

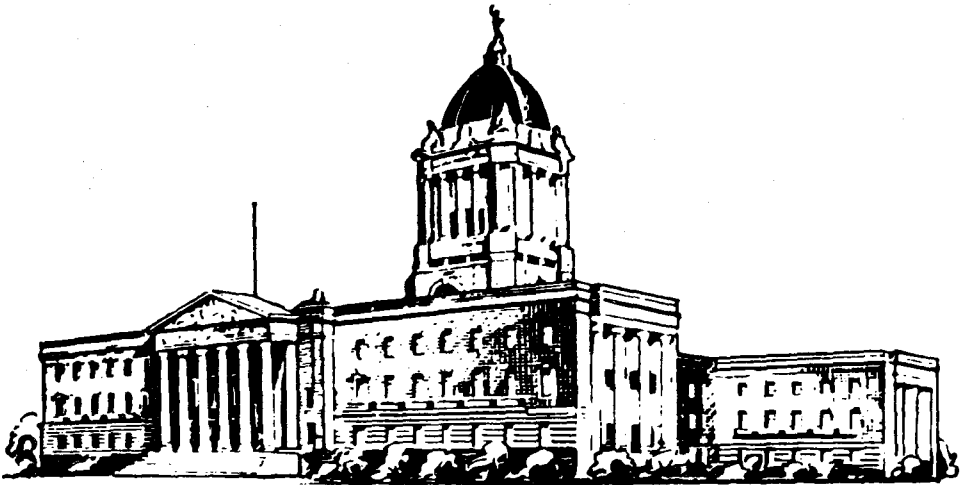


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
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HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
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MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
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NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
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ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
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WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 28, 1988.

The House met at 8 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gillehammer: I call this meeting to order.

We are on 2. Financial Assistance to the City of Winnipeg, (b) Transit Operating Grant \$16,485,000—the Member for St. Vital.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): On page 11, it says promote the public transit—(interjection)—page 17? I think I said 11. “To promote public transit as a viable transportation alternative to the private automobile in view of the environmental, social and economic benefits associated with increased transit ridership.” Right here, that I can recall, we have things like the Law Courts, the Woodsworth Building, the Norquay and the Legislature. This is the most crowded place for parking and the biggest nuisance in the whole of the Province of Manitoba. I wonder if the Minister has done anything in this viable transportation alternative to have some incentive or some program that would encourage the employees of the Government of Manitoba to ride buses.

An Honourable Member: I think they have probably been charging them for parking.

Mr. Rose: Yes, other than starting to charge them. Have they any innovative ideas or are there any programs that have been promoted to deal with Government employees in this area?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): There are a couple to provide a good transit system so they will. I guess the other one, tongue in cheek, is the parking one.—(interjection)—No, to charge for parking. I am just using that tongue in cheek. You have a DASH system throughout the city. I am not saying it is the end-all to all, but at least it is there and also it is to provide a good transit system. That is what they have been trying to do, and to provide that transit system for everybody, whether they are around the Legislative Building or whether they work at the University of Manitoba or whether they work at the St. Vital Mall or whether they work at Polo Park, whether they work at—you could just keep on going on. Wherever they work, the whole idea of the city transit is to provide a transit system for everybody throughout the city.

Mr. Rose: I am interested in all these places around the City of Winnipeg. I am wondering, the place that is by far—the Minister knows it from when he was in City Council, he knows it from when he is in the Legislature—that from here, for three or four blocks

in every direction is the worst congested parking in this entire province. Never mind about programs about DASH buses. Does the Minister anticipate any specific programs aimed at relieving the congestion here by using, as he puts it, viable transportation alternatives in this area of Government employees of the Manitoba Government?

Mr. Ducharme: Just to mention it again, it is to provide a transit system for everybody and provide a transit system whether it is busy here or whether it is busy anywhere. Our whole concept is to provide a good transit system along with the cooperation and along with the negotiations of the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Rose: So what I am hearing from the Minister then is that their method of an innovative transportation alternative for the people in this immediate area, whether it be Government employees or elsewhere, is jack up a parking fee and that might discourage them from bringing their cars downtown.

Mr. Ducharme: No, that is not what I said. I said tongue in cheek, and I said that. All I am saying is it is up to the City of Winnipeg and the province to provide good transit coverage for everybody. That is what their goal is and that is what that particular statement is. I think we will work cooperatively with the city to come up with programs to work in and provide that transit system that is necessary throughout the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(b)—pass.

2.(c) General Support Grant \$6,900,000—the Member for St. Norbert.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): Mr. Chairperson, through you to the Minister. Is this where you would be funding extra programs for the City of Winnipeg Police, for instance, or the termites or river control?

Mr. Ducharme: No, we are providing it out of the Capital, not out of this one.

Mr. Angus: Could you just tell me then what the General Support Grant is for?

Mr. Ducharme: It is an unconditional grant based on city salaries. It was originally related to the payroll tax.

* (2005)

Mr. Chairman: 2.(c)—pass.

(d) Special Education Transfer Grant, \$2,100,000—the Member for St. Norbert.

Mr. Angus: It is indicated as a one-time grant and yet it is a forever collection cost.

Mr. Ducharme: This is a one-time \$2,100,000 from Urban Affairs. Whatever results with the negotiations

with the City of Winnipeg and the Government to offset that, that will come up as we negotiate along the way with them. Probably the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is quite involved in there. We felt that this was unconditional to offset that. That is our share. There was more than that involved.

Mr. Angus: Just to see if I have got it straight then, there is an expense that accrues to the city for the collection. The loss of interest, I guess, is the expense that is going to be taken away from the city because they will no longer have the collected taxes to be able to deposit, which they used to collect the money to offset the expenditure of doing a collection. Now the \$2 million is a one-time shot to offset that expense because you are taking that away from them. Is that accurate?

Mr. Ducharme: Yes. The total was 6 million, I think, is what the city gave. Our portion of that that came from Urban Affairs was \$2,100,000 and that is to offset the interest revenue lost to the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Angus: Revenue of the city is going to be short \$4 million by their figures in the collection and it is not being offset by any other Government department. Is that accurate?

Mr. Ducharme: It was also offset by some tax-sharing agreements. They did not lose another \$4 million. They actually reimbursed a total of almost \$6 million.

Mr. Angus: You are referring to the transfer grants that would have gone to them or should have gone to them anyway from the federal Government?

Mr. Ducharme: We were saying that we did not cap their earnings. That was a negotiation and it was agreed to by the City of Winnipeg in negotiations. Before we came to these amounts, we sat down with the City of Winnipeg, had the meetings with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), myself, the Mayor, the chairman of Finance, City of Winnipeg, and they agreed to this settlement for this particular year.

Mr. Angus: Okay. Just so I have got it clear in my head, notwithstanding what the previous Government did and notwithstanding the politics of whether we agreed with what the former Government did or not, the transfer of money that came from Ottawa, that should have gone right through to the City of Winnipeg, you have negotiated with the Mayor and the Executive Policy Committee that they will accept those transfer payments and \$2 million additional to offset the expenditure, the revenue that they are going to lose through the process of collecting the school board taxes. Is that accurate?

Mr. Ducharme: Not the collection. The loss of the interest revenue.

Mr. Angus: Okay. Could you just explain to me then? It says it is a one-time grant and this is the only time you are going to be doing it. Do you want to advise me on that?

Mr. Ducharme: As far as we are concerned at Urban Affairs, it is a transitional one-time grant that they can at least adjust. That is the settlement we came to with the city on the loss of interest revenue. We say this is our portion of that transitional grant.

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Mr. Chairperson, just so I understand, I think what was happening here is that the city and the municipalities were holding onto money that they were collecting on behalf of the school divisions, and by holding it in their pot, they were able to make interest on it, but we all recognize that the school divisions were borrowing at the other end because they were waiting for the money that was accruing to them and being collected by the city.

I think this benefits everybody. The school division gets their money faster. The municipalities and the city get some offset and I would assume some time to prepare in the long run to absorb that into their budget, to have some offset and to absorb it because that money really is not theirs in the first place.

I just wanted to make one final point to my colleagues and that is that this grant was made unconditionally to offset, just so that you do not think that there were never unconditional grants.

