances can be made, if there is not a member from BEF sitting on the Universities Grants Commission, that there will be higher level French programs offered at the Anglophone universities?

**Mr. Derkach:** The two issues, first of all, with regard to representation on the Universities Grants Commission, certainly it is not a bad suggestion that perhaps there should be somebody who should be representing the bureau there or the Francophone community, but in terms of the programming at the universities, that is not a matter that is in the jurisdiction of the department. That is a university kind of jurisdictional matter as well. It has been the policy, or an unwritten policy or the attitude over years that most of the programming for French will be done at the St. Boniface College.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Perhaps the programming for French will be done at St. Boniface College, and I think that is fine, but there are many students who come from the French Immersion Programs or students like my daughter who went over to France after Grade 12, spent a year there and came back bilingual and wanted to enter the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Education and wanted to continue taking advanced courses in French. There was very, very little offered at that time. I understand that even that amount has decreased at the Anglophone universities. It would be very difficult for a student to race from the University of Manitoba—the University of Winnipeg would be a little easier, I guess—to St. Boniface College but the timetabling aspect would be very difficult.

I do not have the numbers. I did have them but I do not know what I have done with them. The numbers of anticipated graduates from the various high schools in Manitoba in the next few years from the French Immersion Programs who will undoubtedly—a good number of them at any rate—be wanting to enter one of the universities, perhaps this is something that should be given a very close and fairly swift evaluation because I think it is something that has already become a

problem and is undoubtedly going to become more of a problem as the numbers of students increase.

**Mr. Derkach:** Our information is that there are very small numbers of students who do require or who do wish to have those kinds of programs at the universities. Certainly, it is up to the universities to respond to those kinds of programs when the demand is there. Once again, I have to reiterate that it is a responsibility of the universities and not of the department.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Again, I suppose I am asking a question that is not in the Minister's line. I find it rather frustrating with the Universities Grants Commission that we are unable to ask questions actually about the universities and I thought that they did come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.

Would there be sufficient numbers of bilingual professors who could offer advanced courses in French at the Universities of Manitoba, Brandon and Winnipeg?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, I do not think there are at the present time.

\* (1550)

**Mrs. Yeo:** I asked questions about bilingual psychologists and I received the answer that there are bilingual psychologists in the city. However, I received a call over the weekend from one of the superintendents who said in fact that they have not been able to find bilingual psychologists. So the Minister can assure this committee that there are psychologists available?

**Mr. Derkach:** The numbers may be few but certainly my information is that we do have psychologists who have French capabilities. If the Member wishes to give me the name of the superintendent, we can certainly get CCDB to get in touch with that superintendent and give him the information.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is French Immersion labelled a special program in our school system?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, it is not labelled as a special program. It is an alternative kind of programming that is provided.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Does it receive extra funding?

**Mr. Derkach:** It falls under the same as many other programs. It receives the regular funding plus it would receive a categorical grant. Categorical grants would be available for French Immersion.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me how many junior highs are available in Winnipeg 1 School Division that offer French Immersion?

**Mr. Derkach:** We can get back to the Honourable Member with the numbers. I do not have them at hand.

**Mrs. Yeo:** While he is doing that, perhaps he could tell me, I understand that Kelvin High School and Sisler High School have very small immersion programs. I

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wonder if there are any others where they might offer French Immersion in the Winnipeg 1 School Division.

**Mr. Derkach:** Churchill Junior High also offers the program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I do not have the textbook catalogue in front of me, but generally speaking, are French textbooks more expensive than the English textbooks?

**Mr. Derkach:** In a general sense, yes, the French textbooks are more expensive.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The individual who contacted me was upset that at Kelvin High School there were not enough textbooks to go around and that the students were not allowed to take them home. This lady also said that at some of the elementary schools where teachers are trying to teach programs in French Immersion, the teachers are making their own textbooks. This, to me, in a so-called bilingual country, seems to be a sad state of affairs when parents are encouraging their children to access these programs and children are having difficulty with each of them receiving textbooks as they feel their English counterparts do have the benefit of textbooks.

**Mr. Derkach:** The books are available. That may be a school or a division policy. However, I am not aware of it. With regard to availability of materials, there certainly is not a shortfall there.

**Mrs. Yeo:** At \$35 per student per text for the textbook grants, maybe that is part of the reason.

The other question that I asked a while ago and was told to save it for this particular time involved Rockwood School, and the concerns that I have had from a couple of parents from this particular school—I am sure it is Rockwood School—where in 1984-85 apparently there was a .83 contract for a teacher to teach French; that the enrollment has remained the same and yet over the years '85-86, it was at .83; '86-87, .75; '87-88, .66; and then in 1988-89, despite last year the parents complaining to the principal of the school, there is only a .5 contract.

The parents are upset and concerned because they feel that this is unfair, that we are trying to encourage our students to learn French, that we are the Government. The Federal Government at any rate is spending millions of dollars being sure that the adult workers, or many of them, are fluent in French and are continuously upgraded and enhanced even though they may not utilize the language. Many places are sending their workers back to Quebec to take courses, six-week courses, to keep them bilingual, that we in fact are allowing this sort of thing to happen in our schools. Is the Minister aware of this sort of concern because it has happened at more than just one school?

**Mr. Derkach:** I could ask the Member to clarify which program she is referring to. Is it the—

**Mrs. Yeo:** Excuse me. I believe it is the core French, the Basic French Program, because I do not think Rockwood School is a French Immersion School.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, certainly this is a matter that the parents and the residents of that particular school division should address with the school division. Once again, that is a matter that is within the jurisdiction of the school division and it is not for the department to interfere and dictating to any school division as to the numbers of staff that are going to be provided for those specific programs that are offered in the schools.

**Mrs. Yeo:** As I indicated, Mr. Chairperson, the parents had gone to the school in 1986-87 to complain of the decrease in the teaching time for the individual, and it has dropped consecutively for the three years since. They have thumped the table and they felt that they were not getting anywhere, so what is their recourse if they do not get anywhere in speaking with the principal of the school and the trustees of the school division? They feel that there should be some way that they can take it to a higher authority and I would guess that the province was probably a higher authority.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Chairman, certainly that is a matter that is clearly between the school division and the residents or the parents of that school division. The province does not interfere or get involved in those kind of resource allocations that are in the jurisdiction of the school divisions.

If we did that, Mr. Chairman, I would hazard to guess that we would be involved halfway across the province in saying the kinds of staff that should be provided in each of the variety of programming that is done throughout the province. So up until this time—and I have no intentions of changing the method that is followed, and I do not intend to interfere with the way that a school division allocates its teaching resources.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is it fair for me to ask the Minister's opinion of the need for a French school board?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is appropriate for me to answer that question since the matter is before the courts at the present time.

\* (1600)

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is it appropriate for me to ask the status of that particular hearing, what has happened to it, because I have had two conflicting statements?

**Mr. Derkach:** The hearings have been temporarily adjourned. There has been a one-day extension provided for the total period of the hearings and they will reconvene on the 13th of December, after which time the court will then make its ruling.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Again, because it is before the courts, I am not sure what sort of questions I can ask, but I would like to know if the ruling is—and maybe because it is hypothetical, I cannot ask it—but if it is to provide for a French school board, I am wondering how it would be funded.

**Mr. Derkach:** I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question because that is something that might compromise the outcome of the hearing.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Then can I ask the Minister about the bursary programs that were no longer provided by the previous Government, I understand? Is there any decision on the part of this Minister to re-establish these bursaries?

**Mr. Derkach:** That was a terrible decision by the former administration and certainly we intend to reinstate that bursary program.

**Mrs. Yeo:** It is my understanding that the funding was recoverable anyway, was it not?

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, the funding was 100 percent recoverable.

**Mrs. Yeo:** What about students going to Quebec? Is that something that has been curtailed as well, or is there an exchange program of students from the Province of Manitoba to the Province of Quebec, some assistance given?

**Mr. Derkach:** If the Member is talking about an exchange program, that again is between school divisions and schools. It is not something that the department participates directly in.

**Mrs. Yeo:** There is no funding assistance by the province to the individual school divisions?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, there is no assistance by the province for the exchange programs.

**Mr. Chairman:** Items 7.(b)(1)—pass; item 7.(b)(2)—pass; item 7.(c)(1)—pass; item 7.(c)(2)—pass; item 7.(c)(3)—pass.

7.(d) Official Languages Programs and Administrative Services: (1) Salaries \$367,000—pass. (2) Other Expenditures \$410,900—shall the item pass?

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Grant/Transfer Payment is down significantly and I am wondering why.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Darren Praznik, in the Chair.)

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairman, if we could proceed, I will take that question as notice and get back to the Member as soon as we have the information at hand.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The other area, Other Operating goes from just over \$7,000 to \$67,000 and I am wondering—and the same thing with Capital, there is a tremendous increase there. I am curious.

**Mr. Derkach:** Those increases are a result of special programs, grants and also computerization has impacted quite significantly on that particular figure.

**Mrs. Yeo:** What sorts of special programs is the Minister alluding to?

**Mr. Derkach:** It is the computerization of the bureau itself which has resulted in the significant costs. I have an answer also with regard to the decrease. That is certainly a significant decrease and it is a result of the

elimination of the Bursary Program that has resulted in that kind of a decrease.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The elimination of the Bursary Program that was recoverable anyway?

**Mr. Derkach:** That is correct, Mr. Acting Chairperson.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** 7.(d)(2)—pass; item 7.(d)(3) Assistance, \$346,000—pass.

Item 7.(e)(1) Library and Materials Production: Salaries, \$382,900—pass; item 7.(e)(2) Other Expenditures, \$167,400—pass?

**Mr. Derkach:** Just before we move off this item, we have the information now on the Junior High Programs in other schools. In Winnipeg No. 1, I had mentioned that Churchill Junior High, Grades 7 to 9; River Heights is another one; Sisler, Grades 8 and 9; and Riverview, Grade 7 only. Thank you.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Resolution No. 47: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,846,500 for Education, Bureau de l'Education Francaise, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I received on September 13 a breakdown of Preliminary Actual Expenditures by Appropriation, and under Capital (XVI) 8.—

\* (1610)

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** I am sorry, we are not on Capital yet. We are just passing item No. 7.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Okay, pass.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** The item is passed—pass.

We shall now proceed to item 8., Expenditures related to Capital, \$28,566,100, (a) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets, (1) Red River Community College, \$843,300.00. Shall the item pass?

**Mrs. Yeo:** Now I will go to my question which was that the total expenditures in the book are \$26,454,600, I think, for last year and yet the actual expenditures were \$34,030,800, and I am wondering what the difference is. Why was there a fairly significant difference in the actual expenditures and in what is the adjusted vote as listed here?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairman, the \$34,030,800 is the 100 percent that is both the Government from Consolidated Revenue and the ESL. The \$26,454,600 is the 67 percent of the Government share.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Just a few questions, Mr. Acting Chairperson, on the workplace safety and health aspect, this is something I can remember first hearing, the concept of workplace safety and health, as a trustee and

cringing. However, it is something that is with us and something that is extremely important. I am wondering if Manitoba Education publishes any data that is sent to the school divisions with regard to safe materials.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairman, nothing like that is done through the Capital Branch and it may be done through the Curriculum Branch. I do not have any knowledge of that at this time, but certainly nothing of that nature is done through the Capital Branch.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I think if one were to look back in Hansard, I began asking questions under Curriculum on workplace safety and health and was told that it would be better to ask the questions under Capital, so I am only doing as I was directed. I have been lugging this book around with me since Day One of Education Estimates.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, in this area, I would be happy to answer any questions that the Member has but, if they are with regard to grants as they relate to Capital for workplace safety and health, fine. In terms of programming, if it falls under the Curriculum Department, well then I could probably get personnel here to answer that question as well.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Is there any assistance then by the Public Schools Finance Board to assist school divisions in upgrading the existing schools and renovating the schools that they have and certainly, when they are building new schools, to ensure that all aspects of workplace safety and health are responded to adequately.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, there are programs in place that assist existing schools in renovating their facilities, and presently there is \$1 million allocated to meet those kinds of requirements.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Are there any in-services provided by Manitoba Education to the maintenance staffs of the various school divisions?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, Mr. Acting Chairperson. There are none being done at the present time.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell us what capital projects are on the books for the coming year?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, would the Member like a copy of the 1987-88 submissions to be tabled now?

**Mrs. Yeo:** Sorry, Mr. Acting Chairperson. The submissions would be in total or the submissions that were granted approval?

**Mr. Derkach:** Granted approval in '88, Mr. Acting Chairperson? Yes.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Thank you.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, I will read them out.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** The Honourable Minister.

**Mr. Derkach:** Yes, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I will read out the projects that were approved.

First of all, Winnipeg School Division No. 1, the second stage at Meadows West and Stanley Knowles School, a high-quality relocatable; replacement of an older school at Margaret Scott; in St. James-Assiniboia School Division No. 2, mechanical and access renovations to Allard School; to release Van Belleghem School in St. Boniface by the City of Winnipeg; at Assiniboine South No. 3, the first stage of a new elementary school in Lindenwoods to accommodate the residential growth; the Seven Oaks School Division, an addition of a TMH wing at Victory School as a result of deinstitutionalization of severely handicapped students; in the Seine River School Division No. 14, the first stage of a two-stage project consisting of construction of a new K to 12 school in Ste. Anne.

That is the complete list of the school projects, Mr. Acting Chairperson.

**Mrs. Yeo:** There is no mention of Whyte Ridge. They, I think, have made application. Is there any possibility of consideration for this particular area in the near future?

**Mr. Derkach:** Well, Mr. Acting Chairperson, that is all being done in accordance to a schedule. Certainly, the application has gone forth by Fort Garry to the Public Schools Finance Board, and it is part of the three-year Capital budget program, Mr. Acting Chairperson.

\* (1620)

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Item 8.(a)(1)—pass. We now move on to item 8.(a)(2) Assiniboine Community College, \$489,000—pass. We shall now move on to item 8.(a)(3), Keewatin Community College, \$306,900—pass.

We now proceed to item 8.(b) Capital Grants: (1) Universities \$7 million. Shall the item pass?

**Mrs. Yeo:** Can the Minister tell me what is included in the \$7 million? Are there major renovations, major construction?

**Mr. Derkach:** Four million dollars of that amount is for renovations and equipment, and \$3 million is from the Universities Development Fund, which is used for an assortment of projects.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Item 8.(b)(1)—pass.

Item 8.(b)(2) School Divisions \$19,926,900, shall the item pass?

**Mrs. Yeo:** Does the province have anything to do with the Island Lake School that is currently having difficulty with oil smells or seepage?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, Mr. Acting Chairperson. That is under the federal Government's responsibility.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Item 8.(b)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 48: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$28,562,100 for Education, Expenditures related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

According to Rule 64.4, staff must now leave the table. They may remain in the committee room. The committee shall now consider item 1. Administration and Finance (a) Minister's Salary \$20,600.00.

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** The Minister need not be nervous. I am just asking some questions I was unable to ask earlier since I missed the particular sections.

I would like to ask a couple of questions in regards to the Thompson school situation. I know the Minister has probably been aware of some of the concerns that have been expressed in regards to the situation in the School District of Mystery Lake at the present time. The particular concerns have been expressed by teachers in the school division and by parents in regard to a number of budgetary situations and also some problems that have developed in terms of facilities.

Part of it, I think, is an overall budgetary question but, in the case of at least one school, it is a problem I think that is not unique to Thompson that often occurs where there is a major increase in population. I am referring to the Eastwood School in Thompson where I know the Public Schools Finance Board was approached for an additional facility to be attached to the Eastwood School because of the significant growth and the number of students in that area because of the general growth in Thompson's population in the last four or five years.

What I would like to ask the Minister is if he has been in touch with the School District of Mystery Lake or with the teachers in Thompson in regard to that, and if he is aware if the Public Schools Finance Board will be reconsidering its earlier position which I feel was probably outdated at the time. They said that there probably is not a need for an additional facility at Eastwood because at the time there was a balance between the number of students and the space but since that time the number of students increased yet again. So I am wondering if the Minister could indicate, on that specific question, if he has had any contact or whether he and his department will follow up in that regard.

**Mr. Derkach:** That issue certainly has caught my attention and I have had some discussions with the department with regard to the situation at Thompson. The former Government did not approve the addition because there was additional space available in very nearby schools. Apparently, that space is still available in those nearby schools to handle any overflow that may exist in that particular school.

Although I have had some discussions with the department staff on that issue, I will be reviewing it

even further to ensure that in fact students do have the appropriate kinds of facilities to work in, and certainly we have priorities that have to be dealt with throughout the province and it will not be considered in any different light than any other situations in the province are.

**Mr. Ashton:** I can indicate to the Minister that what has been happening is that some of the other schools where there had been a low enrollment have been increasing because of the fact that French Immersion enrollments have been increasing. I know in two schools which had a rather low enrollment for a period of time, that is the situation, and there is particular concern, I know, amongst parents in the area of the Eastwood School about the fact that there is either a need for an addition or some other arrangement. If the Minister will look into that, I think it would be greatly appreciated because the decisions that were made last year are already out of date. Thompson is growing quite dramatically in terms of population, certainly in the Eastwood area where a large number of vacant apartments have been opening up in the last number of years. So I would appreciate if the Minister could look at that and the general situation in other schools where teachers are concerned about having to teach in areas that are not appropriate for classrooms.

I know in one case what was a closet was being used essentially as a classroom, and I realize that part of that is within the jurisdiction of the school district, but when it comes to the general question of the quality of education, I hope the Minister will be directly involved because I know certainly the previous Minister of Education got about personally in the one situation I was aware of in Thompson. The Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) was very influential in eliminating a problem we had seen develop there. So I know the involvement by the Minister of Education can make the difference.

I have a couple of questions in regard to student assistance. One is in regard to the students in the various ACCESS programs, and I know there has probably been discussion of the ACCESS programs and the importance of keeping them. I will not reiterate those points because certainly they are very important programs and I know the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) probably is aware of these concerns too, and that is in regard to the level of student assistance available.

I am getting an increasing number of students in the ACCESS programs in Thompson who are concerned about the fact that they are facing significant financial pressure because of the current levels of student assistance that is available, and it has increased somewhat over the years but it is still far below their needs, particularly given that many of them are single parents and cannot meet the needs of their children let alone their own needs. It is becoming the reason why some people are being forced to drop out.

I am wondering if the Minister, when he is in Thompson and other areas where there are the ACCESS programs, and I know he is indicating he will be going there after the Session is over, if he will address that



particular concern because that is probably the predominant concern of many students right now and that is the level of financial assistance available to them.

**Mr. Derkach:** I am aware that costs today are escalating constantly and certainly we cannot, as a province, provide all the needs for all the individuals who would like to get in under the ACCESS programs, but I do believe that we will try to do everything we possibly can. That situation will be reviewed. Certainly, I would be more than happy to meet with those students in those programs when I am up in the Thompson area to hear their views, because I think the way that we establish appropriate programming and appropriate levels of funding is through consultation with those people who are directly affected by it. So certainly, I would be more than willing to meet with those groups.

\* (1630)

**Mr. Ashton:** I appreciate the Minister indicating he is willing to do so and he may want to meet in a combination with the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) since programs are funded under the Northern Development Agreement. Once again, I reiterate that it is a growing concern amongst students. When you look at the barriers that people face often in terms of getting into the program and, once they are in the program, through the academic pressures, I would certainly urge the Minister to look at their particular concerns in terms of funding.

I have a further question related to student assistance on a slightly different area. That is in regard to out-of-province funding for students attending a university or other educational facility out of province. I know I have written to the Minister on this subject, but there are an increasing number of students who are looking at going to facilities out of the province because they do not meet the marks requirements of Manitoba facilities. If they do go out of province, they are then ineligible for student assistance.

I know of one case that I know in particular, a Metis student from northern Manitoba, who is studying in North Dakota, trying to further his education. He is unable to get student assistance because he just barely missed out from qualifying for Manitoba universities. I am wondering if the Minister could look into this kind of circumstance, because I realize why we have the rule that says basically that you should attend a Manitoba facility if possible and that student assistance is available only if that facility is not available in the Province of Manitoba. But in this case, for that individual, the choice was either going to North Dakota or not going to university at all. I am wondering if the Minister could look into whether the criteria cannot be changed to allow for people who are forced, for whatever reason, to go out of province for their education.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, the entire area of student aid needs to be looked at. Certainly, there have been many concerns that have been brought to my attention since I have been Minister with regard to the Student Aid and Student Assistance Programs. I

think, rather than address each issue on an individual basis, we have to take a look at the general approach that the province has towards student aid.