Mr. Ducharme: This was one way of getting the monies whether you want to say how it is or not. All I can say is that this particular Government did negotiate and not send a letter saying that we will now cease doing what we did in the past. We know that the auditors had for quite a number of years suggested that the money be passed on at a quicker pace. What we did is we sat down with the City of Winnipeg and we negotiated and felt that for this year anyway that they not just go to them and say we are cutting you off, etc. We did sit with them. Whether you want to call it an unconditional grant or not, it was one way of putting it and showing up in the operating of Urban Affairs.

* (2010)

Mr. Chairman: 2.(d)—pass.

Resolution No. 138: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$44,811,000 for Urban Affairs, Financial Assistance to the City of Winnipeg, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

3. Urban Policy Coordination: Provides urban policy formulation, planning advice and inter-governmental liaison with respect to Urban Affairs. Provides for the province's share of expenditures related to improving the core area of the City of Winnipeg and provides for the effective participation of core area residents in employment and development opportunities.

(a) Salaries \$362,700—the Member for Logan.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I have a couple of areas I would like to discuss under this section. One is the legislation and the amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act. I know that we went through this in an earlier section and the Minister seemed to be saying

that it was his decision, that he needed more time to study and that he was not ready to go with major amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act because he needed the additional time and he wanted to talk to people.

I guess one of the questions that I would have is why is he moving on the amendments that he is moving on? Why did he choose those out of all of the very significant recommendations and needs that there are? Why has he not moved a little bit faster and presented it as a package? I would have thought that one of the advantages of being on City Council is that you would have really had a lot of experience and knowledge in being able to come in as a Minister, and get a handle very quickly with all the studies and all the information that was already there on what initiatives you wanted to take in this very important area.

I think there is a lot of disappointment with the Cherniack study and White Papers and recommendations that are around, that there is going to continue to be the deficiencies and the problems that could be helped a great deal (1) corrected and (2) helped with the City of Winnipeg. So why did you choose the ones you chose and why are you not moving a little faster in this important area?

Mr. Ducharme: Even if I do know all the answers, I still think that I should consult with the city. Also the people who worked on the Cherniack Committee have not only criticized our particular administration but they did criticize the previous administration for not acting soon enough. I remember when they were taking some shots at the previous administration in the same regard. The ones that were proposed were actually—except for one, and that was the one of the Auditor, and the reason why we moved on that one was quite a stir at City Hall in regard to a couple things that went on. I am not going to mention any names, but one particular group of one sentence for an individual that was probably involved with financial, the other ones were asked for, and they were asked for by the previous administration in the last year, year and a half, the other housekeeping amendments. One of them was asked, or they were asked, for you, and the legislation was already prepared for those, or almost completely prepared, so we could bring those on with the number of councillors.

The business assessment was brought in simply because the City of Winnipeg wants to act in their assessment for January of '89. They want to get going on their business assessment so they could wrap up all the differences in those assessments and also their tourism tax is also involved in that one. They were quite insistent that if we could bring any legislation in, in this particular Session, that would be one that they would really like to see brought in. That is why those ones were brought in at the time.

The councillors, as I explained earlier—was that because it would be a long time before the Boundaries meet again, and there was some consensus out there that at least they would know of any proposed legislation that would bring in the 23, and the 29, and the maps have been drawn that way that they meet. Once they

come forward with their recommendations, they will come forward to the Minister and then they will go back out again into the hustling so they can have those meetings again, and hope they take forward in January, and that they know which way they are going for the election of the fall of '89. We tried to keep them down to the minimum as we could and that is why we brought those in.

* (2015)

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, I realize that in most questions related to this, the Minister will probably say that he is going to talk to people and has not made up his mind finally, but I am wondering if he can give us—tip his hand a little to us—some indication of whether he is concerned about beefing up the role of the community committees, both in terms of their role in what they do and the resources that they have to do it, which I think is being seen as a problem.

Mr. Ducharme: Without tipping my hand, I am a firm believer in the community committee system. I think it has been great and that is why the numbers of 23 are the minimum amount that I think politically you could probably operate under. With the community committee system, it is the 23 number and if it is the wish of the Legislature, that is what they wish, they will be up to 29. I think in the Cherniack Report they did mention 24, but the indication with the numbers at 23 is that you can operate and still hold on to that history of community committees and the boundaries that we have been used to. That is probably one of the reasons, and that is one of the reasons why 23 was used. I can only go on record that I have always supported the community committee system.

Ms. Hemphill: These are sort of a number of short snappers that I want to cover in this area. There was some mention of the additional zone earlier. Is there any thought to the elimination of the additional zone?

Mr. Ducharme: I would hate to mention any elimination of the additional zone, because I have promised the additional zone people, and that was the meeting last July, that we would consult with them very thoroughly before any decisions were made. They gave that impression that they said they were not heard properly before and they wanted to be consulted on any changes. So in fairness to them and in fairness to the Municipal Affairs Minister, who also was meeting with them, I would not want to mention was going to be done with the additional zones. All we know is that any indication we got from City Hall and any indication that I got from my own experiences is that the additional zone, the way it is now, is not working to what it was intended for.

Ms. Hemphill: I wanted to once again commend the Minister for the decision in terms of going beyond the urban limit line for the major development and I guess standing up against continued loss of agricultural land, standing up for the reports that say we have all of the land inside the urban limit line that we need to develop our city to the 21st Century, I think, and standing up for the people of Manitoba who would be paying the

additional taxes, at least for schools and other infrastructure like that.

In light of the fact that that decision showed what I think most people in Winnipeg believed to be a bad decision but very poor process in terms of decision making admitted to by City Council themselves, meetings with the developer after the presentation had been made, coercion by some members of City Council to other members to make the decision to support it, does the Minister believe that, for instance, he is introducing conflict-of-interest legislation for the province, which I assume is beefing an already present Conflict-of-Interest Act, does he believe the same should be present for the City Council and is he going to support my Bill for electoral expenses reform when it comes up in the House?

* (2020)

Mr. Ducharme: I will talk on your Bill, whether I think that conflict of interest should be coming in at this time, especially since I have ordered—I know there are two provinces that have conflict of interest set aside. Myself, I have ordered those and I have not received them yet. I have ordered their legislation on that and I look forward to receiving those so I can do a comparison. I honestly hope that that would be one of the items that would be brought forward in the overall amendments that we do bring forward.

You mentioned also the decision that I made, the Member has to appreciate that the draft was not approved by City Hall until April of '86 and I left in March of '86. There were changes while the draft was going on. As you can probably appreciate, the first draft was done—Plan Review. I went into my closet at home and dug it out and it was Plan Review 1981. I want to just mention that in that particular little—the first brochure that they brought out on page 8, two things that they suggested when you talk about the "sprawl." It is current policies restricting development west of the Perimeter Highway and North Saskatchewan Avenue should be maintained.

In other words, that is one thing that they mentioned in their whole urban sprawl. They mentioned the 12,000 acres will be designated for suburban sprawl. Even at that time, these were two real important parts of that plan that came forward. So it was not too difficult to probably make that particular decision because they stayed, even at that time, in very initial stages that when we started and all of us sat down going through this process, it started even a couple of years before that. That is one thing we always talked about at City Hall. That these two areas would probably be the last and I felt that, if we were going to have an amendment to Plan Winnipeg, this was not an amendment. I am not knocking the city councillors. I felt that this was now a major change in that particular Plan Winnipeg, not just an amendment.

Ms. Hemphill: I wonder if the Minister can give us an update on the status of the reclassification of that section of south St. Boniface. I think he had asked for additional information.

Mr. Ducharme: The one you are referring to, I have sent it back asking for further information. One of them was a possibility of an action plan to be included and to let us know what—even if it was a draft, so at least we knew what they were proposing for that area. I have not received that. That was about—

Ms. Hemphill: You have to approve the reclassification? Do you approve the—

Mr. Ducharme: Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: You are waiting for the information?

Mr. Ducharme: Yes. I have a little conflict in that particular one because I sat on the community committee. It is very unique. I sat on community committee when it went to a Community Committee where we approved at community committee that particular section because we felt it was tying in with the concept of what was going on in South St. Vital. Now I am in a different role where I have to ask for additional information. I have asked for that additional information now that it has gone through the hearings. When I get that information, well then of course I will make a decision.

Ms. Hemphill: I would just like to ask a few questions on the Core Area Initiative. One of the big problems of the new Core Area Initiative was the movement of the cash flow, getting approval of project. We had community organizations and programs out there absolutely starving and literally, in some cases, going down the tube because the money was not flowing. Has that, whatever was causing the problem, been dealt with? Is money flowing now for all those projects?

Mr. Ducharme: We did have a problem in the spring, but now it is all flowing. I have not had any complaints since then.

* (2025)

Ms. Hemphill: There is one area, the business program that gives money to businesses, I think, that has boundaries that include some of Main Street but not all of Main Street. It is my understanding that there is some discretion allowed in relation to those boundaries. When a project comes up, and I can give you a good example of Best Care Cleaners on Main Street which ended up being two doors away from another project that was approved, a business that has been there for 20 years. Long before anybody was trying to save Main Street, they were providing service to the people of the North End and indeed all over the city, have renovated the upper part of their building for residential living and have met all of the fire and safety by-laws of the city and therefore, I believe, have been a very long-time good citizen of the city and particularly of Main Street, a place where a lot of businesses would not care to struggle to make their livelihood.

I thought it was very disappointing that when we asked for flexibility for approval of a grant to give some support that it was denied on the basis that they were

just outside of the boundaries. When there is discretion and it is not used, then it is not very useful. I am wondering if his staff can advise what happened in this case.

I want to make two points. If discretion is not ever applied, then you might as well not have it there, or the boundaries should be altered so that, I think, more of the Main Street, which is really struggling to revitalize itself and needs a bit of help from Government, should be included.

Mr. Ducharme: Under the son of Core or the second Core Program, the three levels of Government that did set the boundaries, at the time they set them, said there was no discretion at all. To change it now, the P.A. stipulates quite clearly that there is no discretion whatsoever in those boundaries. You are referring to the neighbourhood of Main Street. Under that program, there is no discretion at all. It is clearly indicated and I think there were reasons for that. I think John remembers under the first one some of the problems we had when we did move around in some of the boundaries.- (Interjection)- Yes.

Ms. Hemphill: Is any consideration being given to the daughter of Core?

Mr. Ducharme: All I know is the monies are just flowing now and you are in the middle of it. I would not want to suggest whether we are going to any other Core Programs or what have you. Our Government was one of the originators of the first Core Program under Sterling Lyon with Gerry Mercier when he was Urban Affairs Minister, and it was carried on by your Government and then renewed under the previous Government along with the Conservatives, so that is where we are at now.

What I will do though, if you want, I will look at this example that you have brought forward and I will get back to the Member in regard to that so, if there is any way that we can show some light, I will get back to the Member.

Ms. Hemphill: I wonder if the Minister could give us an update on the status of the East Yards.

* (2030)

Mr. Ducharme: Okay, the East Yards now, since we took office in May, the market has been approved. Most of any monies that were coming to the East Yards were approved by the previous Government except for the market. The market had to have the approval of this particular Government. They would like to have had it approved earlier, but we did approve it after we consulted with The Forks people.

The site clearing has been completed by the CN Railway to remove and relocate the former East Yard rail facilities. The Forks National Historic Park, as you are probably aware, including the riverbank promenade, has been completed by Environment Canada Parks on the nine-acre site adjacent to FRC's property and there have been other works carried out in regard to that.

We have now hired a good general manager from the city. Now we have a general manager who will probably take a very, very active part.

The only thing I can say about the yards is that now we have the land and it is probably one of the most important pieces of property in the City of Winnipeg. Now that we have accumulated the land, I have made it quite known before that let us not just be in a hurry to fill it up. Let us take our time in filling up that particular large piece of land and do a real good job on it.

As you can probably appreciate, the major factor was getting that land. That is the key, not just to go there to build buildings and put facilities. Now that you have the land, I think the very important key is now to do something important with it. Other than that, that is the update on The Forks.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? The Member for St. Vital.

Mr. Rose: I just have one question on the core area and I would like to know what the Minister's view of it is. Before I go into public life, I heard about this core area and I thought it was a really good objective and then, when I got on City Council, I toured some of the projects in the North End of Winnipeg.

I am somewhat disturbed now to see all the core area money that is not being spent in the core, and I think some of it outside the core is money well spent but I have other problems in some of the areas. I would say that if core area funding remains about where it is and the actual core is getting a little bit starved—and I still consider and I am sure most people in the city still consider that it is most needed in the true core of Winnipeg.

Has the Minister any philosophy that he would use his influence, as a one-third partner now that they are the Government, to redirect or direct the money back to where it was intended, and that is the most needy part where there are the most social problems, and that is in the core of Winnipeg.

Mr. Ducharme: Could the Member mention to me what areas is he talking about outside the core? I was not aware that we were doing that.

Mr. Rose: I would rather be positive than opposed but I do not have any particular problems about continuing to buy places outside of the core, as I would consider it anyway, like the Tourist Hotel. I would think that would be more a priority north of the subway in the north end of Winnipeg. Those are the sort of things I am thinking about.

Mr. Ducharme: There has been no money spent outside the core. The hotel you are talking about, that St. Boniface section, is now in the second core agreement and it was in the first one.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairperson, let me just pick up a little bit on what my colleague from St. Vital is suggesting. I guess, Mr. Minister, we have opportunities. We can either continue with the flow and go along with the way

things were or we can stick our oar in the water and say it is time to look at amending this agreement to a certain extent. Now when you see North Main deteriorating as quickly as it is and as badly as it is, and yet you see areas like Osborne Village and St. Boniface getting core area money, you have to ask yourself is there not an opportunity to readdress the investment of this money for the betterment of the core area, the whole of the core in the centre of the city?

I suspect, and I do not want to put words in the Member's mouth, but it is a legitimate concern, a legitimate point. I think, Mr. Minister, you have got an opportunity to drive your stake into the ground and say you should be bringing some new initiatives to the board and asking them to re-evaluate the investment of their money.

Mr. Ducharme: I would say that if you were redoing a new core program that probably then you could look at the boundaries. However, you have to remember that most of them were into the third year of the second program. By the time you have probably negotiated, you are going to have completed the program. The cash flows are going through and I am suggesting that North Main and that will be looked at at that time.

The three Governments are looking at the section you are referring to and they always have. It was the will of the Governments when they set up this core program, and that was the city, the province and the feds, when they looked it up and when they did do the renewal, they felt that these were the boundaries that they felt were necessary. I think that to be honest with you, and I am being very, very upfront, is that you can always hope that you can maybe go into changing boundaries, but I would suggest at this time that there would not be too much success in that.

Mr. Angus: Perhaps a new question then, through you, Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, is have you even tried?

Mr. Ducharme: No. I think that you could try through advising them of the projects as they come forward, which ones are priority in that particular area. That would be one way of doing it.

Also to add, to the Member, I think when I came in most of the monies were already spent and subject for. That is what I am trying to say. There is very little left. Let us put it that way. Most of it will be done now and to open it up, changing the boundaries and going back and redistributing those priorities would be—what I am saying is most of the monies have been spent already.

Ms. Hemphill: Just to pick up on that a bit, Mr. Chairperson, I just wanted to let the Minister know that when we came into Government the first agreement had all been negotiated and was all dotted. The "t's" were crossed and the "i's" were dotted, and part of the plan was under—the training and employment agency was to build a college and it called for spending about \$7 million on a facility. We took a very strong position and said we are not going to build the college. There is lots of space around here. We are not going

to spend three years not training people while we build a building. We said an absolute "no" when—I want to let the Minister know that it was when it is in your jurisdiction, as it was in Education, when I was the Minister, you have quite a bit of clout. You are the delivering authority and you, I think, have more opportunities when you are the delivering authority to say we deliver this service, this program, we know a lot about it. We do not think this is the way to do it.

So I want to take exception to his point that once it is negotiated you cannot go back. As the delivering authority in the jurisdictional area, I think that you could make some points to the point that there is very little money there, because I want to pick up on the North Main.