Certainly, I did receive the letter from the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) and I might indicate that when we are addressing the assistance and aid program to students, we will be addressing that particular concern as well, and I will be getting back to the Member with regard to the decision that is going to be made in that respect.

**Mr. Ashton:** I look forward to receiving the response and I want to indicate that I know it is an individual situation but there are others in the same circumstance, and also perhaps urge the Minister to look at the proposals for establishing a northern polytechnical or a northern university, because one of the double problems people in northern and rural areas face is that they cannot simply attend a university or community college in their own area as easily, say, as people can in Winnipeg. So they are forced not to only pay tuition fees and books which is what you can often pay in Winnipeg and receive an education, because you can still stay at home. They are forced to spend \$4,000 and \$5,000 or more a year. In the case of this individual, by going to North Dakota, he is having to spend considerably more than that.

So I would ask if the Minister will be pursuing what I know that his department was looking at and what I know the previous Government was looking at, and that was the establishment of a northern polytechnical university that would establish not just the existing programs in northern Manitoba and consolidate them but, hopefully, look at further educational opportunities.

I do not just talk about Thompson. I am talking about the North in general and I would say even rural communities as well because, while we in the North have difficulties with lack of university access, it is also a problem in the rural communities.

**Mr. Derkach:** The Member raises a very good point in that we do need to take a look at a more coordinated effort in terms of the way we deliver programs in northern Manitoba, and also ways in which we can deliver additional programs for northern and rural Manitoba residents. All of this will be considered in due course, but I cannot say that it will be considered tomorrow. The sooner, I guess, we can get down to planning for the future and for the coming year, certainly these things will be considered very seriously. I look forward to being part of the reorganization and the establishment of a program for northern residents that will bring them into the normal flow of the province and into a meaningful kind of productive lifestyle.

**Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital):** I have a couple of brief questions, with the indulgence of the Minister, that I did not have a chance to ask previously. One of them is that previously the Department of Education had a warehouse or storehouse of school buses that they used to dole out to school divisions who wanted them and these were free. It always appeared to me that there was a strong philosophical reason why the

acquisition of buses was held in this part. Is this sort of a policy continued by the present administration?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, our policy has not changed with regard to transportation of students in the province to date. Divisions still have the option of either providing the transportation by themselves or being part of the provincial Transportation Program. However, given the short time that we have been in office, I have to be very honest with the Member and indicate that I have not had enough opportunity to study very carefully and closely the transportation system in the province as it exists, although I have a fair amount of knowledge about it. Certainly, over the course of the next year I will be paying some very focused attention to the way we deliver the transportation programs to the province. It is also going to be addressed in the Ed Finance Review as well, because we know that today there is a disparity in the way that we fund transportation, and the grants that are received by the various divisions throughout the province certainly require some attention.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** The Member for St. Vital, I would ask him to please speak into his microphone.

**Mr. Rose:** I realize that this is not the sort of information that would perhaps be at the Honourable Minister's fingertips, but it was always my feeling in the past that having these buses available like they were, without any sort of responsibility added to the waste and inefficiency of this system, I would hope that the present Government and the present Minister would re-examine that to see if my thoughts on it were correct and if there would not be efficiency.

I might mention that one school division, probably because buses are not so easy to come by, have instituted a program of opening and closing some classrooms and picking up the students half an hour earlier, which means that they can use any given bus on two cycles during the day rather than one. They have apparently, and I have seen the figures, experienced or are going to experience considerable savings of this.

I am wondering if the Minister is aware of this and, if so, if he would find out what other divisions may be doing this and if there are these types of savings that I have been able to see, and subsequently money that can be put in the classroom rather than on transportation, because transportation is a very high cost item. This type of information could be shared by other school divisions because I know that there is a real fear on people about shifting the hours of school but for the type of savings that are affected by this I think it would be a worthwhile provincial program.

**Mr. Derkach:** Certainly I am aware of the program that is ongoing. It is a program that lends itself more to an urban area than it would to a rural area where the distances between families are great, but certainly not something that we should close our eyes to. The savings have to be taken into consideration. I think also the kinds of programming that a school has to do in order

to accommodate that kind of a system and whether that is at all feasible have to be considered. Where we take a look at the transportation system in the province as a whole, we will certainly be considering that kind of a system that our school division has adopted.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Shall the item pass?

\* (1640)

**Mr. Rose:** I have one last question to the Minister. I have often wondered—sometime back when we had rapidly expanding school divisions that we used to have what they used to call "portables" added to schools. They were really a bad way of adding to a school, but I guess from the standpoint that they were something that could be put into place very quickly that they had some purpose, but I doubt if a few, if any of them, were ever really used as portables. They continued long past what they should have been and it was conducive to very poor educational standards, poor ventilation, poor lighting and poor control all around.

Now, in the last few years, the administration seems to have switched to a policy which is much the same but far more expensive with maybe a little bit better lighting and a little more ventilation, heating and air conditioning, what have you, but they now call them "relocatables." It may not be at your fingertips but sometime I would like to know what the rationale is for these "relocatables" because they seem to be neither fish nor fowl. They are even more expensive, as I understand it, or they were a couple of years ago, than what the construction of an actual school is. They are not added to schools as "portables" now.

In fact in two schools in St. Vital the relocatables, as I understand it, have been added to the original plans of the school and it does not really make a lot of sense to me. I have asked the architects who designed these and I have asked builders who designed these what is the reason for it and especially why we would pay more money for it, if indeed that is true. Their only explanation to me is that they are not relocatable and they are not good. So I am wondering if somewhere in the Government they could explain to me why we have changed directions in this way and are using "relocatables" when indeed they are not "relocatables" and they appear to cost more than the regular construction of a school.

**Mr. Derkach:** I have to agree with the Member for St. Vital with regard to the old, what they used to call "hut relocatable units" that used to travel around the province. Although they served the purpose at one time, we saw a lot of problems associated with those kinds of units that were attached to schools all over the province.

The move toward the high-quality relocatable has been as a result to replace the temporary hut, so to speak, and also to provide a more adequate facility and a better quality facility on a temporary basis, in that some of these units, while they are relocatable, the only part that is not relocatable I guess is the

concrete slab that is poured as the base for the school. The walls and so forth are relocatable and can be done fairly easily, as I understand it. They are constructed in areas where we have a fairly transient-type of population and where the population may decline after a given number of years.

I think we have seen some of the mistakes that have been made, especially in the city here where we have fairly new and good structures that have been built and have taken up a lot of taxpayer dollars are now sitting empty. Certainly we do not want to get into that kind of a situation.

Where we have more constant kind of population and there is some permanency to it, certainly the high quality relocatable unit is not going to be used. I guess I can point to an example, if you were to have for example—let us take my own home town as an example—if there were a potash mine to locate in that area in the next five or ten years there would be a very rapidly expanding population, which may be there for a fairly short period of time. For that period of time you do not want to be spending a whole lot of money on a permanent facility when a high quality relocatable unit or units can be constructed. Then when the population declines those units can be taken down and used in another location. That is really what they are designed for. Whether it is an effective and cost-efficient way of going about it, I have not had an opportunity to date to sit down and do an analysis of that but certainly, from the reports I have heard from the department and from personnel, they have served a very useful purpose.

**Mr. Rose:** This was to be my final question but I have some doubts here after talking to people who have designed these buildings and people who have built them. Certainly maybe my information is two years old but I saw the construction of two of them in St. Vital. I cannot agree with the Minister that these are relocatable. I was wondering if the Government has any studies which would indicate what it would cost to take one of these buildings, transport it even two blocks away, relevel the ground where it was standing, relocate it on another school, change the hole that is there and put the whole thing in place, and this compared with what it would cost to just abandon it completely, because I must say strongly that I do not believe they are relocatable, from what I have seen.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, it costs about \$45,000 to do that.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I am sorry for asking this question. It probably should have been asked when we were discussing Special Needs but I did not get the information until after we had completed that area. Can the Minister tell me what the position of the department is with regard to the use of Ritalin in the classrooms?

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, that is something that of course we know is used and we know that parents have expressed some concern about the way Ritalin is used with children. It is certainly a matter that is not within the Department of Education alone. It is

a matter which is really under the Department of Health and one that has been raised to my attention on a couple of occasions. I guess our responsibility in the entire matter is to ensure that there is a proper mechanism of communication between the child's parents and the school, and also the health officials so that the parent is involved in and is aware at every step of the way what is happening.

It appears that in the past this has not necessarily taken place. I guess we could sit around a table and argue the pros and cons of the use of the product, but more than that I think it is important that parents understand what the product is used for, what side effects may be seen as a result of that, and to ensure that they are a part of the way that the program is administered to their children, if in fact it is going to be.

**Mrs. Yeo:** I just have a couple of questions that unfortunately again I did not ask at the time because we were sort of racing through and at the tail end of the day, and trying to pass appropriations. The public school system for some time has been losing some of its more able students, if you will, to our private schools. I do not agree with a former MLA, Charlie Birt, who said that there was a stampede to the private schools. I certainly do not see any particular stampede but I think for many of the highly able students there is in some respects inadequate programming and program options to address their particular educational needs. I think many of these students are not sufficiently challenged by some of the existing programming. I am wondering what is being done to encourage the development of program options for our more gifted students in the public school system.

**Mr. Derkach:** Certainly I think the Member is right when she says that some of our gifted students have in fact been taken out of the public school system because parents have felt that the challenge has not been sufficient for their child and they could get a better quality of education in another situation. In many instances, that happened to be a private or an independent school. That has to be addressed because I think our public school system has to give attention to the gifted child. We have to establish the kind of programming that is going to challenge that individual and keep that individual not only in our public school system but in our province. I think that is just as important.

The High School Review will address that, and we cannot blame and cannot point to the High School Review with every little thing that we want to do, but I have to say, on this particular issue, we will have to wait to see what the High School Review has to say about it and then we will have to address the issue and provide an appropriate kind of programming.

We know that in providing any kind of programming which will involve gifted children means that we are going to be probably requested to spend large sums of money if we are going to do that on a province-wide basis. I do not know how quickly a province our size with our resources can do that but certainly the time has come to address that. We cannot continue

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the route that we have been going where we have been offering programs for gifted children on a piecemeal basis, especially when we take a look at the urban setting where parents are taking their children out of one school division and transferring them to another school division because that program is offered there. I do not think that is an acceptable way to provide programming for our children. We have to find a better way. What that will be, I cannot even speculate at this moment, but I have to say that I am in full agreement and am prepared to start working towards a better approach to meeting the needs of gifted children.

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) says "stay tuned" and we have been staying tuned for the results of the High School Review for 100 years, I think, so we will certainly stay tuned here.

Manitoba, I think, is only one of three provinces that does not provide a gifted and talented provincial policy for exceptionally able students. I think that providing such a policy is really long overdue. The Member opposite says "stay tuned." Can we have some commitment from the Department of Education that such a policy might be implemented in the near future?

**Mr. Derkach:** I can only give a very general commitment to that at this point because of the fact that we have not seen what the High School Review has to say about that. Secondly, as I indicated in my previous response, we all know there is going to be a fairly significant commitment required in terms of dollars for establishment of a program that is going to be accessible to all students in the province. Thirdly, I think that we have to give ourselves some time to prepare and establish a program, whether that be the A.P. Program or the I.B. Program or whichever program it might be. I think once we have seen what the High School Review tells us, we have to embark on an approach that is going to give us a program throughout the province that is going to be accessible by all students in the province, not just a very few. So I guess if that is a commitment, that is as far as I can really go at this time.

\* (1650)

**Mrs. Yeo:** The Minister keeps referring to the High School Review and the A.P. Program and the I.B. Program, etc. I think that the gifted child should be identified in kindergarten or even preschool. The concern with the gifted child certainly does not start in high school. It is something that starts way back. I am hoping that there are certainly enough adequate resources and services available from the department to the school divisions to assist them with the beginning child in the school, not just the high school child.

One quick question, if I may, Mr. Acting Chairperson, with regard to the Workplace Safety and Health aspect, I am wondering if there is a list of the PCBs within various school divisions in the Province of Manitoba.

**Mr. Derkach:** Mr. Acting Chairperson, I do not have the list at my disposal. That may be something that is now held by the Department of the Environment and

maybe the Minister responsible has that list, but I do not have a list as such at my disposal at this time.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** Shall the item pass? (Agreed)

Resolution No. 41: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,192,300 for Education, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

This concludes the Estimates for the Department of Education.

Would it be the wish of the committee to recess for 10 minutes before beginning the—

**An Honourable Member:** Start Government Services at five o'clock.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Praznik):** If that is the wish of the committee, then Government Services shall start at 5 p.m.

This committee stands adjourned until that time.

(RECESS)

## SUPPLY—GOVERNMENT SERVICES

\* (1700)

**Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer:** I would like to call this meeting to order to consider the Estimates of the Department of Government Services. We have completed part of the agenda.

We are on item No. 2. Property Management (b) Physical Plant: (4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$220,000—pass; (c) Workshop/Renovations: (c)(1) Salaries and Wages \$2,682,200—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures \$250,200—pass; (c)(3) Workshop Projects \$2,283,300—pass; (c)(4) Less: Recoverable from other Appropriations \$3,621,600—pass; (d) Leased Properties: (d)(1) Salaries \$40,800—pass; (d)(2) Other Expenditures \$79,237,300—pass; (e) Employee Housing: (e)(1) Salaries \$76,600—pass; (e)(2) Other Expenditures \$248,400—pass; (e)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$248,300—pass.

Item 2.(f) Security and Parking: (1) Salaries \$2,484,000—the Member for Thompson.

**Mr. Steven Ashton (Thompson):** I have a number of questions in the area of Security. I would just like to go back in the committee—

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services):** Excuse me, I believe we have a little problem here, and I want to apologize to people here. We went in two stages. We had dealt with certain Estimates in here and then we had one Session in the House. We had actually, I believe, covered more. We were up to Supply and Services, if I am correct. There is some confusion because we were as a fill-in here once and then we were a fill-in in the House.

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**Mr. Chairman:** We were not brought up to date on that.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** We had progressed as far as Security and Parking, but we had not passed it.

**Mr. Chairman:** Which is at the point we are at right now, so we have in effect passed what has already been passed.

**Mr. Ashton:** Whether we have passed this or not, I do have some questions. I am sure the Minister would be more than willing to answer me. I want to raise a number of concerns in the area of security that I have become aware of from talking to the people who are directly involved.

First of all, in regard to the increasing use of casual security guards who are hired on a regular basis, in some cases, there are casual people who have been employed for a year, for two years without even being put on the status of being term employees. In fact, since this practice was started some time ago, I believe about 18 months ago, there has been an increasing number of people being put on casual employment status. I would like to ask the Minister if he feels it is appropriate for this department to be hiring so many people on casual, hiring them without at least giving them either full-time status or putting them on a term position which would at least allow them to have some more permanent status. In so many cases casual staff are in effect either term employees or else, in some cases, they are in effect actually full-time employees.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that the Member is right, that there have been more hirings of casual security. Part of the rationale is that when people are on holidays or on sick leave, they are screened very closely I understand but they are used as a fill in rather than pay the overtime. I do not know whether the situation will improve. I am told that the situation will improve from here on in.

**Mr. Ashton:** I am wondering what the Minister is saying when he says the situation will improve. There has been an increasing number of people hired. There is frustration on the part of the people who are hired because they are not being hired to fill in a day or two here. In many cases they are being put in for several months at a time. In many cases they have been putting in several months at a time on a regular basis and yet they are not given any kind of permanent status. I am wondering, is the Minister saying that the casual employees will now be treated as term employees. Is that what he is saying when he says the situation will improve?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that anybody who is hired on that basis is hired with the full understanding that it will be as a term position or on a casual basis. They are well informed of this before they are hired. I cannot see where anybody is frustrated with the arrangement because that is the basis they are being hired on.

\* (1710)

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Chairperson, people are getting frustrated because they are hired initially on a casual basis. They are put into positions for three months, four months, five months, six months at a time. When they attempt to determine if they have any status with the Government at all they are told, and this is the term that is being used in discussions with employees, that they are temporary term. To my mind you are either in a term position, you are either full-time or you are casual. I do not know where the department is coming up with this idea of "temporary term."

They are frustrated because they work for the department over a considerable period of time. There is no accounting for the time that they put in, in terms of seniority as to whether they have an opportunity to bid on term positions and full-time positions. In many cases, they have been given assurances that they will have first opportunity at term positions or full-time positions and in fact have not been given the first opportunity to bid on those types of positions. I am wondering if the Minister feels that is an appropriate way to deal with the employees in the department.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member I will get full information on exactly how the process has been working because it is my impression that a casual security, somebody who is hired in that capacity, that it is just that. It is on a casual basis. A term position is three months or six months. If the Member has any information on somebody who has been hired on a casual basis for six months I would be very pleased to find that out. We will do a check on that and I will get that information.

**Mr. Ashton:** I appreciate the Minister being willing to follow up on that because what I am concerned about is increasing use of casual people. I can document people that I am aware who have been working on a regular basis as term employees but are not even given the status of term employees. In fact I think if the Minister would undertake to look at the original number of casual employees and look at the number today he would find that there has been an increasing use of that. What concerns me too in particular is not just their immediate status, but it seems to me that if someone has been working in Government Security for a period of time and they have proven themselves, they should have some opportunities, even as a casual employee, to further themselves, advance to initially a term position and eventually a full-time position. There is concern that the casual employees are being by-passed, on at least a number of occasions that I am aware of, by individuals who are brought in directly without having worked at all for Government Security.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I want to thank the Member for bringing forward that information. We will check into it exactly as you have suggested to see and get an update on it. I will forward that information to the Member specifically after I get precisely a comparison ratio and give it . . .

**Mr. Ashton:** I appreciate the undertaking of the Minister and I would be more than willing to discuss it with him

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after the committee hearings for further details. I also have a further question in regard to security generally.

One of the concerns that I often pick up in talking with people who are in the security field with Government, particularly in this building, is concern about the extent to which we have proper security facilities and procedures in place at the Legislature, both physical facilities and also in terms of the staffing. I am wondering first of all whether there is a policy in regard to the number of staff who have to be on duty at any given time. I ask that because I am aware of a number of incidents where individuals are often the only person on staff. There is concern particularly during the night for covering the grounds, what might happen, and there have been a number of incidents, violent incidents outside. There is concern what provisions are in place to deal with that, and particular concern about the situation individual security guards find themselves in as to whether they do patrol, do intervene in any situations that do develop, particularly if they are the only individual on shift in the building. I am wondering if the Minister could give some rough idea of the security staffing at the current time.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, I would like to indicate to the Member that in terms of the hiring of casual and term, the rules have not changed, but we will still try and find out exactly whether there has been a change. My understanding is the same rules apply as they have before, but I will get the detailed information on that.

Dealing with the specific security staff in the building, we have two people on staff at all times, at least two. If one of the individuals leaves the post, or whatever the case may be, they have a mobile with them; they are in constant touch with each other. They do the inspection around the grounds and they do a vehicle inspection with a vehicle and they have mobile contact. We had some discussion about it in our last go-around with this thing and I indicated at that time that we are concerned, but at the same time we want to be a little cautious as to how much discussion we have about the security in the building for the public basically. We have concerns in that direction. We are working on improvements and I would be prepared to have the Member or any Member come into our staff's office and discuss the details of what is going on.

**Mr. Ashton:** Just back on the area of staffing, I am not suggesting that there has been any change in policy. I can indicate though that there has been an increasing number of casual staff since this category of employee was created and I am concerned, related to what I said earlier, about what is happening.

In regard to security provisions, I am also aware of incidents where there have not been two staff present, which is of concern to me, and I can discuss that further with the Minister. I would also like to ask though if the Minister is going to be conducting any review of security procedures. There had been incidents in the past. I am aware of an incident where somebody came into the building with a butcher knife. Actually through more of an accident the security staff ran across this particular individual. I am wondering if there have been other

such incidents and what plans we have in place in terms of security procedures in the Legislature to deal with situations such as that.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate that when the Member says that there has only been one staff on security, there has been a written directive that there should be two staff on at all times. That does not mean that maybe one of them is at the post and the other one is maybe around the building somewhere, but we will check into that as well.

I can indicate to the Member that based on what happened in Alberta just a little while ago that we are reviewing the security aspect of it. I want to once again indicate that rather than have a public discussion on that, I am prepared to invite any Member of the Legislature to come and we can have a discussion. I do not think there is any disadvantage to having a discussion in public about the security system in the building.

**Mr. Ashton:** I can appreciate the Minister's concerns. I am flagging it as a concern. I know that is a concern that is particularly felt by the security staff. What I would also like to ask, in addition to specific security procedures, whether the Minister would undertake to review the current way in which we deal with security in terms of the criteria for hiring.