We have really dressed up north of Portage and we have got luxury condos that we are building, and we are paving the riverbank from The Forks down to the Legislature. But one of the problems is that we still have people sniffing glue and drinking Lysol all along the way, and we are not dealing with some of those issues. North Main is trying to save itself, the community, the North Main Revitalization Development Centre, with very little money and very little help or support from other people. I think it is one of the cases where the initiative is coming from the community. It is coming from the businesses themselves. They are asking for only a little bit of help, and I think we should do what we can. A little bit of money to you probably is a lot of money to them. I would just say try, if you try then you say, I did it; but if you do not try, you never know.

Certainly, if there is any possibility of another agreement being negotiated down the road, I think there should be a cut off of places. Inasmuch as I like going to Osborne Village and I enjoy the ambience as much as anyplace else, they should be cut right off of additional money and money should be ploughed into the areas that really need it, like Main Street. I would add other areas like Ellice and Sargent, Selkirk Avenue, places that have a lot of potential to have commercial areas with a lot of colour and character that will add to our city but have been neglected.

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, all the sections you mentioned are included in the core. I think the Neighbourhood Main Streets and Small Business had 5 million in the allocation. To make it clear to the Member, that was the frustrating part when I came into office. I think the only thing that was not committed and allocated was the public market in The Forks. Everything else was allocated, 95 percent of everything was already done by the previous Government. If the Member is saying that we go back now—I do not know how I could do it and go back to her previous commitments by her Government. The people that they had appointed to the Advisory Committee and the people who they appointed to go over all the projects.

To rehash them I say that because of the time element that we have now got, that everything has been committed, that really all we are now doing is cash flowing it. We have got hardly any say in that particular program. All we are doing is handing the money over. Because of the advice, the way it is set up, the Advisory

Committee meets and there are probably programs in there that have been agreed to that maybe you question, but that is the way the Core Program was set up. All the monies were allocated before we got in office.

* (2040)

Mr. Chairman: 3.(a) Salaries—pass.

3.(b) Other Expenditures, \$103,300—the Member for St. Norbert.

Mr. Angus: With the permission of the other members at the table, perhaps we can pass everything right down to the Minister's Salary and then have a general discussion on that and questions.

Mr. Chairman: We have to pass them line by line.

Mr. Angus: Pass them then. Call them out and pass them and tick them off. Let us go.

Mr. Chairman: 3.(b) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(c) Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Agreement: (1) Payments to Other Implementing Jurisdictions—pass; (2) Payments to Other Provincial Departments—pass; 3.(d) Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Renewed Agreement: (1) Payments to Other Implementing Jurisdictions \$666,200—pass; (2) Payments to Other Provincial Departments \$2,299,700—pass; (3) Departmental Expenditures \$776,000—pass; 3.(e) Canada-Manitoba ARC Agreement: (1) ARC Secretariat - Other Expenditures \$13,800—pass.

Item 3.(f) Riverbank Development: (1) Salaries \$48,900.00.

Mr. Ducharme: I believe that 3.(e) is not finished.

Mr. Angus: Is the Riverbank Redevelopment something brand new or different?

Mr. Ducharme: It is a provincial initiative only. That is the Riel Park.

Mr. Angus: Riel Park? Where is that located, Mr. Minister?

Mr. Ducharme: We hope eventually right behind the Legislative Building.

Mr. Angus: I see.

Mr. Ducharme: We call it the Louis Riel or behind the Legislative Building.

Mr. Angus: That is correct. That is what they addressed it as. They called it the Louis Riel.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Are you disappointed, John?

Mr. Angus: I thought it was in the Riel constituency, Mr. Finance Minister.

Mr. Ducharme: The real Riel Park is, and there is some in the Omand's Creek, too. Omand's Creek is in there also.

Mr. Chairman: 3.(f)(1) Salaries \$48,900—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$61,600—pass; 3.(g) North Portage Redevelopment \$175,500—pass.

Resolution No. 139: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,507,700 for Urban Affairs, Urban Policy Coordination, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

4. Expenditures Related to Capital (a) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets - Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Agreement: (1) Payments to Other Implementing Jurisdictions; (2) Payments to Other Provincial Departments; (3) Departmental Expenditures \$3,200,000—pass; 4.(b) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets - Agreement for Recreation and Conservation for the Red River Corridor \$16,000—pass; 4.(c) Financial Assistance to the City of Winnipeg \$12,720,000—pass.

Item 4.(d) Riverbank Development \$70,000—the Member for St. Norbert.

Mr. Angus: May I ask, Mr. Chairperson, through you to the Minister, is this in addition to the other \$110,000, as capital to go with this \$110,000?

Mr. Ducharme: That is additional, and I will get it for you and find out which one it is for.

Mr. Rose: Could we just finish with the St. Norbert one and I will get—

Mr. Ducharme: One is for the Omand's Creek, \$50,000, and \$20,000 is for a study. There was one riverbank that we own, the City of Winnipeg, between Main and Gomez on the Red River, Pritchard Dock. We own the property there and we are doing a study on how it can be best used.

Mr. Rose: I notice that even though it is a very small amount of money on Riverbank Development, not only in the City of Winnipeg but all of Manitoba, and that this, some if not all, most of it is all in downtown Winnipeg. Does the Minister, because of the deterioration of this great resource of the City of Winnipeg and indeed of the province, anticipate as was promised by the previous administration—maybe not the same amounts of money—any appreciable increase in the amount of funding to bring our riverbanks up and stop the erosion and crumbling that is taking effect from one end of the city to the other almost?

Mr. Ducharme: As you can probably appreciate, the money in repairing riverbanks is a very, very costly item just to do a study on one little piece of property they own, \$20,000.00. I know in The Forks there are some monies for riverbank redevelopment enhancement. I do not know what it is—\$5 million—so we are hoping that we will be able to tap into that, but that is only in the City of Winnipeg, right downtown.

Mr. Rose: Specifically, and I certainly realize, having been to many, many meetings and seminars, etc., on the Red River, but I guess we will all agree that it has been studied to death. I think any questions that need

to be asked about the erosion on the river in the City of Winnipeg have all been answered. They certainly have been to my satisfaction, and now specifically to a constituency that has lots of riverbank, and that is St. Vital, my constituency, does the Minister anticipate somewhere in his term of doing something to correct and stabilize the riverbanks in Winnipeg?

Mr. Ducharme: For one who is also in a constituency surrounded by rivers, the Seine on one side and the Red, it goes quite a length, and probably one who also is in an area where the Member for St. Vital overlooks part of the riverbank, that is in my constituency that he lives and overlooks, this particular Government has not looked into, if you are looking at helping the private people, no, definitely not. We have not looked into it at all and that is a whole new ball game altogether to be looking at helping the private people because it is just such a monster.

I guess that is probably why people have studied it to death. We did not spend the \$20,000 on this piece of property to study it to death because this is our property and legally we could, if we do not do something with it, after our study, probably be held liable close by, and that is probably why this one will lead to more than a study, because this is property that we own that is crumbling.

* (2050)

Mr. Chairman: 4.(d) Riverbank Development—pass; (e) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets - Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Renewed Agreement: (1) Payments to Other Implementing Jurisdictions \$3,899,900—pass; (2) Payments to Other Provincial Departments \$1,192,000—pass; (3) Departmental Expenditures \$1,875,100—pass; (f) North Portage Redevelopment \$775,500—pass.

Resolution No. 140: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$23,748,500 for Urban Affairs, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

We will return then to item No. 1., Administration and Finance, and we will ask the staff to leave the table. On behalf of all Honourable Members, we thank them for their contribution.

Item 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$10,300—the Member for St. Norbert.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairperson, I did not get an opportunity to ask the Minister his philosophy or his position when we were talking about some of the City of Winnipeg amendments, and I am not intending to get deeply involved in them but I would like to ask a couple of things. Headingley is an example, the Headingley study, where they were proposing they would be seceding from the city, what is the status of that?

Mr. Ducharme: We met with the official delegation today and we indicated to them that we would probably—Headingley has written to myself as Minister just recently, indicating they want to go to referendum. We will probably go that route, but before we would

do that we would make sure that with the city, when we do go with a referendum, it is very, very clear to the people anyway, what they are voting on. It is not just the idea they are voting to go on their own, to indicate to them that there are sections that will have to be negotiated with the city and what have you, the boundaries that they would be pulling away for, if the city was to get the areas that they are considering. I think by sitting down with the city, before we go to the referendum, clearly indicating to the people what they are voting on, I do not know whether the city would object to them withdrawing.