I wonder if the Minister can also look at whether there are training programs that can be put in place in terms of dealing with these types of situations, because quite frankly I was amazed to find in talking a lot to the security staff that we actually place less emphasis on training some of the private operations in terms of recognizing previous experience. Even in terms of first aid, we do not have a training program, whereas it is mandatory with some private programs. I mean it is an option but there is no accounting for it in terms of the way we hire security guards or promote from within. So I am wondering if the Minister could undertake to review the criteria under which we hire our security staff and which we promote security staff.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am led to understand that we have training programs in terms of first aid as well as other training programs that are being endorsed but I appreciate the concern that the Member is bringing forward. I would like to indicate that we are reviewing the whole aspect of security. As we develop this—certainly I am not trying to hide anything from the Members—and I will try to bring you up to date in terms of exactly where we are at with those things.

**Mr. Ashton:** My point in terms of training is, for example, I know private security operations where it is mandatory that you have first aid. There are some training courses that are built in, in terms of how much they promote staff which are not in place in terms of the Government security. It is frustrating I know to individuals in the Government security in the sense that they feel when they do have this kind of qualification or willing to take them that there really is not the kind of emphasis in terms of hiring and promotion that there should be. So that is the context in which I am referring to the training.

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The other question I am wondering and just to finish off because there are other areas that other Members want to ask, and it relates to what I was talking about previously. One of the concerns I know amongst security staff is once again in terms of the position they do find themselves in the area of possible security incidents, both in terms of their ability to defend themselves, etc. I am not suggesting that we have armed security guards, but for example, there is particular concern about the fact that security guards themselves feel that they are not sufficiently trained in dealing with the possibility of a major breach of security.

I am wondering if the Minister can also undertake to review the training of security guards, specifically in relation to, shall we call it "security problems" that might develop. I know it is a particular concern in this building. I talked to a number of security guards who have confirmed that they are concerned individually about what might happen if there was a situation such as occurred in Alberta or as occurred in our own Legislature recently with that incident where the individual with the butcher's knife who attempted to gain admission to the building.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that we do not expect our security to be policemen. I mean, that is why they have the contact and feel that wherever possible, they would rather have the police deal with the situation. However, the point I would like to make is that we are reviewing that aspect of it right now in terms of the protection end of it to some degree, and we hope to come forward with a report and action on that shortly.

\* (1720)

**Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital):** Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this because, as per your letter there, we should discuss this in private. The Minister and I had private conversations.

The Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) has alluded to the fact that there seems to be many concerns by our security guards about training and what have you. Have such similar concerns from the staff come to the attention of the Minister's staff and if so, what corrective measures were undertaken?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate, yes, from time to time security have raised concerns, but there are regular meetings set out where they are being dealt with. Because of the concerns that have come forward, that is why we are looking at reviewing the whole process in terms of how they would deal with situations, the training aspect of it, so I am not trying to avoid their concerns. I think that we are prepared to deal with them and we have people and staff working with it right now.

I have to add that the RCMP are involved in assisting in this kind of a program that we are looking at.

**Mr. Rose:** I would undertake from that, whatever problems did exist here are not ones that have happened overnight. They have probably existed for

some time, and I am pleased to hear the Minister say that there is a forum to expeditiously look after these concerns on the part of the staff and I am sure that many of them would be legitimate.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add that we have a full-time staff who are heading this kind of a review and developing of a program. It is bulletined now. So as we move with this thing, we are trying to address the problem that has not occurred overnight, that has been for awhile and we are just trying to see whether we can get our security system a little bit more updated.

**Mr. Chairman:** Item (f)(1)—pass; (f)(2) Other Expenditures \$471,400—pass.

(g) Gimli Properties: (1) Salaries \$1,365,200—shall the item pass? The Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** Yes, Mr. Chairman. How many staff are still on there at Gimli Properties? Has there been any change with the movement of this park to the individual businesses? Is there going to be a drop in staff at some point? When will that happen?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that at the present time my department is negotiating with the R.M. of Gimli in terms of takeover and if we complete the arrangements, there will be a reduction in staff taking place. It is my understanding we have three staff this year.

**Mr. Plohman:** I see the reduction of three, but I guess I was meaning the vast majority. There are still 49 staff. When the area has been completely turned over, Gimli Properties, to individual businesses there, will we foresee no staff requirements at that point and is there a time line now on that process?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told that it depends on how negotiations go with some of the others, for example, CN. Ultimately, if we reach agreements with the whole property, that ultimately the objective would be to have zero on there, and we are looking at trying to get placement for the staff who are there in various other places.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Plohman:** The Minister was going to answer the question.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would just like to elaborate a little bit that as these positions get deleted, that we are working very diligently in terms of placement in Selkirk, Headingley, wherever openings come up, they have the first opportunity to try and get placement for these people.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Chairman, so as not to prolong the discussion, I would ask the Minister just to give an overview of the current status of the negotiations and discussions and what kind of a time line does he see? Have there been any agreements reached to turn over the property and what are the plans for that operation?

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I might also ask the Minister at the same time whether he has to indicate where the dollars are located in the budget? Are they under capital for the infrastructure improvements that are required before it is going to be possible to turn this over to the private sector there?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I have to indicate to the Member that we have not completed the negotiations but we are relatively close in terms of time frame. I would hope before Christmas we could have initiated part of an agreement. Once the agreement with the R.M. of Gimli is completed, then we would turn around and start negotiating with the individuals who have been very concerned about to get title to these properties so they can go and get their financing arranged through banks which need that as security.

The Member also asked about finances for improvements. At this stage of the game, we do not have any provision for the improvements until we know exactly what has to be done. In that event, in completion of the agreement, if improvements have to be done then we would be going back and trying to get approval for that.

\* (1730)

**Mr. Plohman:** So I understand the negotiations now are only with the R.M. and there is no discussion with the individual businesses until that agreement has been concluded, and then there will be discussions with the individual businesses that has not even started yet. So we do not have any time line on those is what I was really asking. Do we expect to have this completed within the the '89 fiscal year? Then further to that, as far as the improvements, I understood that there was an estimate already prepared by the department, quite detailed, as to the need, the infrastructure, water and sewer improvements and the road infrastructure and so on that would have to be brought up to a certain standard before it could be turned over. That was a given. Is that now part of the negotiations as opposed to throwing it in and saying, we are going to do this and you will have that modern infrastructure when you get that property?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, those are part of the things that are involved in the negotiations right now, exactly what kind of improvements will have to be done. That is why we have sort of, if you want to call it, a grey area at this stage of the game until we have completed the arrangements. I think we are relatively close in terms of coming to an agreement with the R.M. of Gimli. As I indicated, I would hope that it would probably take place before Christmas. I also understand that the individuals who are very anxious to get going on this thing, that we have approximately a 30-day period after the agreement with the R.M. takes place that we should be able to make arrangements with the other individuals.

**An Honourable Member:** Pass.

**Mr. Plohman:** I hear a voice in the darkness there. I just wanted to ask though whether it is possible that

you might end up providing a financial settlement with the R.M., as opposed to doing all the work and then asking the R.M.—

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member for Arthur, on a point of order.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs):** Mr. Chairman, just to bring to the Member for Dauphin's (Mr. Plohman) attention, if he does not know the difference between day and night, we are all sitting in the light here just in case he was not aware.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member does not have a point of order.

**Mr. Plohman:** Right, I agree with that. So is it possible now that it may be a payment made to the R.M. as part of the agreement, as opposed to having the Government do all of the work in advance?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** It is very possible.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** I just have one short question. When we were Government, we were actively promoting local ownership of the whole Gimli area. Has there been any change in policy of this Government or are they still pursuing local ownership as quickly as possible?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told there is absolutely no change.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass—pass; (g)(2) Other Expenditures, \$886,100—pass.

Resolution No. 72: Resolved that there be Granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$117,160,500 for Government Services, Property Management, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item No. 3. Supply and Services. Provides Government departments and agencies with support services, such as fleet management and vehicle maintenance, office equipment supply and maintenance, purchasing, materials management, telecommunications and postal services. (a) Executive Administration: (1) Salaries, \$127,100—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures \$9,300, shall the item pass?

**Mr. Rose:** A couple of brief questions, when you are buying supplies, at what level does the tendering process kick in, at what dollar level?

I might as well ask the other question at the same time although it is not relative. Is there an automated system to control the inventory and audit of the supplies that are in stock at any time?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, up to \$500, I think, is just straight purchases. From \$500 to \$3,000 is involved in the tendering process. Some of that could be by telephone, the tendering process, but anything over \$3,000 is done by written tender. That is the



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process. Just to continue, even for the low figures, they are asked to get preferably three prices before they do any purchases.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Chairman, could you briefly tell us how the inventory control is kept there? What method is used and how often?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I am told that the department is fully automated in terms of keeping track of stock. Now what happens is that when we have items that are recurring continually that we do not always have a specific number of the ones available, there are also other items that are seldom brought forward that we would not be carrying any stock on, that we would just purchase as the requirement comes forward.

**Mr. Rose:** Disposal of surplus Government property assets, is this always done by either auction or by tender?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, there are a certain amount of items, furniture and stuff like that, that is donated every year, stuff that basically department people feel is not worthwhile fixing. I think that has been a common practice. We have applications made from various charitable organizations, non-profit organizations that make an application. We have a process of disbursing whatever is not useable and, if we have it, then we donate it to them. I believe it is the Minister's discretion to use various options in terms of disbursing the balance of it, some by direct selling, some of it by auction, some of it by sealed tender. So various means are used in terms of liquidating stuff that we do not need.

If the Member wants, I believe during the fiscal year to date, there have been 33 auction sales, 22 public tender sales, and there has been redistribution within Government of surplus assets. As I indicated, the surplus redundant material goes to charitable and self-help agencies as approved by myself, 35 donations were satisfied up to March 31, 1988. I would like to indicate to the Member that we anticipate that we will continue this kind of activity through 1989.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

\* (1740)

**Mr. Plozman:** Maybe it is best to ask overview questions on these areas, rather than getting into each one separately because of the limited time. So the critic for the Liberal Party has done that.

I will just follow up briefly on that to ask, first of all, in the tendering processes, whether the Minister is satisfied with the current system and whether he has any plans to change the way tenders are let, the amounts, the system that is in place. Is he satisfied with that policy? Does he see any policy changes there?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, the tendering system is in place right now. We are exploring the possibility of issuing the tenders by electronic means rather than by written invitation. If there is any change, that would

be a change only in terms of letting people become aware of what is available to be tendered on. Other than that, I have no intentions of changing anything in the tendering system.

**Mr. Plozman:** There has been some effort in the past to provide opportunities for local sourcing, for the small businesses in rural communities, for example, to gain some opportunities that they may not have had in the past through smaller packaging of tenders, through communications development to ensure that people are aware of what opportunities are available. Is that continuing? Has there been success in that regard? Are there any efforts that the Minister intends to take in that area?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate that there has been no change in that direction. The direct purchase orders within an area still applies. I also can indicate that there has been a downsizing of the tender packages to allow for the tendering to take place and let the smaller operators bid on it as well.

**Mr. Plozman:** There was some mention of auction sales in the area of fleet vehicles. I understand from one individual there has been a change made. He says that he can no longer buy Government cars at an auction as an individual. I am wondering if there was a conscious decision made to change the policy there, the sale of used cars, of the cars that are being taken out of the fleet?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** The Member is right that there was a deviation from past practice which was strictly the auction sale. We used two pilot projects in which we used the sealed tender approach. These were sort of pilot projects. In both cases, the monetary return was very little different. What we might be looking at in the future is sort of a 50-50 between auction sales and using the sealed tender approach. In terms of monetary gain, there is very little benefit that has been gained by using one over the other.

**Mr. Plozman:** I would be concerned if the department was to move completely over to the sealed tenders, because it does not allow those people who want to purchase one or two vehicles to have an opportunity. I would think that you would probably end up with more revenue if individuals were able to purchase vehicles. I would certainly like to know the difference there. The Minister said there was very little difference. It would seem to me that there may be more return for the Government to sell them individually, as opposed to a package sealed tender. Then there is the issue, of course, of the individuals not having an opportunity to purchase these vehicles. Many people have relied on that for years.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that we have not made a decision to go strictly to this sealed tender system or strictly on auctions. I indicated that we would probably be looking at both but, if the Member wants to know the difference between the average units, it was \$2.00. By auctions, it was \$1,739 and, under sealed bids, it was \$1,741, so it has not made much difference.

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However, I would like to indicate that all vehicles are sold on an individual bid basis under the sealed bids thing, so a person can buy one or buy them all, but it is not that they are done in block form. So nobody is disadvantaged by using that approach.

**Mr. Plohman:** That would seem to clarify it. Is it difficult, is there any additional process that an individual has to be a part of in order to participate in the sealed tender? Is he aware or is the public, individual aware of the system, or would only large dealers be aware or any dealers be aware of how this is done? Is there a disadvantage there to individuals?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would be concerned if there was a disadvantage to any individual. At the present time with the sealed bid, the process that has been used, it has been advertised, the location has been advertised and individuals can come and look at the vehicle and then put in their sealed bid. It has been a very wide open system and has not been directed towards letting, for example, dealers have advantage on that. We have been advertising, I think, very openly on that, and allowing everybody who wants to get involved to come and have a look at the vehicles and then participate.

**Mr. Plohman:** Just one more point on that, it seemed that there may need to be some communication because the individual who I talked to did not seem to be aware of this new system and felt that he could no longer purchase vehicles from the Government. I wonder whether there was some other means of notifying people under the auction sales system, as opposed to the sealed tender. Were they advertised in precisely the same way, place, location, in the same papers or wherever they are normally advertised?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate that the advertising costs have been done and paper, directly mailing, photocopying, all the kind of things. So if there are individuals who have felt that they have not been notified, we would certainly like to have their name and we will make sure that they get on the list in terms of becoming aware of it. Other than that, I do not know whether there is anybody disenfranchised any more by this system than doing it by auction sale.

I am told that there are people who enjoy the sealed bid system better than getting involved in a public auction. It is not everybody's bag to get involved in a public auction—no reflection on my colleague sitting there at the end who is an auctioneer—but some people feel intimidated with an auction sale. I would just like to indicate that we do not have a closed mind on it and we are looking at both options. If there is going to be a difficulty in disposing of it one way or the other way, then we will make the change but we are certainly not trying to cut anybody out. We wanted to be very open about this.

**Mr. Plohman:** My final point on that is that initially when I asked the question, of course, it would seem that they were packaged in large groups. It is not the case and, of course, my concerns then are much alleviated. My only concern is that there would be the

same kind of advertising done for both processes so that the public generally would know when this is taking place and therefore would be able to participate.

\* (1750)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** We will try and ensure that.

**Mr. Rose:** The Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) alludes to the fact that the public is concerned that the system has changed. Has the Minister's department heard directly of any people so concerned that have contacted him directly and, if so, what has been done to allay their fears?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told that we have not received any complaints.

**Mr. Rose:** Would it be possible to give me a ball-park figure of what percentage of these cars that go out, sealed tender vehicles that go out, sealed tender go to actually automotive dealers, if any?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would have to indicate that we do not have that information here. We can try and break that out and I will give the undertaking that, if required, we will supply that information.

**Mr. Rose:** Why I ask that question is that perhaps it is less costly in advertising and all things, because certainly I would like to see the Government get maximum value for anything that they sell. I would be disturbed if by the sealed tender system the dealers were getting it, buying them and then reselling them, and therefore contributing perhaps to even a small community where business needs extra business to thrive. I would certainly hope and could the Minister assure me that the Government does not intend to get into the retail business on their surplus automobiles?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told that the live option really is retail but, no, we just want to dispose of the units that we feel are not usable by ourselves as Government and allow anybody who wants to buy them to take advantage of it.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Harapiak:** There were some meetings going on to make sure that Manitoba was getting their fair share of procurement. I know there were several meetings going on with the federal Government. Has there been any concrete progress being made in that whole area of procurement?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate that is the area that I have had the opportunity to get quite involved in. We had a meeting in Quebec City about procurement generally. My staff have been negotiating extensively with the western provinces and we are looking forward to getting a little bit more of our share. Actually, under the federal procurement, we are not getting our share at all. I think the Member is well aware of that.

We are working in conjunction with the western provinces in terms of setting up a system of providing

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information and data interprovincially and making our people in the business community aware of what is available from the federal Government as well. We are right in the thick of these things right now and certainly we are very cognizant and conscious of the fact that we would like to have a bigger share of their procurement, certainly at the federal level.

**Mr. Harapiak:** That process had been started earlier to getting greater involvement from many parts of the province, but I was just wondering if there was still—being pursued to continue to get our fair share of the purchasing.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I do not want to take away—there is nothing really changed. It has been an ongoing thing and we continued from the time we really took over Government. We were fortunate enough to get an indication that there would be an extra \$600 million coming towards the western provinces plus a larger portion of the larger share contracts. So we are right in the midst of these things and pursuing it very diligently in terms of trying to get a bigger piece of the cake that is available.

**Mr. Chairman:** 3.(b) Fleet Vehicles: (1) Salaries, \$1,350,000—pass; (b)(2) Other Expenditures, \$9,775,000—pass.

(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations, \$15,050,000—the Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. Plozman:** Just one question on this whole area, Mr. Chairman, there had been a reduction in the number of replacement vehicles the last couple of years. Is that continued this year from the policy that the department had recommended? I do not know if it is once every four years that every vehicle would be replaced, on a four-year cycle? Are we on a five- or six-year cycle, or maybe a 10-year cycle like Sterling Lyon was going on in 1978? Is there an increase in the cost, because that is what happened in 1978 and 1979 when there was a dramatic drop in the number of new vehicles purchased. The repair costs went up so much and that was just starting to level off, I guess in working the right way over the last number of years. So my question is, are we approaching that problem again, or is it seemed that the vehicles are standing up for larger number of miles and we are not getting to the point where the repair costs are actually causing it to be less cost effective?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that basically nothing has changed. The amount that has been budgeted is the same. I think three and a half, which has actually been in place for a few years, which raises a little bit of concern because we now are into a longer replacement time period and you know costs go up. I think that possibly with a Conservative Government there would not be as much mad driving going on and maybe they will last longer and expenses will stay down.

But seriously, Mr. Chairman, I have to indicate that there has been no change really, though I feel that it would be beneficial if we escalated the replacement on a shorter basis than we are doing right now.

**Mr. Rose:** You are talking three-and-a-half years' replacement?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** We are talking over six years. In fact, I might add that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is driving a 1979 car and is complaining like a son of a gun about it.

**Mr. Rose:** When we buy these vehicles, I presume—a question to the Minister—that we are now buying extended warranties on all these vehicles?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** We have the basic warranty that is there, but we do not buy additional extended warranty, I am told. On a fleet our size, I am told there is no advantage to it. We have very capable staff who are basically looking after our vehicles, and I am told that there is no advantage to us to buy the extended warranty.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Rose:** I would just like to indicate that would seem to be against what I know about automobiles and I would like the Minister to look deeper into that to see if there is a cost effective—as under today's conditions?

**Mr. Plozman:** Just for the record, Mr. Chairman, the plight of the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) has nothing to do with this item. Clearly, the fleet of vehicles for the general fleet are replaced under one system, but the Ministers' vehicles are replaced under a somewhat different system. I am sure that if the Minister of Northern Affairs wanted to get a replacement at this point with a 1979 vehicle being eight years—almost nine years old—and perhaps well over the threshold in terms of kilometres driven, he could probably get that replacement. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** That is correct; we are working on it.

**Mr. Rose:** On this item, I wonder if the Minister could tell us—if the facilities that we have, and he alluded earlier that we had very efficient—if our department has kept up with the high technology of automobile repair. Are we in a position to do all types of repairs with some of the latest equipment, repair equipment?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I am told that over a period of time we have been buying more sophisticated equipment. We are looking at continuing to get more equipment so that we can pretty well deal with almost anything other than the major warranty items, I suppose, that go back to the company.

**Mr. Rose:** I hope you speed that up. I wonder if the Government garage is equipped to do body repairs and if not, how repairs to our automobiles are handled? What system?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** We do body work and pretty good body work.

**Mr. Rose:** All of it?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** All that we can handle, I suppose.

\* (1800)

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass? (Agreed) Item 3.(c) Office Equipment Services: (1) Salaries, \$480,400—pass; item 3.(c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$972,700—pass; item 3.(c)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations, \$1,786,200—pass; item 3.(d) Purchasing: (1) Salaries, \$1,108,400—pass;

Item 3.(d)(2) Other Expenditures, \$181,400—the Member for St. Vital.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Chairman, the purchasing function under this department, and there is a mention there that it goes to all qualified suppliers, how do you determine the qualification of a supplier, briefly?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, it is based on people who we have done business with in the past and who have performed well. These would be people who we would be going with. If there is a newcomer on the block, so to speak, I think we would like to give him the opportunity providing that he can fulfill the purchases that are required. Then he is part of the system. I suppose the only time that anybody would maybe not have an opportunity is somebody who we have had bad dealings with, who has not been able to perform properly in terms of providing the goods.

**Mr. Plohman:** Just to add to that before we pass this item, if we can, that when new suppliers want to get on the list or indicate an interest, what we have done in the past is referred their names forward to Purchasing and their name is then on the list for consideration. If anyone has names, they should bring them forward.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Mr. Rose:** I presume that these qualified suppliers would include anybody throughout rural Manitoba, in the North and what have you, that may have a better service available?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Every Manitoban.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass? (Agreed)

The hour being 6 p.m., the committee will recess and meet back here at 8 p.m.

## SUPPLY—HEALTH

**Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko:** I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order, please. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health.

We are presently considering item 2.(c) Maternal and Child Health—the Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Chairman, I have an answer for my honourable friend regarding the high-risk infant follow-up, and I will give him the four-point process. Infant born at Health

Sciences Centre and St. Boniface are referred to the program by a physician. Secondly, the infants are assessed by the Child Development Clinic staff; and thirdly, upon discharge from the Child Development Clinic, follow-ups are referred to Public Health nursing.

Now, they are developmentally assessed by the Public Health nurse, as per guidelines agreed to by the developmental pediatricians at the Child Development Clinic on a regular basis. If developmental deviations are found by the Public Health nurse the child is referred back to the Child Development Clinic so that it goes: hospital—Child Development Clinic for an assessment—back home—periodic reassessment by the Public Health nursing staff—any problems are referred back to the Child Development Clinic.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Paul Edwards, in the Chair.)

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** A few more questions on the Child Health Clinics, reading the Hansard the other day the Minister did indicate that one of the purposes of the Child Health Conference was education. Could the Minister indicate, does this type of education in child health conferences, is that something that is seen to be above and beyond or different to what pediatricians or other physicians in the city might provide families?

\* (1440)

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, the Public Health nursing people use the Denver Assessment model. Whether pediatricians use it or not we are not involved in that, but I am advised the likelihood is that they do not.

**Ms. Gray:** I am wondering if the Minister could though indicate, does he feel, with the child health conferences, which are part of the activity under Maternal and Child Health, are these child health conferences viewed as providing education in areas where traditionally pediatricians or other physicians would not provide that education. What I am asking is, there must be a reason for providing child health conferences in the city, given there certainly are a number of pediatricians and other specialists in this city. Would the Minister indicate what the nature of this child health conference format is that would be different than what pediatricians or other specialists would provide as a service?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, they may not provide any new information, but they do provide information to parents, to mothers, so that they can be knowledgeable of the development patterns they ought to expect with their child.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, do the child health conferences target to any particular target population, or is the focus on all parents with young families, or is there a more specific target population?

**Mr. Orchard:** I am informed that Public Health nurses will suggest, or invite, if you will, participation by new parents to the child health conferences, and it is up to the parent to decide whether they wish to go and the invitation is extended on the basis of experience

or a feel for whether the mother might not seek that information through the medical profession through a pediatrician.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated that those invitations may go to families where those families might not seek advice or services from pediatricians.

One might assume then that—I am wondering, I am not quite sure if the Minister is indicating that there is then a targeting of CHCs to families who would be considered high risk situations, families where there is less education of the parents who may require more skills and are not able to go out and receive services or may not have the resources available to them to go out and seek services from other professionals. Could the Minister indicate if that is what he is saying?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, it is a judgment by the Public Health nurses that a parent may well benefit from this. Whether it be the direct reasons my honourable friend has brought up, that is a distinct possibility.

It may be that they believe the individual will benefit from the conference and can better understand raising a child by attendance. So it is a combination of what my honourable friend says, and needs assessment by the Public Health nurses.

My honourable friend wants the target group to be the poor. Certainly they will be among those invited. If my honourable friend wants to target single parents, they will certainly be among the groups invited.

If my honourable friend wants to target first mothers, certainly they will be among the groups invited, and it will be on the basis of the judgment call by the Public Health nurse in their knowledge of the individual's circumstance.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, are there any special measures that are employed by the Department of Health to actually target Child Health Conferences or other learning situations, to high-risk families?

I am asking that question because I am wondering if the Department of Health sees that high-risk families are a special target group where they should be specifically directing programs to, or are all the programs directed to an entire population?

**Mr. Orchard:** In nice simple terms, we target high-risk families. High-risk families are identified at the hospital at the time of discharge from the hospital, through information put down only on discharge, post partum. And if the individual is considered to be a high-risk parent who would benefit from the classes, that individual is recommended to attend the class.

It is up to that individual whether they attend or not. There is no compulsion, as one can well understand. You cannot require attendance. Does that answer my honourable friend's question?

**Ms. Gray:** I think it answers the question in that the Minister is indicating that programs are targeted to high risk.

I am wondering if the Minister would be prepared to table, since it may take too long to go into detail, information that his department would have as to what specific strategies are employed to ensure that these high-risk families that we are actually providing a service. I am sure the Minister is aware that in these situations we have to take into consideration accessibility of the programs, that we provide transportation, certain different forms or perhaps different methods of providing service, different to what one might provide in some areas of Winnipeg versus others, where we must look at the ethnic make-up of a particular community in terms of how we target services to those particular families where there may be high-risk situations.

Again, for the sake of time, I am wondering if the Minister would be prepared to table any strategies that are employed which would very much identify and would indicate that there are specific strategies that are used in programming that would mean that the Department of Health is actually moving towards service identification and service provision to high-risk families.

**Mr. Orchard:** So what is the specific information my honourable friend is asking for?

**Ms. Gray:** I would like to know if the Minister would be prepared to tell us or to table in this House specific strategies that the Maternal and Child Health use where there is an indication that the services that we are providing, such as child health conferences, family planning clinics, whatever, that there is some targeting to high-risk families as high-risk families would be defined.

**Mr. Orchard:** We will provide my honourable friend with the guidelines of those individuals who recommended the type of program. I do not know whether those guidelines will vary a great deal from the ones she used when she was employed with the department.

**Ms. Gray:** If they do not vary, then I would say that we really do not provide services and we have not been very creative in actually directing some of our programs to some of these high-risk families.

The Minister, I think, had indicated to the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) that there has not been evaluations at the child health conferences. Could the Minister indicate if that is correct? Does he know the last time that these conferences were evaluated?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Acting Chairman, I am pleased we finally got to the bottom of the situation. Obviously, my honourable friend, from her experience in the department, was not satisfied with the guidelines. Would she like to, on the record today, as the deputy critic of Health, give some suggestions which obviously she did not feel were important enough when she worked there to put through the system? Would she give those suggestions today if she finds the present system unsatisfactory? That would be much appreciated; that is what the Liberal Opposition at one time promised us they would do in helping to make Government better.

She obviously did not do it when she worked in the department. Would she care to do it today? We will give her the opportunity.

\* (1450)

**Ms. Gray:** I think if the Minister would check his facts in terms of types of positions I had within the department, he would recognize that I never held a directorate position in Maternal and Child Health or Health Promotion where provincial programs are developed. If he will also check back in the records, he may find that whatever authority area directors did have, that in some of the areas where I worked we did actually initiate some innovative programs which were different than what were innovated across other areas of the province because we did feel that these high-risk families certainly deserved special attention. I would certainly be glad to put on the record that I would, at any time, be glad to meet with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and provide my suggestions and ideas as to how some of this targeting can occur.

**Mr. Orchard:** But not today.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated from his seat, "But not today." I certainly feel that as we go through the Estimates process, it is the time for gathering information and because there are some time pressures, I certainly would not want to go into pages and pages of providing information when my goal here is to seek information. Certainly, I would hope that the Minister would follow-up on my suggestion and I would be glad to meet with him at any time.

With the prenatal classes that are provided, the Minister is probably aware that there are a number of outside agencies other than Government staff who do provide couples prenatal classes. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate, has there been any evaluation done of the prenatal classes other than the singles classes—I mean the couples classes that the Government provides—and has there ever been a thought that we might be duplicating services since there are other hospitals and groups that do provide that type of service.

**Mr. Orchard:** I look forward over the next couple of months to receiving a written proposal from my honourable friend on how she feels and how the Liberal Party feels that the child health conferences can be improved. That would be welcome and I would welcome receiving that in the next several weeks, in fact, if my honourable friend could. That would certainly help in any positive initiative that she may suggest being incorporated into the next cycle of Estimates. So I look forward, say, by the end of this month or whenever, if my honourable friend has the time, to put that to writing. I would be more than pleased to receive it, have staff review it and use in a positive way the offer of cooperation from my honourable friend.

Again, with family planning—was that the question? Prenatal, that is right. I knew I was on the wrong one. With prenatal classes, we are not duplicating, that we provide in addition to those provided by hospitals and

other institutions, prenatal classes. Again, we provide them to given groups who may not access the ones provided through hospitals and other areas.

**Ms. Gray:** It has been the practice for the last couple of years that contract teachers be hired rather than having the Public Health nurses provide the service because of workload considerations. Could the Minister tell us, is this still the practice? Are there monies in the budget to hire contract prenatal teachers?

**Mr. Orchard:** Yes, in Winnipeg.

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Last week, I asked a question about the evaluation of the Family Planning Clinics and the Minister indicated that we will have the information today. Could we have the information regarding the effectiveness of these two programs then?

**Mr. Orchard:** I will provide this information to my honourable friend if my Page could take it over to him? I am sorry, I just have one copy as well.

**Mr. Cheema:** Could the Minister tell us about the program for Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension Program? How many clients are in this program, what is the expected growth in this program, and who is coordinating the program? Has there been any evaluation done for the last one year or for the last two years?

**Mr. Orchard:** This program was brought in mid-year '86-87. It is under the coordination of a physician at the St. Boniface Hospital. It is available only out of St. Boniface Hospital as a pilot project. In '86-87, in the first year, 51 patients in the days of service were 556 with the average number of days per patient at 11; the average days per patient stayed at 11 for '87-88, but there were 64 patients on a full-year basis and 704 days program support. So far, in '88-89, we have 37 patients with 313 service days to date. The program is coordinated by a physician at St. Boniface, delivered by Public Health nurses.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

**Mr. Cheema:** Could the Minister indicate to us, is there an evaluation study done for the cost-effectiveness for this program, why this program was set up individually, because the physicians are following their patients for pregnancy-induced hypertension. What was the specific purpose of this program?

**Mr. Orchard:** The purpose of the program was to determine whether the patients could be managed at home for pregnancy-induced hypertension rather than hospitalized for that.

**Mr. Cheema:** What have we learned from this program in almost two-and-a-half years, if this is a good program for expansion into other areas?

**Mr. Orchard:** I guess, to date, the experience has been reasonable. With resource availability, the recommendation would be to expand the program to

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the Women's Health Centre. That decision has not been made to this date.

**Mr. Cheema:** Is there a possibility of expansion of a similar program in the northern communities?

**Mr. Orchard:** The likelihood of that going beyond the two teaching hospitals is slim, because there has to be a close association with the tertiary care facilities involving ultrasound and the close affiliation with laboratory work.

**Mr. Cheema:** I think Thompson and Brandon, those places do have all the facilities available. If this program is effective in Winnipeg and is going to help save on the cost and preventing the patient to stay in the hospital, why should we not be expanding this program to Brandon and other places also?

**Mr. Orchard:** I accept my honourable friend's advice but, at this stage of the game, if we expand the program, the next step would be the Women's Centre at the Health Sciences Centre, and beyond that would require some additional professional advice and analysis before we would make a decision to proceed beyond.

\* (1500)

**Mr. Cheema:** I thank the Minister for that answer. If this program has been as good and effective and would save the cost and would also save the families going to the hospital and also save, in terms of the risk factors and what the pregnancy-induced hypertension does to the patient as well as to the child, it will be helpful to expand this program and ultimately, I think, it would be saving money.

My next question is on the Post-partum Home Visit Program. Could the Minister tell us who is coordinating this program and what are the major components of this program and what are the target groups and which areas do we have this program, either in Winnipeg, rural communities, or northern?

**Mr. Orchard:** This program is delivered by Public Health nursing staff in the appropriate jurisdiction, whether it be regional staff, City of Winnipeg or federal, depending on where. The follow-up is by direct contact, direct visit or combination of visit and telephone call.

**Mr. Cheema:** Could the Minister tell us if an evaluation study has been done for this program?

**Mr. Orchard:** Again, I cannot provide my honourable friend with a follow-up which says that 1,226 post-partum patients were followed up and here were the results. That is not part of it. It is in that area generally of preventative health care initiatives. Those are the most difficult ones to evaluate the effectiveness of. If it were only as simple as evaluating the efficacy of a hip joint replacement because either it works or it does not work, and most often it does work and, therefore, the program is considered effective. Here, you do not have those clearly defined outputs that you can monitor.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, I do disagree with the Minister in this regard. Most of the programs we have

discussed for the last two or three days, most of them do not have evaluation studies done. These are good programs but, to follow them up and learn from those programs, we need some kind of follow-up. Also, at least for post-partum patients, we need to have a control group which can be easily accessed from one of the hospitals. I think it should be done to render the efficacy of this particular program.

**Mr. Orchard:** My honourable friend maybe has a good suggestion. The difficulty is this program is applicable to as close as you can get to 100 percent of post-partum mothers and child. In order to evaluate, we would have to have that test group that my honourable friend has mentioned from time to time, which would mean that we would have to, let us say, for a couple of years remove the service from half the population that is currently being served, use them as a test group and then determine whether the program was effective. It is to date the considered opinion of the proponents of the program that it is effective enough that would not prove anything and, in fact, may well put some of the recipients of the program at a greater risk by not having them on the program to establish that quality control test group my honourable friend would like to see.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, the quality control group could be easily established out of the hospitals.

My next question is, out of this post-partum program, what are the major components of this particular program at home? To be more specific, is this for the mother as well as the child? How long do they follow them? Who gets the reports, the family doctor or the hospital? Who is coordinating the whole system?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I am informed that an assessment is made of each mother and child. The appropriate training is offered and given in fact to— for instance, if breast feeding is a desired method of infant feeding, that training, that information is passed on so that the mother knows what to expect and what to look out for for danger signs of infection or any other number of areas, and what sort of procedures one should go through to successfully breast feed a new infant.

Specific problems areas when identified are then referred, mother and child, to the appropriate resource to resolve or to provide further information. If it is of a strict medical nature, naturally a physician would be referred. If it is in general, for instance, nutrition, etc., etc., they may even refer to a home economist or a nutritionist or another person who can provide that information. If it is budgeting in the home, that program is referred because it does still exist in Health Promotion, I believe, in terms of home economists giving backup services for household financial planning, and what to buy and what it ought to cost and where to access the best quality, what to look out for in terms of dangers in cribs, what sort of problems if one is not breast-feeding to look out for, and what is the reasoned approach to bottle feeding and what formulas might be appropriate as based on the physician's input or nutritionist's input, and indeed even training in terms

of what sort of difficulties one might encounter in terms of buying playthings because those can be dangerous.

The range of counselling is almost on an as-needed basis, and is undertaken by those individuals who can provide the new mother and the child with the most appropriate level of information so that those new mothers and children can go home with some reasoned satisfaction that they have the skills, the mothering and the parenting skills and indeed the household skills, to assure the healthiest home environment possible for that new infant.

\* (1510)

I think in the broad general goals, again—I know my honourable friend is concerned about evaluation and I am always concerned about evaluation, but again we are talking about programs which are health promotional and educational in nature, and those are the most difficult programs to monitor positive outcomes. I have only been the Health Minister now for six months—well, pardon me, I better get it right, otherwise the Liberal computer will kick in—six months and five days to be exact.

**An Honourable Member:** Oh, lucky you corrected that.

**Mr. Orchard:** I know, we have to be pretty precise in this business, but six months and five days. I have to tell my honourable friend that I have been approached on innumerable occasions on the basis of requests for additional funding. A lot of these requests for additional funding, be it within the Department of Health, be it within the hospital system or throughout our various sectors of program delivery within the department, I have been approached with a concept, an idea which, if Government only would implement it, would save them money down the road. I have had innumerable cases suggested to me in this regard.

There is some consistency with these proposals. They always involve the expenditure of some additional resource, resource for which there are competing needs assessed already within the department. So my honourable friend can appreciate the difficulty of the decision because what we are being asked for, what I am being asked for as Minister of Health is to provide an extra \$200,000 in some cases, an extra \$1 million, an extra \$500,000, when already I have enormous demands on the budget for ambulance funding, as a small example. My honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), knows that very well because he sits beside my main questioner on ambulance funding, the MLA for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

I have demands for community service enhancement in mental health. I have demands certainly to reduce the line-ups for radiotherapy in the Province of Manitoba, that by my honourable friend himself, all of which requires a resource dedication.

So, when I am approached with these sorts of requests—and each and every one of them is proposed in the best of open and good faith because each individual or group that makes the proposition to me of commitment of additional resource for a preventative

program sincerely believes that program will save the health care budget over the long run. But I have to say with regret—it is regret because it inhibits my decision-making abilities—when I ask for the expected outcome—like, for instance, in terms of a prevention program in alcohol and drug abuse, I ask how many fewer children or youth might you expect would be prevented from having an alcohol or a drug problem if we put this program in? The best estimate is somewhere in the 30 percent range of effectiveness, and that is only at a point in time and it does not necessarily mean long term. So against those expected outcomes, one must balance the dedication of resource and that makes an extremely difficult decision-making process.

Let me give my honourable friend an example of mammography. Mammography went through the national trial some three years ago. Manitoba was very highly involved. I believe we had some 9,000 people on the mammography test program, trial program in Manitoba out of, I think, something like 40,000 nationally or 45,000 nationally. In other words, we had an inordinate number or share, a larger proportional share than our population would dictate.

I believe that program is an effective one. I believe that program is one we have to seriously consider amidst competing demands for resources, some kind of reinstatement of that program because it is clearly, I think, demonstrated that the mammography program provides early detection of breast cancer. Having early detection with the disease of cancer has all the advantages downstream in the health care system of less medical intervention, less surgical procedures, as a possibility.

Certainly, early intervention in breast cancer leads often, can give the extreme benefit that the patient does not have to go through extensive regimes of either chemo or radiotherapy. Now clearly, an early detection program like mammography has some pretty definitive outcomes of spending \$500,000, and here is what we expect the outcome to be. But even that is an imprecise science and it has been studied extensively throughout the United States, Canada most recently and I believe European countries have made similar studies.

So, my honourable friend asks the right questions and I have to say I ask them as well. I am as frustrated, no doubt, as he is in that we have not got the definitive outcome, XYZ. In this particular case, it would be difficult to set up the trial group because all mothers receive the post-partum follow-up. To establish a test case, I do not know whether I would want to do that because—I will get into the free trade argument of the Liberals because what if. You know, what if one of those children, because there was no post-partum follow-up, ended up going through a debilitating illness and became a substantive cost to the health care system, let alone the personal problem that child may well have endured by going through a preventable illness. So you put me in a difficult position of following where I think your suggestion would take us of establishing a test group. At this stage of the game, I cannot be persuaded to do that. This program has grown over a number of years to service all post-partum mothers and children



in the province, and has an apparently significant benefit in that it has been expanded to that degree.

In terms of giving my honourable friend the cost effectiveness, I simply am unable to do that. Not that I would not like to, but it just does not—the outcome is not that definitive in that we can provide my honourable friend with that type of information.

It is considered to be an effective program in that it provides the kind of education, the kind of preventative support that all provincial Governments and all political Parties tend to support. It tends to reinforce the goal of individuals looking after themselves, i.e., the mother learning how to better care for her new child. That fits every direction we want to do of people taking more responsibility for caring for themselves. In this particular program, the expert advice and information is made available as needed, whether it be by Public Health nurses, whether it be by physicians or other support people in the field who can provide the individual with that information.

So I have to be satisfied on the advice of the department that the program is a good one and it is effective, and that it is probably working in the classic mode of preventative medicine that we are focusing on as Government.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, that was an excellent answer. It shows the Minister's in-depth knowledge of the system. This program is doing a good job, as he said. Any program, to be more effective and to learn from their programs so that it could be beneficial in the future, there must be some evaluation done so that those statistics could be used for another program. If there has been this program for the last two years, what are the major problems that have been identified in terms of the mother's and the child's health?