There seems to be two points of view at the official delegation this morning and that is what we were left with. We clearly indicated to them that we had waited for them to finish the negotiations and we felt that process should go through, that process that was started by the previous Government and the Urban Affairs Minister, and we felt that by allowing them, through the fall, they have had ample time to get any of their differences they have. They have clearly indicated to us there is nothing more they could have put on the table.

Mr. Angus: I think that it is important that if Headingley becomes part of the additional zone, it is fairly obvious that the people in the additional zone have more of an opportunity and perhaps it is easier for them to develop properties. I speak, Mr. Chairperson, through you to the Minister, of properties in La Salle and Oakbank which are only a few miles from the city limit line and from the Perimeter Highway where there are several hundreds of acres of property being developed.

While I respect the decision that he has made in terms of Headingley and the proximity and public awareness that was heightened because of the proposed development, it seems to me that to have one department, Urban Affairs, trying to control urban sprawl and another one, letting it expand willy-nilly, is counterproductive. I would urge the Minister to talk to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) and propose a freeze on construction and building in the additional zone until such time as the Governments that are affected can really come to grips with the problem. It does not solve the problem by simply saying it is not in my department.

It does not solve the problem by simply saying to the people in Headingley, no, you cannot build there; or to the City of Winnipeg, you cannot build there. If they are feeling that by seceding they will be able to be masters of their own fate and develop a larger tax base and things of that nature, you are only compounding the problem.

I am not sure if the Minister wants to comment on that. I have two or three other items I would like to bring to his attention before I continue.

Mr. Ducharme: This was brought up by ourselves along with the City of Winnipeg. It was also brought up by the Municipal Affairs Minister suggesting that all you are doing is going from one department to the other if they do pull away.

You have to remember that they have other things to consider that are quite unique from East and West

St. Paul and that is the water problem out there, which as you could probably appreciate, I think, in part of your area where you are, they are hauling their water. That is another thing they have to consider.

These things are brought into consideration. I thank the Member for his suggestion about the additional zone. I know a plan would have to be provided but again, that plan could be changed around. We will make sure when we are in our discussions that the people of Headingley know where they are coming from and that we remembered. It did come up this morning in regard to, hey, they will just have an easier time. We know where the problems have been. I agree with you. The problems have been in the additional zone. We have turned around to the city and said you cannot develop here, you cannot develop here, and you cannot develop here. Yet, right along that green buffer that was supposed to be there all of those years just did not happen, it did not stay as green buffer zone. Your comments are very well received and they were brought up this morning.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Chairperson, just through you, one of the issues that was subject of questions and discussion and serious concern to all Members of the Legislature was the policing circumstances at the City of Winnipeg.

The First Minister (Mr. Filmon) of the province agreed to personally look into the policing situation. Can he enlighten us? Has he shown any leadership in terms of what is happening with the police in the City of Winnipeg?

Mr. Ducharme: As you appreciate, when they were discussing that, the Minister did bring it up. He came to the official delegation and he brought it up to Mr. Lunney or to the official delegation. We were given an update—

Mr. Angus: The Premier, you mean?

Mr. Ducharme: The Premier did. This was discussed at that meeting. As you can probably appreciate, they were involved in their arbitration at the time. They were involved in arbitration at the time with the City Police so we felt it would not be a good opportunity at the time to start negotiating, while the negotiations were going on between the city.

The mayor was away today. It seems to be a pet of the mayor's. The mayor was not there at today's meeting. I can honestly say it was not discussed at this meeting. It was discussed at the previous official delegation meeting but not this one.

Mr. Angus: I understand that the Premier was absent from both meetings.

Mr. Ducharme: The Premier did send a message on to the other one via the Minister.

Mr. Angus: The Minister was there?

* (2100)

Mr. Ducharme: First of all, I said the Minister and the Premier did. It was very, very strong that we put it on the agenda. It was on the agenda and we did discuss.

The Premier was not there today simply because, as you can probably appreciate, he booked a flight to Ottawa about a month and a half ago, along with tickets to the Grey Cup, and not just in the last couple of days. He booked it about a month and a half ago along with his flight. His flight was all arranged. That was his priority at this time. I cannot question him for that.

Mr. Angus: The role of the Minister of Urban Affairs is a large role and one that I think provides the Minister with an opportunity to really show some leadership. I am disappointed that this Minister, for whatever reason, is ad hocking his way through The City of Winnipeg Act and is not addressing some of the very serious concerns he and I have shared for a number of years in a more aggressive fashion.

He has indicated that he is going to be bringing forward better legislation, more legislation and looking more seriously at specific programs. I would encourage him to do that and to address some of the problems such as North Main, which is a very, very serious problem and a very real problem, policing in the City of Winnipeg, the additional zone, the quality of the rivers, the infrastructure problems, and while I agree that it costs an awful lot of money if you attempt to do all of these things, I think, Mr. Minister, it costs us an awful lot more if we do not address them, and I would encourage you to take some positive action in relation to the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Ducharme: I am a little disappointed that the Member has suggested that I have not taken a leadership role. We did come into office in May and we did come into the Session in July. I think I have had a very, very good discussion with not only an official delegation but many of the councillors at the City of Winnipeg, as well as with administration.

I will assure the Member that I can only reinforce that the reason why I did not come forward—and I do not think I am ad hocking any of The City of Winnipeg Act—I believe that the amendments that were brought in were amendments that would have been brought in whether you took into consideration the Cherniack Report and everything else.

I am suggesting to the Member that after careful consideration—I have been accused by different people of not consulting with the City of Winnipeg on the numbers—I want to assure the Member that he is aware of the White Paper that came down. I am glad he has talked about the problems of the additional zone, about the people surrounding the additional zone who expressed to me and the Municipal Affairs Minister last July when we met them that they wanted to consult, and we felt, when we were going to the Session, that we would have the opportunity to sit down in the early fall with these people and get ready to bring our legislation in.

I am looking forward to more of a leadership role for the next turn around when our budget for the City of Winnipeg is already determined. As the Member appreciates, that is determined in March of every year and I look forward to sitting down with him and maybe coming forward with some new ideas. I am sure that the Member knows that I—

Mr. Angus: I would be pleased to work with you.

Mr. Ducharme: I am glad he will, and I will call on the Member when I have, and I am not afraid to call on the Member for ideas because I want to use his expertise also. We mentioned over there they—never mind, I will not get involved—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Ms. Hemphill: Just a very short statement, Mr. Chairperson. I think I actually want to reiterate some of the points that my colleague made about areas that we also would like to see initiatives taken in, and that is the environment, I think, protection of the riverbanks, looking at getting some more help to places like Main Street revitalization, and I guess a big one is the Inner City.

We did not really have a chance to find out what the attitude and the priority and the philosophy of the Minister is and he might want to just add a few comments on that but, as we all know, a few short years ago we had a dying Inner City and with a lot of collective effort by all levels of Government and the community we are turning that around, but we really have to keep up that momentum.

We still have the oldest houses, some of the oldest housing stock in the country. Sixty-five percent of our housing is rental housing and we know we have to turn that around from rental to ownership. We know that we have a serious problem with slum landlords and with the quality of housing that many of our families have to live in. I am wondering if the Minister sees that as a priority for his Government and what initiatives his Government is taking and what they will take to continue the momentum that has been generated in the past years.

Mr. Ducharme: I think I expressed in my original remarks or my opening remarks about the core area, that I sat with the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) when we were on City Council. I am not saying everything we did and everything we looked at was turned the way we thought it would turn out, but we have learned by those mistakes. One fortunate position, I have seen it start from what we called the dream that it started with. It had a couple of sleepless nights. However, the core area, in perspective, has worked out very, very well. There are always going to be questions.

People questioned North of Portage, but heck, what would we have there if North of Portage had not developed? People blame that the south of Portage is dying. Well, a lot of the south of Portage was dying anyway. Now we have to look at ways that we do not just put shopping on the south side. We have to look at things that will blend in with the north side of Portage.