**Mr. Orchard:** Again, let me tell my honourable friend that some of the foremost problem areas that have come from any reasoned discussion of this program and any analysis of the request for services of this program centre around four primary areas: breast-feeding, infant care, parenting dysfunction, and family dysfunction. The support to attempt to alleviate difficulties in any of the four areas or any combination of them that an individual may or may not have are undertaken by the Public Health nurses, the Public Health nursing staff first as, if you will, the front line deliverers of service. Should additional advice or support be needed, that is provided by the appropriate professional, be it physician or otherwise.

In other words, to provide the specific problems, for instance, in terms of family dysfunction, maybe the recommendation is made to seek out some family counselling. That of course is part of the attempt to resolve any difficulty with the bottom-line attempt being made to provide the greatest degree of (a) skill development amongst the new parents as possible but, secondly, to give us a method of problem identification so that appropriate informed resolutions can be proposed for the parent and child, those resolutions to come either, as I have said earlier, from Public Health nursing staff or from the appropriate knowledgeable resource individual, be it physician or otherwise.

\* (1520)

**Mr. Cheema:** That is precisely the point here. To promote this program, we have to identify which problem areas are within the program. What are the major illnesses or major problems that have been identified by Public Health nurses so that in future those problems could be put on the priority list and dealt at the first step so that we could save money and we could still provide the services? That is why my question. With each and every program, there should some kind of evaluation study done on an ongoing basis by the department itself so that the efficacy of the program could improve, the teaching of the profession could be done, as well as the teaching of parents could be more beneficial and more efficacious and saving more time.

**Mr. Orchard:** I very much accept my honourable friend's advice. That is why, over the period of time that the program has been offered, I will give my honourable friend four of the problems so identified. One of the problem areas has been breast-feeding. Of course, that can be a very, very serious problem for the mother and child.

I just want to give my honourable friend one example. We had Australian friends when we lived in Edmonton, and when they moved to Australia, they had their first child in Australia.

These were very, very well-educated individuals. The husband was a PHE. The spouse in this case was very highly educated as a teacher. They made the decision with their first child that they would breast-feed, and I guess through a combination of not wanting to admit there was a problem, etc., etc., particularly a problem with being able to breast-feed, I think there might have been in this particular case a psychological closing of the mind so that the mother could not admit that possibly she was not able to breast-feed simply because of lack of quantity of breast milk but that is exactly the case. The child suffered for approximately nine months and essentially was starving because it simply was not fed adequately. I mean these were very highly educated people, very aware people. The child developed mental problems and only now is achieving a performance of mental achievement that a child half the age would be achieving and that was a direct outcome of wanting to breast-feed and not having the counselling to recognize the kind of problems that they were experiencing within their own home. That is a very unfortunate circumstance and might have been avoided with some education.

Again, we are talking of a couple with certainly if not well-above average, certainly above average resources in terms of their knowledge, their outlook, etc., etc., but those kinds of problems are identified from time to time.

I simply put it to you, my honourable friend, as simply as possible. It is somewhat difficult to judge the exact quantity that the baby consumes. It is not as easy as measuring down a bottle on so many millilitres of fluid. In order for breast-feeding to be successful, potential mothers have to understand the process and know what some of the danger signals may well be in terms

of warning signals that the program may not be working for the mother and for the child. So that is No. 1.

No. 2, in terms of problems of general infant care, is the second most reported difficulty. Again, these problems can take a wide range of symptoms, all of which will be assessed by Public Health nursing in conjunction with the mother and the appropriate follow-up resource will be provided. If it is a medical problem that appears to be emerging, the appropriate medical resource will be focused in order to (a) discover what the problem is definitively, and (b) to suggest an appropriate resolution of the problem.

In the last two, parenting dysfunction and family dysfunction, which are the third and fourth most common problems identified, again those very difficult areas are resolved through counselling, and that counselling may well take the form of any number of professional disciplines, depending on the severity and the amount of support that the individual needs in overcoming either that parenting dysfunction or that family dysfunction. As I indicated to my honourable friend earlier, where these shortcomings are identified in terms of parenting dysfunction or family dysfunction, the appropriate professional resource is referenced in each case to provide the parent, the mother, with the best possible advice.

**Mr. Cheema:** In this post-partum period, can the Minister tell us if there is any post-partum infection has been studied and what is the prevalence of different infections and what have we learned from this program so that the Public Health nurses and other professions could be trained to identify those problems as early as possible?

**Mr. Orchard:** If the mother, for instance, is showing signs of an infection, that is an area that is picked up by the physician and we do not have that sort of information base developed.

\* (1530)

**Mr. Cheema:** I think it would be to the advantage of the parents as well as the worker to have maybe that area included in the visit so that at least signs are coming so the education can be done to that person and that person can go to her family doctor or other professional concerned. I think that will save the cost and also prevent the hospitalization and also prevent the mortality associated with the infection in the post-partum period.

My next question is as regards to the Breast-Feeding Promotion Program. The Minister has indicated that the Breast-Feeding Promotion Program is a part of the post-partum program. What are the other methods that are being used to enhance this program in terms of the media campaign? Is there pamphlets are being distributed or what other forms are being used?

**Mr. Chairman:** I would just want to remind all Honourable Members with respect to the rules of the House.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, there does come that delicate time in the day when one has to keep his energy up.

Let me answer my honourable friend in as complete a way as I possibly can. Prior to discharge under the post-partum program, the mother is provided with the address and phone number of the local health unit. That information is given to her so that should she have difficulty, she has the ability to contact the office nearest her residential address if any problems are encountered, first off.

Secondly, the Public Health nurse in the area has the individual's name referred to her or him and the Public Health nurse follows up with that mother and new child when they arrive home.

Upon leaving the hospital, the mother is provided with informational series on how to care for newborns; what sort of things to do to prepare the home for a newborn, what sort of things to look out for, what sort of expectations one ought to have in bringing home a newborn. The province has a quite effective post-partum education program which mothers can access with their child—probably with the child would be the way they would be going—but basically to receive further education assistance and training in terms of the challenges and the incredible rewards of having a new family member.

**Mr. Cheema:** Can the Minister tell us who is responsible for the Facts of Life toll-free telephones and what are the numbers of the calls on a monthly basis? What are the major areas of people that are calling in? What have we learned from this program? Are we using the toll free line to develop certain programs in certain communities?

**Mr. Orchard:** Planned Parenthood of Manitoba is being funded to provide the Facts of Life line. Let me give you the most recent statistics in terms of use of the Facts of Life line. Monthly there were 14,216 calls for '87-88, and the line was open for a total of 3,173 hours. The Winnipeg open hours was 2,181, for rural open hours was 992. Number of females phoning was 2,079 versus 1,027 males; 1,032 were less than 15 years old. The age group 15 to 19 years old, there were 1,434 calls and over 20 years of age, 707. There were 1,174 requests for birth control information, 806 pregnancy information requests, 228 AIDS information requests and 58 calls which are put into the category of problems dealing with crisis and abuse.

**Mr. Cheema:** What have we done to address the needs of these people? Is there any follow-up program? Who is responsible for that?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, as the line would indicate it, the Facts of Life line and its primary function is to provide information on the telephone as requested. That is done wherever possible. Where other information is required or other expertise is required, the Facts of Life line will provide referral to the appropriate information provider outside of those individuals who are staffing the Facts of Life line. That may well be physicians in their area or community health clinics, depending on the problem.

**Mr. Cheema:** Considering the number of calls per month and the different breakdown of different numbers

of calls, I think it would be advantageous to the department to distribute some information to the different health regions so that they will know that these problems are more prevalent than the others. I think the system could be improved and also would be helpful to the health provided at the primary level. My next question is, is the Pap Test Program achieving its goal?

**Mr. Orchard:** The Cervical Cancer Screening Registry Program is now just nicely under way. There is a professional information brochure that is available to support the program advocating accessing the Pap smear test.

**Mr. Cheema:** My question is more special to the numbers now. What are the achievements so far? What is the percentage of people who have been approached by themselves or by the physicians and other health care providers? What are the exact numbers so far?

**Mr. Orchard:** I am informed that it is a bit too early to indicate the numbers that are going to be enrolled in the program although it appears as if the interest stimulation is sufficient. The enrollment should be quite significant. The promotional educational materials are available and have been distributed. They are pamphlets, posters and wallet cards. They have been distributed where one might expect, through physicians, Public Health nurses, community health clinics and centres, through the university and community college health centres, through the tribal councils, through the Canadian Cancer Society, pharmacies, women's groups and occupational health nurses. This information is available and it is available in several languages in fact.

**Ms. Gray:** I just have one question based on the Minister's comments. But before I ask that question, I would like to indicate that I think the department has come a long way in the last five or six years now that we do have a Maternal and Child Health Directorate and that has certainly been a progressive move. Traditionally, when we had the Public Health Nursing Directorate, I think there was a lot of concerns about how progressive Public Health nursing was becoming. I think certainly that although we always can criticize or see a need to do better, that certainly over the last four years or so there certainly has been much progress made in the maternal and child health field. I think the staff that were involved with that should be congratulated.

The question that I had was in response to what the Minister had said. He had indicated that with the post-partum follow-up, the Public Health nurses would refer families on in areas of family counselling where they felt that there was a further need for expertise other than that which could be provided by the Public Health nurses. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate where are these referrals made to for family counselling services.

**Mr. Orchard:** I am informed that the statistical information base is not comprehensive enough to indicate to whence referrals are made. That is why it was indicated earlier on that referrals are made to the appropriate agency.

\* (1540)

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister or his staff aware? I ask the question because there used to be family counsellors at least within the City of Winnipeg and I think in other regions as well who work closely with Public Health nurses, so there was certainly an ease of referral in those cases. I am wondering if the Minister is aware, are there still family counsellors within Regional Services that are available who will accept these types of referrals from Public Health nurses?

**Mr. Orchard:** They may well exist beyond the Community Services side of Regional Services.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister indicated that there is not a lot of data in regard to referrals. Could he indicate, is there any information at all in regard to the post-partum follow-up that there really is a need for family counselling and in fact there are a significant number of families who may be referred to those types of services? Would he have any of that information or is there a trend that emerges at all or is that unavailable?

**Mr. Orchard:** Again, I have to indicate to my honourable friend, the sophistication of the data collection does not allow one to trend line increasing parenting dysfunction, for instance, or family dysfunction. It is identified as a problem through periodic interview for the purpose of program review with those service deliverers.

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** I just wanted to make the point that on this item we have not asked any specific questions as the Second Opposition Party, not because of a lack of interest in this particular area, as we have indicated previously, because there is a time constraint which really does force us to focus in on a number of specific issues.

We believe there will be other opportunities to discuss specific items that we may have concerns about with the Minister directly in other forums under which we can take those discussions. But for the time being, we are prepared to let this pass, as we have been on other items and will be in other items yet to come in order to expedite the process of the discussion of the Estimates for the Department of Health.

**Mr. Chairman:** Item 2.(c)(1) Salaries—pass; 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(c)(3) External Agencies—pass.

Item 2.(d) Health Promotion: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**Mr. Cheema:** Prevention is the best tool available to handle most of the debilitating diseases such as ischemic heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and problem areas such as smoking, nutrition and substance abuse. We have covered sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS in other sections, but this is still a very crucial area. I think prevention should be the basic concern to prevent the debilitating part of a disease as well as to save the cost and to have a more productive life for the individuals who are vulnerable

to such diseases. Could the Minister tell us what are the lifestyle factors they are particularly putting emphasis on under this program?

**Mr. Orchard:** As my honourable friend may well read on page 46 of the introduction to the Health Promotion subappropriation, the objectives are: "To encourage a more healthy lifestyle in an attempt to prevent death, disease and disability resulting from lifestyle factors" and "to develop programs that will assist communities and people to assume more responsibility for their own health."

I guess in the broadest of terms, I do not think there is any philosophical argument in terms of health promotion between, as far as I am aware, any political Party in the Province of Manitoba. I think universally we all would heartily endorse those stated objectives of the program, i.e., "to develop programs that will assist communities and" individuals "to assume more responsibility for their own health." The only place that we will disagree and we will argue about is on the extent to which Government is involved or ought to be involved or what type of program Government is involved in. That would probably be the only area of basic disagreement. I think fundamentally we all agree with those general activities.

Let me tell my honourable friend that the Health Promotion Directorate is in, I guess I would have to say, a somewhat unique position because the objectives, as stated on page 46 of the Supplement to the Estimates, are almost the identical objectives that we went through for the last hour in Maternal and Child Health in terms of the post-partum referral because the education program, the amount of information that is given to new mothers, is directly fitting in a program that will assist people to assume more responsibility for their own health—well, in this case, the mother receiving more care for her child. But nevertheless, that is hopefully self-provided care which is not a resource drain either financially or personnel-wise on the health care system of Manitoba

\* (1550)

So we end up with Health Promotion actually being a separate directorate and undertaking specific initiatives, but indeed most of our programming throughout the department would fit these two general objectives because, as I have demonstrated with Maternal and Child Health, that is an objective. Certainly, in Communicable Disease Control, as my honourable friend just alluded to earlier, the prevention of STDs and AIDS is self-care, if you will, and very important to the individual and, even more important in the case of AIDS, to the health care system in general, prevention in that regard.

So the directorate itself is actually a specific entity to deliver some quite high-profile programs. The one I will indicate to my honourable friend that I think has had some success, mainly because it has been an issue that has been before us for a number of years, but also there has been I think a pretty significant dedication of resource and will at the federal level, but I think the anti-smoking campaign has been extremely successful.

That has been probably the largest single health promotion function resource-wise in Health Promotion over the last couple of years, and I think it has been quite successful. Again, I am not doing it because there is a federal election or anything, but the federal Minister of Health does deserve some credit. He turned a personal belief into a pretty effective public policy that I think has had some pretty good results.

Now, Mr. Chairman—it was a Madam from the back row who was making the comments and I got slightly confused. I think that we have some ground to cover yet in terms of the anti-smoking campaign because, if my personal observation is correct as limited as it may well be, I think we still have a problem in smoking amongst young adolescent women where I think that they are taking up smoking in greater numbers than their male counterparts, at least by any observation I have made and that is very rudimentary, but I believe there are statistics that do in fact demonstrate that. We have some distance to go yet in terms of our anti-smoking campaign but those initiatives, hopefully, over the longer run will bear fruit. I suppose that is one Health Promotion Program that one can definitively say provides long-term results in terms of cost containment in the health care system.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, what is the process that is in place to link all these activities that the Minister has indicated to the communities?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, linking it to the communities, I suppose, is achieved in a number of different ways. Promotional literature is available throughout the system, be it through our health offices, the regional offices, doctors' offices, etc., and the dissemination of that information of course is very much individual driven, but it does find extensive distribution scope and provides all Manitobans with access to the print resources of health promotion. In terms of the smoking campaign, of course, we have pretty extensively utilized electronic media and indeed print media in terms of advertising to get that message across. We, within the directorate, have had a quite close working relationship with the Manitoba Interagency Council on Smoking and Health.

**Mr. Cheema:** Under the Expected Results, there is an area saying that approximately 2,500 Manitobans are enrolled in the Diabetic Education Program. Can the Minister tell us what are the results of that program, and what areas of problems have been identified and how long this program has been running? Just what is the catchment area for this particular program?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I know this does not happen very often, but I am going to do it now. I have to give the former Government full credit in this Diabetic Education Outreach Program.—(Interjection)—No, I am dead serious. I had discussions with my counterpart, Mr. Desjardins, when he was Minister of Health because I had a very active group in Morden, Manitoba who wanted to establish another outreach program on diabetes education. I worked with the former Minister and, within six or seven months, that program was approved as an addition to the outreach program in Morden.

It works, it works very, very well. It provides educational service assessment, etc., throughout the regions of Manitoba. In reality, it is probably one of the finest examples or one of the better working examples of how education and outreach can help to resolve for individuals a very—to help them stabilize a very severe medical condition. That outreach program has been expanded over the last number of years.

I will give my honourable friend where the Diabetes Education Resources Centres are: the Youville Clinic operates one in Winnipeg, Children Adolescent Centre. Westman Region has a program operating, and I cannot give you the location but I am making the assumption that is out of Brandon. In the Interlake, the program operates regionally in the Interlake. Group classes are available in the Norman Region. Both Morden and Carman have outreach programs. The Thompson region itself has an outreach program. Beausejour, Steinbach, Parklands Region and Portage la Prairie also have outreach programs, and these have been successful. The total case load to date is 2,055, and it is estimated that that will grow in this fiscal year to over 2,800. That is because of newly established programs in Beausejour, Steinbach, Portage la Prairie and the Parklands Region.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, what is being done for the seniors and what are the areas of identification with regard to Health Promotion because, under the Expected Results, there is the development of an additional seniors' centre and support services project? Can the Minister explain that please?

\* (1600)

**Mr. Orchard:** There are several initiatives. In terms of health promotion from the fitness side and the participation side, the Manitoba Seniors Games 55-Plus are supported by Government in terms of financial support to run those games. Those games take practically, for all intents and purposes, a year of effort on behalf of the Manitoba Society of Seniors, wherein they begin with planning for the regional games. From the regional games, of course, communities bid to have the Provincial Seniors Games.

I am pleased to say, Mr. Chairman, that this summer's Seniors Games were hosted in my constituency at Carman. They were the largest ever. They were extremely well hosted by the Carman committee, a volunteer committee working with the Manitoba Society of Seniors from Central Region, and they were the largest games in terms of participation.

Let me, with a little levity, give you a small aside on the games themselves. I was, I believe, in the process of Estimates preparation, I think—I do not think we were sitting then—but at any rate I was invited out for the opening and I certainly was able to make the opening ceremonies. A number of individuals were there for the opening ceremonies, and we were ceremoniously piped in, etc., etc., and it was one of those incredibly warm days of this summer where the temperatures were right up in the high 90s, and a strong wind blowing and we got tangled up in the balloons that we were to release to kick off the games, and it was a good event.

But I could not make the banquet. So as happens from time to time in politics, you call upon your spouse to fill in for you. I asked Janie if she would be so kind as to fill in for the banquet that evening, and Janie agreed that she would go to it because I simply could not make it. I had scheduled other activities well in advance and simply could not make it.

Now, the whole objective of these games is to promote physical activity, physical fitness amongst our seniors and, let me tell you, they work and they work admirably because the games banquet started at 6:15 p.m. in the afternoon of a hot day when it was up around 100 degrees. The hall was absolutely packed with senior citizens. I mean, there was hardly breathing space in there, and it was about 100 outside but it had to be about 120 inside. My wife is in very good physical condition and is a very healthy individual, but she almost did not have the stamina to last the night till eleven o'clock, and those seniors were still on the go ready to dance and have singsongs even at 11 at night.

So obviously, the success of those games in promoting wellness, fitness and good—(Interjection)—I beg your pardon?

**Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside):** What kind of an example were those seniors setting for our youth dancing till all hours of the night?

**Mr. Orchard:** Well, the question has been asked from, what kind of an example were those seniors setting for our youth dancing till all hours of the night?—(Interjection)—Well, it was asked by a Member involved in the Estimates process of the House as a spectator, I hope, as a spectator.

But the program was extremely successful and that is one direction that we—it is a new initiative and I think it is only about, I think that was the fifth games this year, or the fourth games? I cannot remember the number, but nevertheless a very successful program—(Interjection)—the seventh I am informed. Okay, I am only out by half. But a very successful initiative, and one of growing popularity where their ability to organize the games is getting more and more difficult because of the sheer numbers of participation. That is of course the ultimate sign of the effectiveness of a program is where you have that kind of participation.

But in other areas, Support Services to Seniors and other initiatives are undertaken in order to support healthier lifestyles, community living, independence in the community, and those are dedicated to the senior population.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, under the Other Expenditures, under Advertisement, the actual amount has been decreased by \$4,000.00. Can the Minister tell us why this has been decreased because part of the health promotion has to do with advertising, and why was that decision taken?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, the level of advertising is reduced. However I would not want to conclude from my honourable friend that the ability to carry on a very effective promotion program has been put at risk by this—what is it—\$4,600-\$4,800 reduction.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister describe for us the professional fees, about \$150,000, what is that for? It was not in last year's budget. This is a new item.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, for the record, it was not in last year's Estimates. That is where we have placed the resource that we anticipate dedicating towards industrial health promotion. We put it in this category under professional fees as an area under Health Promotion in which we can develop and deliver the industrial Health Promotion Program.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister describe for us, under the industrial Health Promotion Program, what are the areas he has targeted and what are the major goals to be achieved? What are the major components of this particular program? Can he just elaborate for us?

**Mr. Orchard:** This initiative under Health Promotion is to provide a specific resource to enhance safety programming, awareness more than anything else in terms of a safety program, and to promote health and safety within the workplace, i.e., recognition of potential hazards. Indeed, in the workplace there is no question that from time to time one runs into circumstances of various dangerous and unhealthy circumstances in the workplace. Those are identified and we want to assist in that development.

Above and beyond all of those which are in part in place now through various other programs, we want to develop an attitude of a more healthy approach to lifestyle carried through to the workplace as well as the home environment, with the emphasis of course being that a healthy lifestyle in the workplace of course leads to a productive working life and a very productive work output. Those are generally positive outcomes for the province, positive outcomes for the individual and indeed for their employer.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, out of that \$150,000 how much money is spent for the SYs and how much money is spent for the information sessions or the brochures, or other forms of media campaign this department is going to do?

The second part of my question is, is the healthy lifestyle the only area that is going to be considered under this program, or the noise control, or the smoke control, or the other forms of environmental factors, the stress factor? Also who is going to coordinate the program and what are the industrial areas being recognized? Just in urban Manitoba or rural Manitoba also? Also my next question is, what form of evaluation program will be used to expand this program if the results are good?

\* (1610)

**Mr. Orchard:** First of all, let me indicate to my honourable friend that there will be no SYs involved in this program. It will be handled as part of the program delivery from the Health Promotion Directorate. A number of the initiatives that my honourable friend

mentioned are part, of course, of the potential use of this \$150,000.00. Stress in the workplace seems to be a very common contributing factor to employee difficulties. You hear now of burnout being a pretty regularly referenced difficulty for various professions and others. But above and beyond all, the emphasis will be on fitness as a lifestyle in the workplace so that we combine—I know if I am feeling physically fit I am better able to stand the pressures and the stress of Minister of Health. If that works for me, it will work for my honourable friend, the critic for Health, and even for you, Mr. Chairman.

So I want to tell my honourable friend that the initiatives that will be undertaken under the industrial health promotions will be as a result of a joint committee which we intend to strike with the private sector so that they are participating in some of the health promotion projects, the identification of them, and the furtherance of the kind of educational and awareness program that we will conduct.

Now, my honourable friend has an interesting question again on terms of the output evaluation. Again I wish I could tell my honourable friend that for this \$150,000 that we hope to expend, that we will save the Manitoba Health Services Commission \$475,000 next fiscal year and every year thereafter, and that we will save expenditures in the mental health system by \$250,000 this year and every year thereafter.

But unfortunately I cannot give you that kind of a definitive answer. We are attempting to, again in conjunction with the proponents of program, to try as best we can to get an evaluation process in place ahead of time so that for instance, if we are going to—let us take the example of noise in the workplace. One could presumably choose an industrial location to participate, in cooperation with the employees and the management of the firm.

You could do baseline testing. You could then do a promotional program on wearing of ear protection, avoidance of exposure to high decibel noise levels, and then at the end of a year or two years of programming do an evaluation to see whether there was an industry-average reduction in hearing capability. Because those exist, you would have something to target it to. But those will be part of the suggestion procedure and the approval procedure for varying projects. But again, I just offer my honourable friend the caution that it is another promotional effort that you may not be able to come up with definitive results.

**Mr. Cheema:** A program like this, it is not difficult to have a control group as the Minister indicated, and it will be easier to start from the beginning to have a program evaluation being done with a control group at the same time. Because if the private sector is going to be participating in this program and if ultimately they are going to save money also, I think they should be involved in terms of starting the evaluation of the program from the beginning.

My next question is, out of this committee, the committee that is going to be formed, what will be the number of the health professionals as well as the private

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sector people and also the consumer group? Can the Minister tell us, is this committee already in place or is it going to be, who is going to be the chairperson, and when this committee will start functioning?

**Mr. Orchard:** No, we do not have the committee struck. The formation and the operational detail has only recently been committed and approved in terms of the direction we are taking in this industrial Health Promotion line as a new initiative in terms of health promotion. As quickly as we get the committee up and running, I will be making appropriate announcements as to membership direction and purpose. At the present time, I can only give my honourable friend broad general terms, in terms of what we intend to do and what we expect to achieve.

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Chairperson, I would like to let the Minister know that this is going to be an excellent program and I think it will not only help to cut down the mortality and is going to save cost and we will support such a program to the greatest extent. Maybe we should expand it at a further stage to save money as well as to provide service to all Manitobans.

My next question is, one new staff was approved for a fitness consultant, can the Minister tell us, is it going to be a specific function of this consultant and what areas of—will this person be just in charge of a particular section or will he be also serving the other needs, such as the other Health Promotion Program other than fitness?

**Mr. Orchard:** This gets into that area of certain positions within the department being funded from Lotteries funds. This is an example of that where the incumbent was on staff but paid for out of trust fund revenues, or Lotteries Fund Trust accounts. Did I say trust fund lotteries revenues? I meant Lotteries Trust Fund accounts. What we have decided to do is to put those positions in the Estimates funded by the taxpayers because they are delivering service on behalf of the taxpayers. We found that less than a full explanation to have those staff essentially hidden in Lotteries Trust Fund accounts, salary allocations and yet working to provide Health Promotion activities. So we have simply brought this inward, should have been all along—in other words, paid for by the taxpayer.

**Mr. Cheema:** Under Other Expenditures, there is a significant increase, by about \$145,000.00. Can the Minister tell us in brief what is included under Other Expenditures and why is there such a significant increase?

**Mr. Orchard:** I think that the entire increase in the Other Expenditures stems from the inclusion of the industrial health promotion.

**Mr. Cheema:** Can the Minister tell us what are the major external agencies been from that end? What is the rate of their increment this year?

**Mr. Orchard:** There are about 10 or so external agencies that are funded here: Age and Opportunity

Centre, the Brandon Civic Seniors Citizens, the Gordon Howard Seniors Centre, the Manitoba Society of Seniors, the Herman Prior Senior Services Centre, Winkler and District Multipurpose Senior Centre, Hebrew Golden Age Club, the YMHA Jewish Community Centre, the Canadian Diabetic Association, the Manitoba Public Health Association, St. Johns Ambulance Council—it is St. John, is it not, not St. Johns? St. John Ambulance Council. I received a lecture for calling it St. Johns after I was down there with my honourable friend from Churchill (Mr. Cowan) at their annual meeting. I referred to it as St. Johns and it is St. John. Am I not correct in that? It is wrong in here.

The Seniors Centres for Rural Development, we were targeting \$24,000 for Seniors Centres Rural Development Program.

\* (1620)

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairperson, I have a number of specific questions, but just before pursuing them maybe to make some general comments with respect to this particular area. We are all aware that the focus for health care providers and for Governments which are concerned with the provision of health care over the next little while has to be one of prevention rather than one that is entirely focused on rehabilitation and curing problems once they exist. For that reason, this whole area of health promotion becomes an increasingly important area of the Government's work with respect to trying to deal with health problems and trying to prevent health problems throughout society by using their resources wisely.

For that reason, we encourage the Minister to pay special attention to this particular area, to make certain that when one talks about the work and the activity of the department one not only talks about what it does with respect to curing ailments once they exist and rehabilitating once the damage has been done but, more importantly, one talks also about preventing them in the first instance. I have to admit I have a vested interest in some of these areas in different ways.

Being a non-smoker and having at one time been a smoker and fortunately having quit, I encourage the Minister to do whatever he can to ensure that good adequate information with respect to the hazards of smoking, with respect to the extreme health problems that are created by smoking is available to all Manitobans. I note earlier that he said from personal observation it was his opinion that young adolescent women are the ones who are taking up smoking more and more. I can tell him that the polls and that the surveys that are done verify that conclusion. That is the group which is very rapidly, more so than the rest of the population, taking up the smoking habit.

As a matter of fact, it is my understanding that the tobacco industry itself is in a lot of ways targeting young adolescents as the group which they have to reach in order to maintain their presence in the market place. If someone is 18 and they have not yet taken up smoking, there is a likelihood, and I am just going on the basis of statistics which have been provided to me, that they will not take up smoking. If someone is 13,

14, 15, 16 and they start smoking, the likelihood is they are going to continue smoking for a number of years. So in order to maintain a market presence and because more and more adults are giving up smoking, like myself and many others in this Chamber have stopped smoking, the industry is looking towards those who are most vulnerable.

I think that we have to deal very strongly with that trend and we have to in a preventative way—and this deals with the promotion of healthy circumstances—we have to make certain that we do everything that is within our power as legislators to ensure that those young adolescents know full well the problems that are associated with smoking. So I encourage him to do whatever he can in that particular area.

As you know, Mr. Chairperson, we have a Bill that is going to be brought into the House by my Leader, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), which is going to deal with part of that problem. It is really because it is legislation dealing more with the punitive aspects of it rather than the promotion aspects of it, and this is the area where we would encourage the Minister to supplement that activity with a very strong focus within his department.

With respect to diabetes, Mr. Chairperson, there have been remarkable gains made in this particular area over the past number of years. I am not certain, however, that as a province we have been able to capitalize on all of those gains to the extent possible. I am going to use a personal example to show you why it is I believe that to be the case. It is a conversation that I held with the previous Minister of Health as well and the Minister previous to that. It is not just related to diabetes per se. It is related to those areas where there is new technology available that can be used by the person who has a particular ailment to help them deal with that ailment and help them try to prevent complications.

In diabetes, it happens to be testers, blood sugar level testers. In another area of which I am familiar, I was approached by a gentleman who had a serious accident and had recurring pain because of that particular accident and spent—I believe it was at the Misericordia but I might be wrong, it might have been the Victoria, it was a couple of years ago—a lot of time there at a pain clinic where they used a machine that would help alleviate some of the pain which he was suffering. He told me that he could purchase that same machine for use at home, or a similar type of machine that would accomplish the same purpose for use at home, but it was fairly expensive and he would not be reimbursed by Pharmacare or the Government for the purchase of that machine even although, in his opinion, it would save the Government money because he would not have to be going to the hospital where the therapy is more expensive.

I am not that familiar with the process, I can only go on what he told me, but he made, I think, a very good case that we should, as a Government—and this was several years ago and we did not do this and I am hoping that the Minister can accomplish some things that we were not able to accomplish—but he was hoping that the Government would take a look at financing

those sorts of machines and that type of equipment for individuals in similar circumstances.

For myself, I know the Government does not pay through Pharmacare for sugar blood-level testing machines, glucose testing machines. They are not that expensive. They are probably running now anywhere from—I see the sales on some of them—\$100 probably up to \$300 or \$400 if you get the fancy models. What they do, however, is allow the person with diabetes a greater opportunity to maintain stricter control over their blood sugar levels. We all know that one of the problems of diabetes is not the disease itself, although it can be frustrating and it can have serious short-term effects if it is not well-controlled. The real impact is over the longer term and it is a very significant health cost to the province over the longer term with respect to those sorts of complications which may result in blindness or amputations or strokes or heart disease which probably would not need be the case if individuals had been able to keep better control over their blood sugar levels over the longer period of time.

So I would like to encourage the Minister to take a look at providing that sort of equipment to those who are newly diagnosed with diabetes particularly, but others as well, so that they have a better chance of keeping greater control over their blood sugar levels. Not only will it result in a better quality of life for themselves but also will result, I believe, in reduced costs for the province over the longer term.

With respect to that question, when he was mentioning the diabetic education centres, I did not hear him mention the Health Sciences Centre Diabetes Education Centre.

**Mr. Orchard:** Those are the outreach programs.

\* (1630)

**Mr. Cowan:** Okay. He is indicating that those are the outreach programs. I would not want the discussion of the issue to go by without mentioning the very good work they are doing at the Diabetes Education Centre at the Health Sciences Centre as well, and it may be a somewhat different program, but I know from personal experience that it is a very comprehensive program, that it is a program which not only provides information to people but motivates people. I have seen a lot of people go through that program over a period of time. I know that it does motivate them to take better care of themselves with this serious disease. I think they are playing a very valuable role. I think that they are doing so under some adverse circumstances and conditions from time to time. I am not pointing fingers at anyone; I am just saying I believe that is the case. Anything that the Minister can do to help them, along with the other diabetes outreach programs, in this very important task will result in savings over the longer period for the province, but more importantly, from a personal perspective, will result in a better quality of life for victims of diabetes.

I would ask him if the Government is doing any evaluation on their diabetes education centres and their outreach programs because they look to be performing



a very useful task and they hopefully will have results, but one would want to check to determine if, in fact, individuals who are participating in the educational programs, in the outreach programs, are maintaining better control over their diabetes as a result of that activity. Secondly, that evaluation should also check to see if the people who need to be reached by that program are being reached. A lot of people with diabetes are self-motivated and would find a program and seek it out even if they were not readily available, but there are a lot more who are not as motivated because perhaps they do not have the same awareness of the long-term complications of the disease or perhaps they just do not have the time to undertake that sort of work. The program has to be reaching out to them and pulling them in as well as reaching out to those who are already standing and waiting to be taken into those programs.

I want to talk briefly about the Manitoba Seniors' Games which was addressed by my colleague, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), and the Minister, and lend my support to the suggestions by others that these games be given more support by the Government. They indeed, as the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has indicated, are a very important part in the activities of the Manitoba Society of Seniors, and according to what I have been told, they provide some activity to thousands of seniors across the province.

A lot of work goes into the development of the games and the running of the games by the Manitoba Society of Seniors. I understand that they are doing so without what they believe to be adequate funding, and I would probably agree with them that the funding could be made better, and I would ask the Minister to very seriously consider that, because the activity which is taking place under those games, I think is helping those seniors play a more productive role in their communities and is also helping them maintain their own health.

I know he has been approached by the Manitoba Society of Seniors. I can indicate to him that he would have our support if he were able to find more money. I take full responsibility for the fact, as a member of the previous administration, that there was not more money previously, but we did make some improvements in this particular area and more improvements are required.

On the issue of industrial health, the Minister had a bit of a dialogue which I heard with the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) and I would have a few follow-up questions following upon what they had to say to each other just a moment ago.

Firstly, is the industrial health, the occupational health promotion activity being coordinated with the Workplace Safety and Health Division? If so, how is that coordination taking place?

In my mind, the place where this activity should be taking place is in the Workplace Safety and Health Division in the Department of Workplace Safety and Health and the Environment. That is not to say the Department of Health should not be coordinating and helping to the extent possible, but I believe the locus of responsibility in Government now is in the Workplace

Safety and Health Division. We worked as a previous administration very hard to try to turn the focus away from just entirely being one of safety and more to one of safety and health, and I would hate to see any movement backwards whereas we deal with safety as one issue and health as another issue in the workplace. The two are too integrated to separate. So I have some concerns, not with the fact that they are spending money in this area, but concerns with respect to the involvement of the Workplace Safety and Health Division with this program.

Secondly, the Minister indicated that they had not developed the full terms of reference for the committee as of yet and that he could not give any indication as to who would be on the committee. However, I heard him talk about employers and I may have missed it but I did not hear him talk about employees. I am not certain I heard the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) talk about the involvement of employees in this area as well. He indicates that he did. I think that is extremely important that the employees be involved fully right from the start, as well as the employers and as well as health professionals in the Government in any activity in this area.

The reason I believe that it should be located in the Workplace Safety and Health Division is that there is already a mechanism at each workplace, at least at each workplace of certain sizes in the province, and that is the Workplace Safety and Health Committee which is comprised of both employers and employees and also the worker representative where there is not a large enough employee body to have a Workplace Safety and Health Committee under the legislation.

So we have a body of individuals out there who have already undertaken a lot of training in the area of workplace safety and health. We have a mechanism which is already a collaborative, consultative, cooperative mechanism, which is the Workplace Safety and Health Committee, and health—occupational health, industrial health—is very much a part of their mandate. They are not there to go around and make certain that all the guards on the saws are in place only or only to make certain that all the bolts, or that the floors are not slippery, or everyone wears their hard hats or their safety-toed shoes. They are there to make the workplace a safer and a healthier place.

Any activity, in my mind, that goes on in this area has to involve them intimately and from the very beginning. I think the Minister may be going down the wrong direction if he has not already made provisions for that involvement. So I would ask him the question specifically with regard to the coordination with the division and more specifically with respect to the involvement of Workplace Safety and Health Committees in this particular area.

**Mr. Orchard:** I would only take exception with one thing my honourable friend said and that is almost a record for a 15-minute dissertation.

My honourable friend said over the next little while we are going to have to focus in on prevention as a major thrust of the Department of Health. I do not think

it stops there. I think that will be probably the major area of new thrust in expenditure of this Government and of any Government that occupies the Treasury Benches. We have a system which is very sophisticated in its curative abilities, but we have one, I think, that is quite fledgling in terms of its role of education and promotion of maintenance of health.

Let me be self-critical as a Member of the postwar baby boom society. We have grown up in a very, very fortunate set of circumstances. In terms of health services, we have had want for very little. It has been "free" because it is part of Government-funded Medicare. It is a system which has provided almost all of our individual and collective needs over the last number of years. It is also a system that because it was always there to fall back on, it became the system of curative medicine because that was the main focus and thrust. It was only, I guess, as little as a decade ago that the majority of the federal funding was targeted toward the construction of hospital beds. We were on the drive of building capacity and not necessarily attempting to provide programming and initiative and incentive to stem the use of those facilities.

As a result, today, in the late 1980s, we are faced with enormous cost pressures in the system, cost pressures that are going to result, and again I say regardless of which political Party occupying Government, enormous demand and cost pressures that are simply not going to be met. The only way that we are going to effectively come to grips with this phenomenon in health care is to emphasize wellness, to give back to the people some stake or some responsibility for personal well-being and personal health. It is through the Health Promotion Directorate directly, and industrial Health Promotion Programs specifically, that we hope to make some small contribution to that.

\* (1640)

We have a significant amount of ground to retake in terms of getting individuals out of the mentality that the health care system will help us if we need it to the mentality that let us not use the health care system, let us avoid it by undertaking initiatives personally in terms of diet, lifestyle, fitness programs, a general approach to a healthier lifestyle itself, so that as individuals and collectively as a society, we see less cause to access the curative aspect of the system which has gained inconsiderable sophistication and technical ability.

My honourable friend mentioned earlier on that he was impressed by the potential saving that blood sugar testers might provide to the system. I have to tell him that in 1985, as we were preparing for the election campaign of '86, as it turned out, I was impressed equally in terms of the diabetic program, the equipment called an insulin pump wherein apparently, and I do not understand the technical capabilities, but it is a machine that is beyond probably the financial capability of individuals, but should it be available to them, and this is only to a certain number of diabetic sufferers that the insulin pump can very closely monitor one's intake of insulin and very much avoid hospitalization.

(Interjection)- Yes, monitor and thereby regulate. Yes, you test your monitors; the insulin pump provides the regulation after monitoring.

At any rate, I was at the stage of the convinced argument that we ought to make an election campaign promise and we have put in the insulin pumps as part of the Pharmacare Program. I have to tell you that I did not do that. I did not recommend that to our election policy people because I simply was not able to adequately justify whether that was the best expenditure of new dollars. I am still not convinced. As valuable as that machine is, I am still not convinced that it would be the next best place to place scarce resources. So I appreciate my honourable friend's advice on the blood sugar testers because again there is no question they probably have a place of value within the health care system. Unfortunately, they are one of many that all Governments are asked to consider in terms of funding.

The one area that I appreciate my honourable friend's advice on is the funding to the Seniors' Games and the Manitoba Society of Seniors. If I could offer a caution in accepting that advice, I wish he had taken his own advice a year and a half ago and provided the additional funding because the Manitoba Society of Seniors, because of their move to new locations, are finding themselves facing a deficit. Their funding for the staging of the Manitoba Games, the Seniors' Games, has been relatively flat over the last couple or three years. In staging the games, they have found themselves incurring a deficit as a result of the staging of the games. This year, we have increased the amount of funding to the Manitoba Society of Seniors by 3 percent as we have done with other organizations, other external agencies.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helmut Pankratz, in the Chair.)

We are aware, after the meeting that we had with them, that the increase will not be sufficient to cover their increased operating costs with a move to new premises. I do not know whether we are going to be able to resolve that but certainly it is under consideration and I appreciate my honourable friend's support of any additional funding that we might see fit to apply.

Mr. Acting Chairman, in terms of the workplace health promotion, I take my honourable friend's caution seriously, and this is not designed to supplant and usurp the Workplace Safety and Health and the committees that are established in the workplace. This is designed to bring forth, if you will, some of the better ideas that are out there not only among management but amongst workers, employees, in the workplace, so that we can attempt to focus Health Promotion Programs maybe specifically targeted in some industries, for instance, to back injury and the overriding role of fitness in prevention of back injury and the method of lifting, etc. Back injuries in some industries are probably the largest single source of injury. We do not intend to reinvent the wheel but we do intend to provide a specific focus on a number of program suggestions that hopefully will come from the committee.