So I think Winnipeg has come a long ways in the last seven or eight years in regard to core and North of Portage and I am in agreement with you, if you lose downtown Winnipeg, then we have got a problem.

Also, the other perspective is you have to realize that when you are doing suburban—everybody calls it

suburban sprawl—you have got to remember too that when you build a housing development there is only one place to build a housing development. There is not the land available in the City of Winnipeg—I am talking about in the core area—to do the housing development. The idea is not to ignore it, the City of Winnipeg core area and revitalization, as you have spoken, but let us be rational, you are not going to develop an area in the City of Winnipeg with a housing development that you see in some of the suburban areas because the land is there. So I am saying that I agree that we must keep up the core area improvements that we have been doing, and I have been a supporter of that.

Ms. Hemphill: Mr. Chairperson, just one last point. I wish that when the Minister has an opportunity to talk to his colleagues in the City of Winnipeg that he would pass on to them, since they were so kindly passing out these lovely "Winnerpegger" pins, that if they cannot count any better than that—did you pass them out through you?

Mr. Ducharme: Maybe I should answer—

Ms. Hemphill: I was going to say if they cannot count any better than that, we should make all their grants conditional.

Mr. Ducharme: I think we should answer that. I think in fairness to the other people in the City of Winnipeg is that—I know our caucus phoned over, and I know the Liberal caucus phoned over and we got 24 and I do not know how many they got. So those caucuses phoned over and maybe you could have used your connection with the Mayor that you have developed over the long period of time. I gave mine to Mr. Plohman.

An Honourable Member: He appreciated it.

Mr. Ducharme: I hope he does, but I mean I am just saying that there was no way that we tried to ignore it.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Ducharme: Before we do that, I would just like to say that we have appreciated the system and that I will definitely call on my colleagues and other people.

Mr. Chairman: 1.(a) Minister's Salary—pass.

Resolution No. 137: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$499,200 for Urban Affairs, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

That concludes the Estimates for the Department of Urban Affairs. Thank you for your cooperation.

* (2110)

SUPPLY—LABOUR

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: When we last met, we completed (h) the Pension Commission. We are on (j) Grants, \$6,500—the Member for Thompson.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): When we finished Estimates last time, I was expressing in no uncertain terms my concern and the concern of our caucus in regard to the cutback that took place in funding of the Labour Education Centre, particularly in view of the fact that the Labour Education Centre's elimination of a grant was justified in terms of the financial situation of the province. I pointed out how ridiculous it is for this Government to use that as an argument in cutting back the centre, given the fact that it had increased revenues available to it, given the fact that much of those revenues went to tax breaks for businesses. I pointed out, as a matter of fact, that the amount of funding for the Labour Education Centre was less than 1 percent of the amount that this Government has rebated this year in the form of the payroll tax.

In reviewing Hansard, I note that the Minister said he had been in discussion with the president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, Wilf Hudson, in regard to the situation for the Labour Education Centre next year. I would like to ask the Minister, is he now suggesting that there might be some chance that the Labour Education Centre will be funded in the upcoming year? Or was this just a false hope on our part that there would be some reconsideration on the part of the Government?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): There is always a chance for any group to have funding and I would not close my doors to any proposal from any group to come forward, and as I mentioned that to Mr. Hudson, if they had some ideas and thoughts of funding, we had a fairly good discussion on it, that our department would entertain a request.

Mr. Ashton: Well, I am trying to get a specific idea because this year the centre had been included in the previous Government's proposed budget. It was cut out by this Government, as I said for what I thought was a flimsy excuse. Is this Minister saying that it was only for this year or is he suggesting that, yes, perhaps they can request funding, but they are liable to get the same answer as last year?

The reason I am asking is because the Labour Education Centre is faced with a rather critical series of decisions about its own existence at the present time. The cutback in funding from the Government, I would say is nothing short of devastating in terms of its operations. It needs to have some firm idea as to whether it has to cut back its functions rather severely, in fact, eliminate a number of its significant functions. Or is there any prospect for it receiving funding next year? So, I would like to ask the Minister, on what basis is he making these suggestions or is he just politely saying, well, they can ask but good luck to them.

Mr. Connery: The Member should know that the Labour Ed had a fair bit of surplus this year because they had

not been able to fully staff their complement at the centre. We also wrote off \$64,000 that, according to the contract, we could have applied for a return because it had not been expended.

So we felt that this year, and what transpires next year, who knows? We will entertain in many ways—I am sure there will be changes in other things, additions and deletions another year. These are discussed on an annual basis, and my discussion with Mr. Hudson was that if they were going to request, well, then we would entertain it. So what would come out of it, as you know, that would be the decision of Cabinet—if we sent it to Cabinet.

Mr. Ashton: Once again, I think the Minister's answer is a non-answer and I hope it is clear on the record because I would not people to get any ideas about what the intent of this Government is. Obviously, all the Minister is saying is they will listen to anything and probably will not act on anything. The Minister knows full well that there were considerable additional revenues available in this Government process. Yet the Government trotted out this rather poor and lame excuse that somehow it did not have the money to fund this Labour Education Centre, and as I tried to do last time, I tried to get the Minister to put on the record the real reason why the Labour Education Centre was cut. I will give him another opportunity.

Is it, Mr. Minister, obviously not the fact that when you were in Opposition, when the Conservative Party was in Opposition, they attempted to describe it as the Labour propaganda centre and those were the exact words of the previous critic for the Conservative Party? That was part of the Conservative Party's agenda when it was elected, which was to get rid of the Labour Education Centre because of a rather narrow-minded political agenda, despite the fact that it served the major purpose for working people in this province, and has also actually served a number of companies. In fact, I am surprised the Minister has not mentioned that. He has always talked about the labour side of the Labour Education Centre, and it has also worked with many companies, in terms of educational programs.

Is it not a fact that the money was available this year? Is it not a fact the Government chose to cut the Labour Education Centre because of its agenda, its right-wing agenda, and because of its previous bias toward the Labour Education Centre as outlined by the current Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) when he was Labour critic for the Conservative Party?

Mr. Connery: The Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) continuously tries to put on the record that our Party is opposed to unions and the labour movement which is totally erroneous and false, but it is something that he continually tries to do. We are doing and will do and continue to do many things for the labour movement to support them and to shore up the needs of workers in this province. So while he tries to put on the record certain things, I refuse to accept those as being the facts.

* (2120)

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairperson, I reminded the Minister of a comment that he often made in committee when he was a critic. That was a phrase he used and that is talking about program and answers. It seems whenever a direct question is put to this Minister in his Estimates or in the House we get a programmed answer, as was the case this time. I can debate exactly where the Conservative Party stands in regard to unions, in regard to working people. I asked him a direct question on this particular line item in the budget. I asked him particularly why, when the evidence clearly points to the fact that the stated reason was not the actual reason for the cut, why it cut back on the Labour Education Centre? I think the fact there was no answer indicates very clearly the only reason the Labour Education Centre was cut back was because of the political agenda of this Party and that is their right, I suppose, as a Government.

It is their right to cut back funding to a facility that has done an excellent job in this province. It is their right to ignore the concerns of working people in this particular area, because it has done an excellent job for working people. I suppose it is their right to give whatever excuse they want for it, but I think the record should be clear that the only reason that the funding was cut back for the Labour Education Centre was because of this Government's agenda. It is certainly not pro-labour or pro-worker. It is most definitely anti-labour and, in the case of this particular centre, that is why it was cut, because it was not in fitting with the agenda of this Government.

Mr. Connery: As the Member knows full well, when the cut was made, I stated very clearly it was a matter of our Government's prioritization, and where were we going to put the money in the best interests of Manitobans? As you know, we are clamouring for money in the health care sector, in community services, education, which are all very crucial items. The decision of this Government was to ensure that our health care and community services, and so forth, were to be funded. That was an area that we thought needed it less because they did have a fairly good surplus. We left the money in that we could have requested back. We know that they did an educational function which was appreciated. We felt there was enough money there to carry on the educational function they were performing. They did a good job of training and WHIMIS and so forth.

Mr. Chairman: 2.(j) Grants—pass.

2.(k)(1) Pay Equity: Salaries \$214,000—the Member for Radisson.

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): I am just curious in the Salaries. As I mentioned, looking at some other salary lines under Labour, one would expect that given that the staff remains static, something in the more or less normal career increments, and cost-of-living across-the-board increases, but here is three Professional/Technical, it is something in the order of about 20 percent increase over the year for those three positions. I am just wondering what is behind this particular amount.

Mr. Connery: I guess it is that old saying, "charity begins at home," and they made sure that pay equity was good there. You know how fine that—yes, when they filled the position they filled up with a higher range and that is where the higher salary came in, it is still the same numbers but at a higher range.

Mr. Patterson: Different individuals hired as replacements in turnover during the year.

Mr. Connery: Yes, more experienced people.

Mr. Patterson: Is that the same three individuals?

Mr. Connery: There were positions to be filled and they were with more experienced people at a higher income and salary, that is why it looks like a higher amount. As you know, about 5 percent is about the normal with pay equity and incremental increases and the normal 3 percent.

Mr. Patterson: Just another matter here, I was looking at the Activity Identification and I noticed on the bottom of it, "Researches and develops job evaluation and pay equity implementation techniques." I am just wondering what is meant by researches and develops job evaluation techniques. I wonder what is the need for the department to be into that type of thing.

Mr. Connery: It was to help the various sectors in the original group of pay equity to assist them in developing their strategy and analysis and models. As you know, not all of every sector used the very same model. There is an awful big range of different companies, for instance, A.E. McKenzie and then you get to Channel Area Loggers, Leaf Rapid Town Properties. Some of these required assistance to develop their strategy from pay equity.

Mr. Patterson: The department assisted in developing their own job evaluation and techniques or is it just the process of getting implemented. There is nothing particularly new in job evaluation techniques and it takes relatively minor adjustments to most of the established ones to apply them to pay equity.

Mr. Connery: A lot of them did not have established systems and the department helped significantly with some groups that required a lot of help. Some have, as you know, like Manitoba Telephone Hydro, Manitoba Telephone, have a lot of internal expertise. Some of the smaller corporations do not have that expertise available and so the bureau worked with them to develop that expertise and the model that they used for pay equity.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): We note that there is a cutback that we raised in the House from the Budget that was presented originally last February to this Budget that would exemplify the commitment between the two Governments in terms of the Pay Equity Program.

I want to ask the Minister a couple of questions. Has the health care sector pay equity program been

completed and what is the cost of those negotiations in terms of its overall cost?

Mr. Connery: It has not been finally settled. It is the only one of the components that are not finally settled yet.

Mr. Doer: I understand the MHO and the employee organizations did reach an agreement. Is the Government holding up the agreement or is it held up in some other place?

Mr. Connery: There are some areas still under final consideration. The Government is committed to the legislation, but there are still some problem areas that have to be worked out and hopefully very, very shortly.

Mr. Doer: He did not answer the question. Is it being held up by the Government or is it held—as I understand it, they have reached a settlement. Is the Government not ratifying the settlement or is it withholding approval of the settlement? Has the Minister consulted with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard)? Is the Minister of Health opposed to it? What is the status of the statutory requirements in terms of the time lines?

Mr. Connery: It is a provisional agreement that has not been finally ratified. We hope within a day or two we can have some announcement on this.

Mr. Doer: So is there any change from the original agreement between the Government and the tentative agreement and it is only subject to Cabinet ratification, or is it being altered in some way, shape or form? I am trying to find out where—in the cup to the lip—where the slippage is, Mr. Chairperson.

* (2130)

Mr. Connery: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has met with the health groups and so the final outcome, we hope that will be announced very, very shortly.

Mr. Doer: Is the Minister of Health interfering with the pay equity process in the health care field?

Mr. Connery: The Minister of Health is not going to abrogate the legislation. You can be sure that the legislation will be followed.

Mr. Doer: So we can expect that announcement by Wednesday, I am to assume from your answers to the question.

Mr. Connery: I hope very soon—very, very soon.

Mr. Doer: A further question: is the Minister satisfied with the fact that the pay equity at this point in time, or the situation with women and men in terms of wages in Manitoba is higher than the country but lower than where it should be on an hourly basis or an annual basis, etc.? In his first six months of office, has there been any change in the 68 percent or so rate between women and men, and does he feel that pay equity is

necessary in the private sector and he should embark on those consultations with the affected organizations?

Mr. Connery: The numbers apparently have not moved all that significantly, both federally and provincially. As you know, our Government is committed to continue with pay equity. It is a matter of how quickly we move and, as you know, when we took office we decided that the best procedure, best line of action, was to evaluate what had transpired. As you know, when we took office, the final ones were not in for what was legislated, were not in yet, and we had not had a chance to analyze them.

As you know, there has been quite a range of amounts of cost for pay equity amongst various sectors. I do not know if the Member has them but the University of Manitoba, for instance, was a three-year increase in the total wage settlement, the University of Winnipeg was 1.6, St. Boniface College 1.2, Brandon University 4, and even as low as, for AFM, the Alcoholism Foundation, was .02, Manfor was .7. So it varies with the specific employer as to how much of an increase and the blend and a whole lot of various factors that can influence it.

Mr. Doer: One would be led to believe that the data from last year and the data that the Minister has now quoted demonstrates that (a) it is not chaotic, and (b) it is not costly in terms of projected cost of payroll to begin to achieve equity between men and women in our society. So the data would lead one to believe, I would think, that the private sector is an obvious next objective of the Government. I understand the political reason why you are saying that we are watching it and we are reviewing it and we are looking at it, but I was wondering, given the experience, why the Minister is not recommending to his Cabinet that they not proceed into the private sector.

Mr. Connery: We are doing an extremely large amount of consultation. We have just sent out packages to people in the private sector, to the schools or the school districts, to municipalities, to give them the package to let them have a look at it, let them come back to us, where we want to ensure that what we do is going to be fair and equitable. This Government has always that it is committed to ensuring that women in the workplace are getting equal pay for equal value of work and should. So there is no lack of commitment in that particular process but it is a matter of implementation and timing. The last thing we want to do is have some real glaring errors which we did not foresee and have us into problems that maybe we will have difficulty getting out of.

Now having said that, if it is going to cost some money, that is fine. Women should be paid properly in the workplace. I support that fully. At the same time we have to recognize that there is a cost. Within the Civil Service alone, it is \$16 million which is not an insignificant amount of money and when we look at all of these, it is a significant amount. When we are looking at the Civil Service, that is paid for by the taxpayer, and rightfully so, if it is women getting paid the rate that they should. Let us also remember that while we

call it "pay equity" it is an unequal pay equity because, depending on the employer or the Crown corp or whatever, depending on the mix of people, the mix of women versus men, the value of the men's jobs with the women that all of a sudden we see people in a given category getting paid a different wage than somebody in another Crown or another group or whatever. So that has led to some unequal wages amongst people.

Mr. Doer: I appreciate that the consultative process is necessary in proceeding to any stage of this very important area. I just ask the Minister to—in his six months now on the job and with the experience he has had looking at the situation in the workplace across Manitoba, and given the fact that women's wages are still in the below 70 percent range, does the Minister now feel that pay equity in the private sector should be developed by his Government, implemented in a legislated way, notwithstanding the way in which it is approached?

Mr. Connery: Well, the Premier of the province said publicly that he would not legislate pay equity into the private sector. Having said that, I met just this morning with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss pay equity along with affirmative action in the private sector. They are also going to do some models because we believe that once people see, and it is the fear of the unknown and it is the fear of something that they do not know and what is the cost going to be.

I believe that when a lot of people see that it is not a significant cost, it is not the big thing that is going to do, but it is going to bring some women in the workplace to the realization of income that they should have that that will change. I think we will see a voluntary program that we want to work with whatever groups to develop it, to encourage it, because it is in the private sector that most of the jobs are available. We are looking at 500,000 jobs compared to 18,000 in the Civil Service. As you know, the intake of people into the Civil Service is so low that even if all of the new outside recruits, positions were given to the affirmative action people we still would not significantly change the numbers in a hurry. So it is in the private sector, in the Crown corps and in the other external agencies that we will see the opportunity for affirmative action, but the pay equity sector we are working with the Governments and we are working with the other groups, with them, discussing it so that they will come back to us. We want to take a look in the private sectors, what sort of models for pay equity to ensure that it is a model that will work before we go into it and then find out we have made some mistakes and then get real animosity towards it. We want to ensure that it moves and it moves smoothly.