Workplace Safety and Health will be involved in that committee in an advisory capacity at minimum, as will

management and employees. There was no deliberate exclusion in my earlier explanations. I guess I took it for granted that those who we hope will benefit the most from the program would be part of it and I took that as being a given of understanding and it will be a natural evolution of the development of this program.

**Mr. Cowan:** Just a couple of points, I know that all Members could spend a lot of time on this particular area because it probably is one of the major challenges that confronts us, but given that time is limited I want to focus in very clearly on a couple of things that the Minister has said. As I indicated earlier there will be other opportunities to discuss other issues.

Working backward from his comments, there is already a committee in place which I believe could undertake the work which the Minister would like to see happen with respect to industrial health, and that is the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee, which reports directly to the Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery).

On that committee you have medical personnel; on that committee you have representatives of managers; on that committee you have representatives of employees; on that committee you have other interested individuals, and they have developed a great level of expertise with respect to occupational health related issues and putting the issues which the Minister suggested are foremost in his planning process.

They are already in place. They would not be an extra charge to the province. They do from time to time strike subcommittees which deal with particular issues such as this and may well have in the past struck a subcommittee in occupational health, I do not know, but that may be the case. I think they are a ready-made vehicle for the work which the Minister wants to undertake, and it would not take that much more time and it would not take that much more money to do it in that fashion.

I know that he did not purposely mean to exclude employees with respect to the work that the department is going to undertake with industrial health. The fact is that I do not believe it was mentioned and I think that should be troublesome in itself.

I really would highly recommend to the Minister that he sit down immediately with the Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health. They sit down and ask the Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health if he, as Minister of Health and the Minister responsible for Workplace Safety and Health, could not meet with the advisory committee or the Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health, which reports directly to the other Minister, and review this suggested activity with them and see what role they can play.

\* (1650)

I really do not believe that there needs to be another system put in place to accomplish what is being talked about here. The Workplace Safety and Health Committees are very conversant with back injuries, which is one of the priority areas which the Minister indicated. They deal with that all the time, and the

expertise is there ready to answer the questions and offer suggestions and, as the Minister said, bring forward some of the better ideas that are out there. So I think he is going about this in the wrong way, if he does not move this over into that specific area, but that is a decision I will have to take.

There is another area of Health Promotion which I think the occupational health program, or this particular initiative, should review and that is smoking in the workplace and I will tell you why. You will find that while back injuries are a problem, they cost a lot of money to the Workers Compensation system. You will find that there is a much greater problem and that is with respect to workplace-related cancers.

I just received today, and I think that other Members of the Legislature received as well, a letter from the Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, with respect to some of the comments that were made about their facility over the past little while. Included in that letter from Mr. McMullin, who is Chairperson of the Board, was a chart that shows cancer incidents by year—and I am flashing it here so that the Minister could perhaps take a quick look at it—and he can see at one point in time it was a fairly level progression and then about 1976-77 we see this remarkably upward trend with respect to the incidence of cancer in the province.

In a press release that accompanied the letter, it is indicated that in 1973 Manitoba recorded 3,700 new cases of cancer; in 1987 that number increased to 6,250, an increase of 70 percent in 15 years; and it is one of the diseases which is becoming much more prevalent over time, and it is a very serious disease. It is a very frightening disease. It is one which is largely preventable, and it is preventable by lifestyle changes on the parts of individuals who stop smoking; and it is also preventable by workplace-related activities, because I do not remember the exact figure, but I think the literature will show very clearly that the vast majority of cancers are related to the environmental and workplace agents.

We know, for example, if someone works around asbestos—and let us hope there is no one in the province now working around asbestos in conditions that are not extremely controlled and regulated—and they smoke, their chances of suffering from asbestosis are increased tenfold several times over. We know that there are other agents, carcinogenic agents, which are used in the workplace which are aggravated by smoking as well.

So I think while one wants to deal with back injuries and the proper lifting and how fitness deals with the overall picture of back injuries, I think one also wants to put a strong focus on smoking and cancer in the workplace.

While on the subject, one should also go beyond the workplace in this particular area of Health Promotion and start to undertake some very strong programs with respect to trying to get out information to individuals on how to prevent cancer generally. We know most cancer is preventable; we know skin cancer is preventable in a lot of instances if you take some simple

precautionary steps. This last summer is probably a summer where a lot of those steps should have been undertaken because of the extremely hot weather we had and people were outside without heavy clothing on and they were exposing themselves to the sun much more, and they should know that there is a risk of skin cancer and that risk increases with your exposure to sun without protective blocking agents being used.

Also, we are beginning to understand more and more what role nutrition plays in the prevention of cancer. There is a lot of information now out with respect to different types of diets and their impact on cancer.

So I think that is an area where a lot of work needs to be done. I believe it is an area where there is a lot of advancement that has been made over the past little while with the amount of information which is available to us and the type of information, and it is an area where there is a great challenge, but also a great potential for health promotion activities. So I think that is another area that should be dealt with.

In respect to pumps, I do not know if the jury is in yet on pumps. I read the most recent literature on insulin pumps and what I saw from it is that we have supplied a number of pumps, through the Diabetes Education Program in the province, to certain doctors that they have been having patients use those pumps and there are probably more pumps that could be utilized. There is still some question as to the end result on the use of insulin pumps and it has even been suggested that some of the eye problems may, in fact, be aggravated, some of the eye problem complications may come about sooner as a result of the pumps—and that is something that I have read and I cannot confirm, nor document, but just read recently—than would under other forms of insulin therapy outside of the intensive forms of insulin therapy which is several shots a day.

For someone like myself, it does not make a major difference. If I want a pump, I can go out and buy a pump—they are expensive but I can do that and put that money aside. If I want a tester, I can go out and buy a tester, they are expensive, and as a matter of fact may well go out and buy a new tester because it is a better tester than the one which I currently have. I can afford to do that.

By the way, once I buy that tester, Mr. Minister, all my supplies come under Pharmacare and those supplies are expensive. For a package of 100 test strips, it is \$50-\$60, and you take three to four tests a day; so figure out how rapidly you go through that \$50 or \$60.00. That is all covered by Pharmacare, but the pump itself, which is a capital outlay, which is probably less than the amount one spends in the equipment during the year, is not under Pharmacare. I think there may be a false economy there and I just want to point that out to the Minister. I pointed it out to the previous Minister. I was unsuccessful in my efforts there. I hope I am more successful with this Minister and I hope he will take a very serious look at that because it is the glucose monitor which allows people to judge their sugar levels and keep them within a certain level on the basis of that monitor. Of course, if they want to use a pump, it is the pump that regulates the amount of insulin, but they can do many similar things with regular injection therapy.

The Minister has indicated that this is an area that is going to take up more and more time and energy and finances of the Government and I want to offer him a bit of advice. In doing so, there is going to have to be extra money put into the system because we were always confronted with the problem of what is called "hump" financing, and that is you have to finance a new program over the hump so that while it is being implemented and having its impact, the old programs can still be in place to deal with the problems that are existing but can be drawn away over a period of time.

It really does require new money for a period of time and I am not so certain that new money does not stay within the system and you really do not save anything with respect to the absolute dollars which you put out. However, I do believe that you save tremendous amounts with respect to the future problems which you prevent and which you would have to put out even more money to deal with if you did not have that sort of financing in place and preventive programs in place.

So this is a major area of challenge. I hope the Minister will continue to give it the priority which he has said he is giving it. Time will tell on that. We will encourage him to do so. We will support him in those efforts and we will also provide constructive suggestions and criticism where we think that he might be able to accomplish things differently, as is the case with the occupational health activity and promotional programs which he is putting forward, and we will also be critical where we think that he has made mistakes. At the same time, we hope by this sort of debate and dialogue we can encourage him to continue in this very important area.

\* (1700)

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Pankratz):** Is it the will of the committee to pass 2.(d)(2) and 2.(d)(3)?

**Ms. Gray:** I must say that the comments by the previous speaker, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), I certainly echo some of his comments in regard to Health Promotion. He has indicated and the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) has indicated that in fact there is an agreement that industrial health promotion is important, and I too had the same query that the Member for Churchill had, and certainly he has provided more information for us in regard to the responsibilities of Workplace Safety and Health and the question as to whether in fact the Department of Health is possibly duplicating a program that should have its major responsibility tied in with Workplace Safety and Health. So I do echo those concerns of the Member for Churchill.

I will ask for some clarification from the Minister, and it is in relation to the Health Promotion and the whole area of preventative care. The Minister has mentioned that he feels that prevention certainly is a major area of thrust of any ongoing Government, as he has indicated, in the future years. I am wondering if that is the way he phrases his responses or his choice of words, but I am having a little bit of difficulty understanding his commitment. Now, he has indicated

that it is very difficult to evaluate a number of these programs in terms of the effectiveness of programs or cost-benefits of these programs.

Could the Minister indicate, in the Health Promotion area, do these programs which are the responsibility of Health Promotion, do they have evaluations attached to them or as part of the mandate where some sort of evaluation is conducted as to cost effectiveness or if there is behavioural change in the client group?

**Mr. Orchard:** Let me set my honourable friend's mind at ease. There is a commitment for promotion of wellness in this Government. That commitment did not occur since I was appointed as Minister of Health. That commitment has been there some time. I think my honourable friend need only to read some of the old Hansard discussions when I was Opposition critic, because my commitment was there as it is now.

What I tried to point out to my honourable friend was in response to her colleague, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), who was asking all of the right questions. What is your outcome evaluation, what is your—in other words, you are spending \$100,000, what are you getting back? Heck of a good question, excellent question but one that I cannot definitively answer, one that is difficult to definitely answer in any Health Promotion Program. That is a not a failure of the previous administration under whom these programs developed and were funded, in many cases, or a criticism of the previous Government to that or the previous Government to that. It is one of the more difficult areas to definitively assess your cost effectiveness.

You can do your evaluation in terms of whether the statistics are pointing to a decrease of a given activity that you wish to curtail, for instance, smoking. I think clearly that initiative, the anti-smoking campaign, has been successful because more and more adults are breaking the habit. There is no question about it.

We have got another area, however, as I mentioned earlier on, where we have got another target population that appears to be not in tune with the health warnings. How do we address that? How do we address that peer group pressure, the presumed lifestyle that one obtains in terms of the habit of smoking? Maybe we have to refocus our Health Promotion initiative to obtain a more effective message delivery to that age group of adolescent women.

Let me give my honourable friend some examples of how we attempt to measure and evaluate various programs. For instance, under the Nutrition section, our measure and evaluation of that program involves three points. First of all, service counts are regularly reported by regional staff. Records reflect both the type of service provided, whether it be group education, one-to-one counselling, consultation or a media presentation, as well as the target group, whether it be pregnant women, seniors, disadvantaged, teachers, etc., etc. Secondly, the level of service as reported above is regularly monitored and evaluated by regional supervisors. Thirdly, the effectiveness of programs is measured against a number of criteria, depending on

the developmental stage of the program and the issues relevant to the community or region.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Now I will give you some examples of specific evaluations. Winnipeg Region's prenatal nutrition classes were evaluated to determine whether they improved dietary behaviour. This occurred in 1984. Volunteer home economists were engaged to conduct telephone interviews before and after classes. The results proved that the home economists were able to bring about a statistically significant improvement in the diets of participants. That was the method of evaluation undertaken to determine efficacy of the prenatal nutritional class. There are other methods of evaluation. Presumably, we could spend some more time this afternoon discussing those if my honourable friend wishes.

Another specific example of an evaluation was the effectiveness of infant feeding educational services in Flon Flon and The Pas, evaluated recently utilizing mailed survey techniques, and that was done in 1987. A third example is at CN. A healthy lifestyle needs assessment was conducted to serve as a program planning tool. The healthy eating and healthy weights presentation to CN workers were then evaluated. The workers responded that the information was needed, relevant and useful. CN itself was pleased with the outcome of the programs offered. In other words, they must have had some impact on the type of dietary intake and also, presumably because healthy weights were a part of the nutritional promotion with CN, there must have been presumably—and I am speculating here—some reduction in weight, because very few people today suffer from too little weight unless you have specific difficulties.

In terms of the fitness program, the number of activities are measured and evaluated. The Rural Fitness Leadership Development Program is provided through the University of Manitoba. The measurement evaluation is provided through several areas. First of all, a central registry of fitness leaders is maintained. There is a quarterly financial report from the University of Manitoba who carries the program. Secondly, there is a biweekly meeting of University of Manitoba officials and Manitoba Government officials from the Health Promotion department.

Another area under the fitness program is the Fitness for Seniors Leadership Development Program. There is an evaluation by course participants and fitness trainers. Secondly, there is a follow-up workshop to assess how effectively this program is impacting on the senior citizens.

There is a third area of Regional Fitness Conference, and the evaluation here is an evaluation survey of participants and community groups who participate in those Regional Fitness Conferences.

The fourth program under fitness is Provincial Wellness Conference. Again, there is an evaluation survey of the participants, coupled with many conferences to identify needs that have arisen from these Provincial Wellness Conferences.

There is a fifth program under the fitness program, the Employee Fitness Seminar. Again, the effectiveness of that program is determined through a survey of participants who have participated in the Employee Fitness Seminar.

Another program, Canada's Fit Week, in terms of participation in Canada's Fit Week Program, various communities who participate submit reports after their activities have been completed as to level of participation etc., etc.

There is another area in terms of the Fitness Manual Production. This is under review and evaluation by an ad hoc curriculum review committee. This committee meets and undertakes its review as required. Usually, this occurs once per year.

Poster production, the Health Information Resource Centre maintains records as to how effective our poster production program is. There is a Fit for Fun motivational brochure. Again, the Health Information Resource Centre maintains records there.

Another program, Manitoba on the Move, is a quarterly newsletter for fitness leaders. To evaluate the effectiveness of that program, feedback from the readers is invited and graciously received, as well as regular submissions to the Editor in an attempt to evaluate that program.

**Ms. Gray:** I thank the Minister for some clarification that there is some evaluation that is conducted with some of these programs and in fact, as I am sure the Minister may know, behavioral change can be evaluated.

I am wondering, since the Minister has indicated that it is sometimes difficult to really evaluate cost effectiveness of these programs, and the Minister had alluded to the fact that he receives innumerable requests from other agencies and outside groups who would like funding for similar prevention programs, could the Minister tell us, how does his department choose that these programs that he has chosen to provide funding for, although it is his staff that do the work, these are the programs that should receive emphasis and other groups who ask for funding may or may not receive emphasis because of course he said to these groups, it is also very difficult to determine cost effectiveness? How does he then decide that these should be the priorities and perhaps other topics or areas that are brought to the Minister's attention from outside groups do not receive priority?

\* (1710)

**Mr. Orchard:** I think my honourable friend has probably identified one of the more difficult decision-making processes of Government. There are no easy answers to which program gets chosen over the other. I want to tell you that where there is an opportunity to combine resources with the federal Government and to build upon any initiative or program that they are undertaking so that a modest expenditure of resources provincially will enhance and add to a federal program, then certainly that assists greatly in making the decision to,

for instance, participate in the Break Free Program or campaign against smoking because it ties in very nicely with the federal program. But that is not the only reason there, because clearly it is no secret that smoking has been identified as a significant contributor to costs in our health care system, physical—well, health deterioration results from smoking. We have lung cancer, we have cardiovascular implications of smoking and those cause-effect relationships have been well-established and are well-known. When you combine definitely an advantage of reducing the number of active smokers with a federal program targeted the same, that decision becomes relatively easy.

Cardiovascular health is an area of health promotion that we follow in on quite naturally. Again, heart ailments or heart cardiovascular health problems are a major cost to the health care system, so any effort we can focus in on to encourage a healthier lifestyle in terms of cardiovascular health ought to have and does have some significant future payoff in terms of reduced cost in the active treatment aspect of our health care system, particularly pertaining to cardiovascular health.

General fitness programs, there is no question that as we maintain a higher level of general fitness we not only are more productive individuals but we are less subject to minor injury; in the workplace, back injuries; in sports, various levels of injury are lessened with an increase in general level of fitness.

In terms of the nutritional program which is another area targeted by the department, I have to tell you, my honourable friend, that again I am sharing post-election commitments. I have believed so strongly in that old adage that you are what you eat, that I have wanted for some time to give serious consideration to inclusion of nutritional counselling as a partially-funded Government service. It is available in some areas but quite limited. I think we would end up with a good long-term benefit from such a program, but I have to admit, in the six months and five days that I have been here I have not been able to focus enough of my time to see whether that is a direction that we ought to dedicate scarce resources and program initiative in a major way.

However, in terms of the rudimentary program that is in place, there is no question that the nutritional program, particularly the one that was available through the Health Promotion Directorate, is provided by the Home Ec Secretariat which provided nutritional counselling a lot of the time to very high-risk target groups in the core area of Winnipeg. I was very supportive of that program, as were my colleagues.

We attended a rally about a year and a half ago or two years ago, because the previous administration was going to cut that program and drop it. We thought they were wrong in dropping that program and in some modest way I have to say that my colleagues, I believe the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond), the Member for River East (Mrs. Mitchelson) were involved in actively supporting and questioning the Government on the wisdom of cutting that program, and I have to say that they relented in their drive to cut it and the program remained, at least in part, part of the offering of service from the Department of Health.

Now that keyed in, in many areas, but one of the areas was nutrition, and I am absolutely a firm and

solid believer in nutrition and its ability to contribute to healthy lifestyle, not only from the standpoint of weight control, because if you are overweight you are generally in poor physical condition and you are generally more lethargic than you ought to be. That is not an across-the-board rule but I know that I feel that way when I tuck a few extra pounds on. I have been getting closer to fighting trim lately, but—(Interjection)

**An Honourable Member:** You are lying through your teeth.

**Mr. Orchard:** One of my colleagues who is not, is saying I am lying through my teeth and I just simply want you to take my word and not his.

\* (1720)

Mr. Chairman, the whole area of nutrition appears to have significant impact on cardiovascular health. It appears to have, no doubt, some impact on cancer, the incidence of cancer, and here we get directly into two debates: first of all, additives in the food system, and secondly and maybe more importantly, the advent of environmental contaminants in our food chain, and that becomes a very, very serious problem that we are all going to have to contemplate; the most recent example, of course, being—just what, about 10 days ago—there was some evidence of dioxins being present in milk, not sourced from the cow but sourced from the cardboard carton in which the milk was packaged and retailed. I think that we are all concerned about the presence of environmental pollutants in our food chain and that gets us, of course, into the broader issue in terms of health promotion of the overall desire, and I think it is a growing desire of maintaining a clean environment. Whether it be on a provincial role, a federal role, a national role or an international role, it is becoming a more and more discussed topic as more and more awareness of the difficulties, not only in the food chain, but through workplace, through recreational areas of pollution in the environment, depriving us of opportunities. There is more and more concern and there will be more and more focus on preventative programs there. But when we come to the difficult choices of which programs we wish to provide funding to, we hope that when we make those decisions that we make ones that are wise in the long run and hopefully will have some measurable outcome in terms of better health for Manitobans.

Indeed, we are not so proud as to not wish to follow successful models that have been developed in other provinces, and hopefully some of our initiatives here will provide, in some ways, maybe examples or models that will be followed elsewhere.

**Ms. Gray:** I am certainly pleased to hear from the Minister his commitment in the area of nutrition education. I see that it is one of the major activities identified in Health Promotion, and that does lead me into a few further questions that I had. In Expected Results, there is an indication that 42,000 Manitobans receive nutrition education or some information materials.

Does the Minister—in regard to the 42,000 Manitobans, as far as information materials, that could

be 40,000 and we are only providing service to 2,000. Does the Minister have the breakdown of how many of those are actually receiving nutrition education through other methods, other than information? Could he tell us, are these information or educational programs given to Manitobans, are they done exclusively by staff in the Health Promotion Directorate or are those statistics also including regional staff, home economists, etc., who would be providing some of that service?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I can give my honourable friend—she has made reference to some 42,000 people are accessing the program. I have to go to my little explanation book here and see where that is. Ah yes, estimated 42,000 received nutrition education information materials in '88-89. Let me tell my honourable friend that a part of that includes Manitobans who are reached through the Nutritional Outreach Program, if you will, that is sponsored by a home economics program in both Manitoba Health and Manitoba Agriculture. We estimate that we are going to reach almost 30,000 Manitobans with that. I will make an assumption that the other 12,000 are part of the statistical base that are reached through provision of pamphlets from our Information Resources Centre, rather than directly through some of the direct seminars, programs, etc., etc., or client referrals.

**Ms. Gray:** Again, given the commitment by this Minister but also a commitment as would be indicated by the written material in the Health Promotion under Activity Identification and Expected Results, I am wondering, would the Minister have information as to, since the Health Promotion Directorate was established, how many SYs have there been added in the system or how many have been increased specifically for nutritionists or home economists who would provide nutrition education or has there been a decrease.

**Mr. Orchard:** We are going to have to provide that information to my honourable friend afterwards, because she wants us to go back to the establishment of Health Promotion and give her the nutritional SYs, home economists specifically. We will attempt to provide that.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate, given his own personal commitment, and he has certainly indicated that there oftentimes are scarce resources, has there been any increase in SYs in this fiscal year for nutritionists or home economists who are providing this vital service?

**Mr. Orchard:** As I indicated earlier on in one of my answers, and I know that I had my honourable friend spellbound, so she missed the answer. But I said in the six months and five days that I have been here, I have not yet been able to provide that new initiative in terms of nutritional services that I believe is important.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate in any of the areas of Health Promotion, has there been any increases anywhere in SYs, in Regional Services or in the directorate?

**Mr. Orchard:** There is none in the regentship, one in the directorate.

**Ms. Gray:** So the Minister is indicating that there has been no increase in SYs other than one position in the directorate. It would be interesting to compare the various programs and the increases in SYs for various Maternal and Child Health Programs in Health Promotion to see where with this Government the priority of nutrition education really does lie in terms of the allocation of resources.

The Minister alluded to the fact, and I had a few questions on it, that the nutritionist or some staff in Health Promotion were also involved with the staff in the Department of Agriculture. I understand that the nutritionist provides services to agricultural home economists in the area of nutrition. Could the Minister indicate how is this arrangement worked out with the Department of Agriculture given that of course resources are limited, time is limited, so how is there—is there an allocation of time of this nutritionist in terms of she gives, let us say, 40 percent of her time to agriculture staff, and 60 percent to health, how is that arrangement worked out so that Agriculture is receiving an equitable portion of this consultant's time?

**Mr. Orchard:** Let me assure my honourable friend that my commitment and the commitment of my colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party is solid for the nutritional program, particularly as provided by the home economists. My honourable friend again might have missed my comments earlier on, but in 1986, in April 1986 to be exact, there was an effort to eliminate the home economists as staff members in the Health Promotion Directorate and that move was, as I indicated earlier on, fought quite significantly and strongly by myself, as Health critic, aided and abetted by two of my colleagues, the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) and the Member for River East (Mrs. Mitchelson) as Deputy Health critic. There was a partial if not completely reinstatement of the program, albeit in a slightly different delivery manner. My honourable friend is indicating from her seat that she is not convinced that there was a complete reinstatement and I will let her explain that. But basically there is a cooperative approach between home economists in the Department of Agriculture and the Health Promotion department.

I think to answer my honourable friend's question, probably there is not a sufficient resource dedication to provide adequate services or to meet the demands. It would not surprise me, although I have not discussed it with the directorate, as to whether that service is being adequately met. It is one of many challenges that we face, there is no question about it. But I think my honourable friend, since she was not here when that debate took place in April 1986, ought to give credit where credit is due.

\* (1730)

If there had have been an Opposition that did not care, that program would have been cut, but because there was an Opposition that took those concerns very, very seriously, we presented what I believe at the time was a reasoned case to the Government, and the Government acceded to that reasonable case. Although my honourable friend can fault me today for not coming

with additional SYs here and she may fault my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) for possibly not having enough resource in terms of ability to hire additional home economists or—that is not the word now, I am afraid. Oh, it is still "home economists"? What is the faculty called now?

**An Honourable Member:** Human ecology.

**Mr. Orchard:** Human ecology, the Faculty of Human Ecology. So, Mr. Chairman, criticize for lack of action over the last six months and five days but at least have the ability to recognize that this Party, when in Opposition, did put every effort in, and I think with some success, to maintain the program.

**Ms. Gray:** Mr. Chairperson, I have no difficulty at all giving credit where credit is due. Certainly, I have read the debates that occurred in regard to the Home Economic section and I have no difficulty in giving this Government, which was then the Opposition, credit for their lobbying in the Legislature.

I also must though give a lot of credit to women across the Province of Manitoba. I think what the previous administration very much underestimated and failed to recognize was the ability of women across the province, particularly home economists, women in the women's institutes and particularly rural women, to lobby very successfully to have the program reinstated, and that was one of the mistakes that the previous administration was that underestimation. So I have no difficulty at all in giving credit to the Opposition, but I certainly feel that credit should be given to that lobby group as well.

Just one further question or more of a comment to the Minister, I raise the concern about the nutritionists in the Health Promotion Directorate and the relationship to the Department of Agriculture, and I raised the same questions with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) and the answers there were that in fact things were working well. My indications from home economists who have contacts within the Department of Health is in fact that all is not well with the arrangement going on between Health Promotion and the Department of Agriculture.

I certainly would ask this Minister, and I also plan on following up with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) individually, to actually assess the situation because there certainly is an indication that because resources are limited oftentimes, Agriculture home economists get the short shrift because the majority of the nutritionists' time is spent with the Department of Health. That certainly can occur; there is no question about that. When you are employed with the department, it is very easy to spend most of your time with that department and that another department which you are not really accountable to would get less attention. So I would ask the Minister if he would be prepared to look into that and to work with his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, on that, which I am sure he would be prepared to do.

I had one further question in the area of diabetes education, and as the Minister has mentioned, there



are some outreach programs in rural Manitoba, and as I am sure the Minister is aware, that the incidence of diabetes, particularly—I never remember if it is Type 1 or 2—but what I call maturity onset, Type 2, is very high amongst the Native population. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate, although we have programs for individuals with diabetes, has there been any specific programs directed towards our Native population specifically in the area of prevention of Type 2 diabetes?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my honourable friend for her comments. I have to tell my honourable friend again that I am informed that the impression is that the relationship between home economists in the Directorate and the Department of Agriculture is reasonably good. If my honourable friend wishes to identify some problems, I would be more than pleased to pursue them with the director because that certainly ought not to exist and we would make efforts to rectify any problems she may wish to identify.

The interesting thing in terms of diabetes, first of all, there are no promotion programs specifically targeted to the Native community. They are indeed part of, for instance—now I have got to go back to my notes and find my program—the Norman regions, we have group classes. There may be a limited access by Native Manitobans in terms of diabetic education there but the opportunity is there. I am informed they are involved in the programs but clearly there is probably a greater effort that can be made.

I want to digress just slightly for my honourable friend now, because I had the opportunity not too long ago—you might recall some very positive reporting in terms of diabetic research where Dr. Zywima at the Health Sciences Centre teamed with Dr. Green operating out of Wisconsin, I believe. Do not hold me 100 percent to that, but I am positive it was Wisconsin, or was it Michigan? Just outside of Detroit, is it not? It does not matter, a U.S. researcher, Dr. Green. Now Dr. Zywima and Dr. Green have collaborated over a number of years in terms of research into the disease, diabetes. The one area they have moved into is in the area of nerve degeneration as part of the ongoing stages of diabetes as a disease.

Their discoveries point to two things: first of all, the ability to, through pharmaceutical intervention or drug therapy, curtail the nerve degeneration and there appears to be the opportunity that, with curtailment, there in fact can be reversal and regeneration of nerve damage.

Drs. Zywima and Green are two of the best researchers in North America in this regard. We are most anxious to attract Dr. Green to Winnipeg. As one might expect, we would be anxious. Now, there is some attempt to do that. I had a meeting recently with both Dr. Zywima and Dr. Green and several individuals involved with the efforts to bring those two together in Winnipeg to further their research.

\* (1740)

One of the things that was important to Dr. Green—and this is where I get back into my question about

preventative programming and what the clinical output is, what the end result is. In operating some of the trials, and I am positive it is in Michigan, he had the ability to very closely monitor the output of some of the clinical trial work that he was doing. But one of the impediments of the U.S. system of health care delivery is that you do not have everyone covered by the same program. Some Americans are not covered by any health group program. So that in establishing the control group test, etc., etc., it is more difficult in the U.S. environment to do the clinical research than it is in Canada. One of the advantages we have is that we have a good statistical information base because we have a publicly funded health system, an advantage I had never thought of in terms of the ability of the system.

But from that from time to time, as was discussed early in Research and Planning, we allow access non-identified for research purposes to our statistical base. That appears to be a significant advantage to the furthering of their diabetic research is to have that statistical base of one million people in Manitoba under the rather close umbrella of the statistical collection ability of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. One of the target groups that was mentioned in terms of programs for prevention, for control of the diabetic disease was our Native Indian population because, of all the indigenous populations in North America, the Native Indian population—and, in Canada, it appears to be as severe as any—they have a higher than normal incidence of diabetes.

It allows for some very good clinical work to take place in terms of promotion and development of further research into prevention and cure—not cure. That is the wrong terminology, but containment of diabetes as a disease. So it may turn out to be that Manitoba, because of its statistical base, one million population, in some specific target groups that are high risk. In terms of diabetes, we may well have that combination to bring those two researchers together in Manitoba. I am indeed hopeful that we are able to do that. In order to facilitate that, I offered it in whatever capacity we can internally with the Department of Health and with the Manitoba Health Services Commission, full cooperation with those two individuals, should they choose Manitoba as their location for the next stage of research they wish to undertake. I am hopeful of that offer of cooperation and sort of the uniqueness that we have in Manitoba and the established base of research under Dr. Zywima is sufficient to bring the two together in Winnipeg serving Manitobans in a very, very productive and long-term meaningful program of research.

**Ms. Gray:** Again, the question was for clarification. These groups which are conducted in Thompson or in the North, these outreach groups, are they for people who already have been identified as having a form of diabetes or are there other programs which specifically deal with the Native population which are in the area of prevention of a disease such as diabetes?

**Mr. Orchard:** I am informed that these groups are for individuals already diagnosed with diabetes. There is

no direct, under the diabetes education, education or wellness promotion program targeted at Natives.

**Mr. Cowan:** It is my understanding that under the previous administration there was a Native Educational Resource entitled, Learning about Diabetes, A Resource for Native People, which was developed and published. Can the Minister indicate if that material is available?

**Mr. Orchard:** Yes, I am told that is available.

**Mr. Cowan:** I am also told that there was an audio-visual tool to teach Native people about diabetes which had also been developed and that community health workers, Public Health nurses and diabetes educators in Manitoba are obtaining results in using this tool.

I think this addresses the question from the Member for Ellice directly in respect to what is available out there to help prevent diabetes among those high risk groups. I would ask the Minister if these materials are still available and being used? It was also the intention of the previous administration to develop additional resources over the course of the next three, four or five years. Is that work ongoing and, if so, can the Minister indicate what work specifically directed towards Native people is a part of that work which was left in place by the previous administration?

**Mr. Orchard:** The audio-visual presentation is also available and continues to be used. The others work is ongoing and a second audio-visual tape is being produced.

**Mr. Cowan:** I would add my encouragement to the encouragement provided by others with respect to this particular area. The Native population is a high risk group.

I have to correct the Minister on one point that he made. He said that he thought the Native population was at a higher risk than other groups in North America. I can tell him that there is a recent series of articles which came out of the diabetes journals which show that while Natives are a high risk group, also very high risk groups include Hispanics, Japanese Canadians and Japanese Americans, Black, Puerto Ricans and of course Natives. In one particular area, the Natives are the highest risk group of all of those. Those other groups are still very high risk groups, just so the Minister has the full information available to him with respect to that particular area.

I want to go back quickly to one item with respect to prevention. The Minister indicated in his earlier comments that he thought part of the solution to some of the health problems which are lifestyle related is to develop among individuals an awareness of how their own lifestyle can add to their quality of health or detract from their quality of health, depending on what they do under certain circumstances. That is indeed important. It is not the only issue with respect to health care. I still believe that environmental issues are extremely important. I believe that workplace issues are extremely important. I believe that the public health issues are extremely important but I think lifestyle issues

are part of that continuum of health care issues and have to be addressed. As I indicated earlier, I think it is an important part where promotion can provide many returns to the province over a period of time.

One of the ways to develop that awareness however is through education. I want to go back to a suggestion which I had mentioned earlier to the Minister with regard to health care facilities in the province. Earlier in the Estimates I had suggested to him that the previous administration had been looking at the option of health care co-ops as a way of structuring the provision of health care in certain areas in the province, including inner city areas, rural areas and northern areas. I said that the previous administration had done some work in that regard and I would hope that he would continue that work.

I believe in this particular area health care co-ops across the country and in other jurisdictions have shown that they are able to provide a very high education component as part of their work. That education component of course results in preventive action being taken by the individual, the individual understanding more about lifestyle problems, the individual being able to take more action on their own lifestyle with respect to health promotion activities.

At that time I believe the Minister indicated to me that—and I do not know if I am using his exact words—but that it was any work that had been done with respect to health care co-ops was a figment of my imagination, in that that is as far as it had gone because there was no work that had been undertaken by the department with respect to health care co-ops. I seek some response from his seat if I have misquoted him in that regard. Maybe I will ask him directly if I have misquoted him in that regard.

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Chairman, if I recall the debate in Research and Planning, my honourable friend indicated that it was one of his initiatives that there be health care co-ops and he had directed his Deputy Minister to pursue it with the Department of Health. That pursuance did not occur.

**Mr. Cowan:** I also told the Minister that there was in fact some documentation available which showed that he was incorrect. This is a Minister's briefing book for the 1987-88 fiscal year and I just want to read Appendix B or a portion of Appendix B:

Alternative Physical Payment Mechanisms  
Capitation/Co-ops.

I will read the whole portion with respect to co-ops into the record so that there be no doubt as to the accuracy of my comments earlier. It said:

Cabinet has provided approval to pursue alternative payment mechanisms with some of the large group practices as well as pursue the health co-op model. Two of the large group practices have been approached with this concept, with the response being negative for one and no response from the other. Discussions have been held with the Department of Co-ops and they are pursuing various facets of the health

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co-op model. Nothing definitive has been arrived at to date.

I indicated to the Minister at the time that there were those discussions. This briefing note by the way is done by his Research and Planning staff and it is in the area of 1987 or early 1988 that it was prepared. Discussions were ongoing at that time. Again, in all fairness, I had indicated that this did not go as far as I would have liked it to have gone. I do not believe it went as far as had been directed by Cabinet, but those are some of the issues with which you have deal when you are in Government.

\* (1750)

I also indicated, and I bring this point forward at this point in time, that I would like the Minister to continue the work because not enough had been accomplished in this area. He indicated nothing had been done. I want the record to be very clear that in fact Cabinet had approved the process. Secondly, discussions had been held between the Department of Co-ops and the Department of Health, and that is according to a briefing note that was provided by his own department. What I am asking him to do—and I do not put these matters on the record to embarrass him—I am asking him to continue those discussions because I believe health care co-ops do provide an alternative form, not only of payment for medical services, but an alternative form of delivering medical services.

I think there is an opportunity in Manitoba that we are missing if we do not pursue this option. It is an opportunity that has proven to be productive in other jurisdictions. One of the main roles of health care co-ops in other jurisdictions is prevention and health promotion. So given that there were those discussions, given that his own research department prepared a briefing note for the previous Minister that said there were those discussions, and given that this is an area where health promotion activities might be undertaken in a more aggressive fashion, I again encourage the Minister to carry on the work which had not resulted in the type of results I would have liked to have seen but where I believe there is still opportunity available to him, and I would hope he would be more successful than I was in that area.

**Mr. Orchard:** I appreciate my honourable friend's advice. My information that I imparted to him during Research and Planning came from the director of Research and Planning who had no knowledge of it.

**Mr. Cowan:** He is the contact person.

**Mr. Orchard:** My honourable friend indicates he is the contact person within that group. Certainly, I will pursue that with him.

Mr. Chairman, I just want my honourable friend, before he starts creating another one of his straw men that, of course, he will come back six months later or a year later and saying, well, you have not done anything on the initiative, which is what the groundwork my honourable friend is laying, let me just remind my honourable friend, about a month ago, Wuskwatim was

an option for Hydro development that was talked about during Hydro Committee. The Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) stepped out of committee and said, "Cabinet killed Wuskwatim a year ago." There is only one problem. They never communicated that to the senior officials of Manitoba Hydro.

My honourable friend is indicating that Cabinet made a directive to pursue XYZ. I am simply indicating to my honourable friend, in the discussion that is taking place here now, that we are not informed of any initiative that was advanced or pursued or furthered as a result of that Cabinet directive between the Department of Cooperative Services and the Department of Health, including some 10 days or two weeks ago when the director of Planning and Research was here and indicated at that time there was no furtherance of that issue.

My honourable friend from his seat indicated that the memo was signed by the director of Research and Planning -(Interjection)- Oh, now my honourable friend is changing the story from his seat. Maybe my honourable friend should get up and table the information he has so we can pursue it.

**Mr. Cowan:** I would recommend that the Minister obtain from his department a copy of the Briefing Book for the Minister 1987/88 and he will find in Appendix B, under the section -(Interjection)- if the Members want to table it, I will make the copy available to them. I will do that after I have copies of it made. The fact is very clear that there were discussions and I will read again from the briefing note which has identified on it as a contact person, David W. Pascoe, P-a-s-c-o-e, 945-8599. "Cabinet has provided approval to pursue alternative payment mechanisms to some of the large group practices, as well as pursue the Health Co-op model. Present status: Two of the large group practices have been approached with this concept with the response being negative for one and no response for the other. Discussions have been held with the Department of Co-op and they are pursuing various facets of the Health Co-op model. Nothing definitive has been arrived at to date."

I told him very clearly, so that he not fall prey to his own allegation that people building straw persons in this Chamber, that we had not accomplished enough, we did not carry it as far as I would have liked to have seen it carried, and that a lot of work had to be done in this area. What I am doing is encouraging him to undertake that work. I am telling him that there had been preliminary discussions started, that they had been held, that they did not go as far as they should have, but we would, at least on this side—the New Democratic Party and I believe the Liberal Party too, although they can speak for themselves—would like to see this model pursued further because it does in fact provide an opportunity for more health promotion activities.

So I will make that briefing note available to the Minister directly with a copy to the critic later on in the evening, and I will just ask him to put aside the difficulty he has in acknowledging that he was wrong the other night when he said that no discussions had been held—in fact, they have been held—and start to

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work on this in a positive way and hopefully accomplish more than we were able to accomplish in our term of Government in this area.

**Mr. Orchard:** I do not want my honourable friend to leave a misrepresentation on the record. I informed my honourable friend the night we discussed Research and Planning—I inform him again—that the information from the director of Research is that nothing had occurred. If that was not the correct information, I will provide corrected information but, to the best knowledge of the people referred to, that was not discussed. It was not me saying that. It was information provided to me by my staff.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it the will of the section to pass this item?

**Mr. Cowan:** Just in the two minutes remaining between now and six o'clock, Mr. Chairperson, perhaps we can address one other issue very quickly. Again, it is just a suggestion with the hope that the Minister will take action on it, and that is with respect to the cardiovascular health program. As he is aware, cardiovascular disease is one of the major areas where health promotion can have a positive impact, particularly when related to lifestyle issues.

The objectives, I think, of the Government in this area should be firstly to increase public awareness of cardiovascular diseases, its causes and how to prevent it, and to help Manitobans make appropriate choices with respect to their own lifestyle as to how to deal with that problem, and to create an environment in Manitoba which is supportive of the type of activity which will help prevent cardiovascular disease.

There are a number of specific areas that one has to address in doing that, and that is in the area of

physical activity, healthy nutrition, non-smoking and hypertension control. There are some good organizations out there, non-Government organizations, that are undertaking a lot of work in this area. I would encourage the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to provide support and encouragement to those groups, because I believe they are providing not only the type of environment which we would like to see in Manitoba but they are also providing some of the educational activities and some of the research activities which are needed to deal with this particular matter.

So I would hope that the Minister in a collaborative way will work with those particular organizations and will encourage their working area of cardiovascular disease and health promotion designed to eliminate that particular disease to the extent possible.

I think there is a fair amount of work that is going on in the department. I understand that there is a requirement for a more comprehensive data base to track the incidence of cardiovascular disease and the prevalence of risk factors. I would ask the Minister if that data base is under development and if the work that is ongoing in this area is being done in a collaborative fashion with those non-Government organizations.

\* (1800)

**Mr. Chairman:** The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the Rules of the House, I am leaving the Chair and—in order for Estimates to continue, we would require leave of the House. (Agreed)

Item No. 2.(d)(1)—pass; 2.(d)(2)—pass; 2.(d)(3)—pass.

The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the Rules, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 p.m.