Mr. Doer: How long will the Government utilize the voluntary methodology if it fails to change, and in fact if things go backwards in the next year, will it contemplate changing their way of delivering pay equity from a voluntary to a Legislative format in the private sector?

Mr. Connery: The Member said if it was going backwards. How do you mean going backwards?

Mr. Doer: If it stays the same—

Mr. Connery: The percentages of what women earn compared to men? I am not sure you have read the arguments made by different groups that women do not make as high a percentage as the men. Some opt for certain jobs because they are going to raise a family so they do not try to get into the higher paid jobs. That has some reflection. This could be true. I have not had an opportunity to study these arguments. After the House Session we will have more time to have a stronger look at some of these arguments and have our departments do some backup work on it, yes.

Mr. Doer: Does that mean that the Minister does not believe that some of the pay discrepancy is based on occupational gender-based classification in our society?

Mr. Connery: I think there are possibilities there where in fact there is fact.

Mr. Doer: If there is fact and if, after a year, the voluntary system is not able to succeed, would the Minister be looking at dealing with that fact of the gender-based classification reality in the private sector and the public sector that has been addressed to some degree by pay equity, would he be willing to look at that experience in a year, which would be 18 months since their mandate in terms of moving the way indeed their colleagues did in Nova Scotia, albeit they did it the day before the election was called, but moving into the private sector with the Conservative Government in Nova Scotia?

Mr. Connery: I think we will continue to look at all departments along this line, to say in a year, six months or two years, we will be monitoring, viewing. Your previous Government, your Party, will be quite surprised with some of the things that we will be coming forward with. We are a proactive labour group that sincerely believes in promoting the worker, not worrying too much about the labour union or the employer per se, but the worker, who is our main concern. If we see that there are inequities in the workplace, we will continue to work. Who knows, I cannot say today what we are going to do exactly a year from now. We will be observing it. When we see that there is a need for a change, then we will be bringing forth proposals.

* (2140)

Mr. Doer: I have the words "review, consult, monitor," a lot of fairly indecisive words, nice political words but very indecisive words from the Minister.

For the women making 68 percent of salaries of men and for the women who are making that on the basis of gender-based classifications, not work of value in terms of classifications, what real hope can this Minister hold out in terms of his Government for those people besides just the politically correct words that do not mean anything in terms of action, in terms of the bottom line?

Mr. Connery: The Member says that we only review, only discuss, only, only, only, which in this particular

case we are reviewing. But as he knows in the minimum wage, the construction wages and so forth, we did not review and discuss. Yes, we reviewed and then we came in and came through with the recommendations to increase those wages. Those are facts.

As a Government we do review where it is necessary and then we make the decisions. Of course, the Member knows that we are making decisions on a continuous basis and consulting on a continuous basis.

We feel that the consultations we are doing in pay equity at this point will reap more benefit in the long run than having ploughed ahead before having observed what we had already done. I think that is what the previous Government was doing, ploughing ahead. I think they maybe would have been sorry if the models were not right and some real problems arose. Politically it was an excellent decision to make, but in the realities of making it work I have some reservations. In fact I think it was an error.

Mr. Doer: So you think the existing pay equity program is an error?

Mr. Connelly: No, the existing one was not an error, but there are some glitches and there are some minor problems that we are reviewing. Before we move ahead into new waters, we want to do some consulting and reviewing to ensure that the next step that we embark on, and I am saying the next step, we want to ensure that it is properly conceived and the models are there to make it work well.

Mr. Doer: What is the next step and when can we expect it then?

Mr. Connelly: As soon as we have finalized it, you will be the first to know.

Mr. Doer: If I was to go and speak to the women who are making 68 percent of men, based on classification tomorrow, I can give them no hope from this Minister after all the wheat and the shaft are separated?

Mr. Connelly: We want a model that will work in these various classifications. The previous Government did not study what had happened, were not taking the time to study the models that they had in place in the sectors, and were moving ahead in my estimation before they had done this study. The dangers were that they would have had some very inappropriate models possibly and caused more problems for the cause of pay equity, and really employment equity. I look upon it in the work force as not just pay equity but employment equity for all people. Besides just women, women of visible minorities, women with handicaps, and men with the same target groups.

Mr. Doer: So what was such a major problem in the models that the Minister has reviewed over the last six months that would not lead him to move from the positive experience. You said there were a few minor "glitches" that would not allow him to move with that experience into the private sector?

Mr. Connelly: It is the model that needs redefining, having the male comparability in various sectors that

we are going to go into. As you know it is compared against male dominated jobs so, depending on the mix and so forth, that there are some concerns. We are doing this and I can give the Members opposite, each Party, we do not know how many we have of what we are mailing out. You have got that already. So you are very aware that we are really serious about consulting. We are not being facetious. We think it is a well-done model. In fact, Roberta has done an excellent job so that was one of the—

An Honourable Member: Roberta is not the one I am worried about. I am worried about the Government.

Mr. Connelly: You are worried about the Government. That is one of the few good things that your Government did. You brought in a good member for the director for pay equity. I am complimenting this particular individual who is at this table today. We have a lot of good employees. In fact most employees are good.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairperson, a minute ago we heard the Minister say that the Labour Education Centre was doing such a good job. That is essentially not the point. They cut the funding. It is the same thing with regard to pay equity. The previous NDP Government budgeted \$649,800 this year, the same budget. The current amount is—and the Minister can correct me if I am wrong—\$315,500.00. Now where is the commitment in that? Where is the commitment to pay equity in school divisions, in municipalities, the next sectors to be brought under pay equity according to the plan that was adopted?

I will get into probably the most important one in a couple of minutes when I hear the Minister's answers on those questions in regards to the private sector, but where is this commitment that the Minister keeps talking about?

Mr. Connelly: Well, as the Member should know, we had we carried on and had they carried on, if they had still been in Government, there would have been an overlap of the finalization of a very large segment which was 23 health units and so forth. Because we put it on hold to review it, that portion was cleaned up. There would have been a need for a lot of extra staff because it would have been finalizing one section that had been the legislation and at the same time bringing in new. So you would have been doing two sectors at one time which would have required a lot of extra money in staff, mainly staff, but because we put on hold to review and we are doing the review as these other ones are being finalized. Now the clean-up of those sectors will be finished and the staff will be free then to implement the next step without having to have gone for additional resources.

Mr. Ashton: The previous Government increased the allotment not just for salaries but for other expenses. Salaries have been increased by over \$100,000; Other Expenditures by \$160,000; and now this Minister is saying that he has put it on hold, that explains the cutback. Once again, whether the Minister justifies the cutback leading to putting the program on hold or the putting on hold leading to the cutback, it is six of one

and half a dozen of another. This Government has slowed down the process of implementation of pay equity.

So I ask the Minister once again, where do all those words that he has put on the record come into play? I mean how are they worth anything more than the words he said about the Labour Education Centre where he went and he cut the funding down to zero?

Mr. Connery: It does not sink in I guess to the Honourable Member for Thompson having never been in the business side or understanding or working with large amounts of money that when you duplicate your work, you double your cost, and that duplication would have been only for a very brief time because those others would have been finished—this way, and it was not done to save money, but it was done to ensure that the program we had an opportunity to review. At the same time that allowed the first segment that was legislated to be cleaned up and to be reviewed and, because it was done in that fashion, it did not require the duplication of employees.

* (2150)

Mr. Ashton: I do not know if I should even comment on the Minister's comments. He has made those types of comments before. I do not really think that one has to have been a big businessman to be a Member of the Legislature in this province. I think that we all bring one basic thing in here and it is common sense and that is what I am talking about here.

The Minister is saying about this great commitment this Government has to pay equity and yet he has put it on hold, using his own words. It has been put on hold. We have seen, despite the fact that the current phase of pay equity has been completed—it was completed just a few short weeks ago according to schedule that there has been no commitment on the part of the Government to the next stages and very important stages, school divisions, for example, where are 19,600 odd employees. How about municipalities where there are close to 13,700 employees and probably the most important, Mr. Chairperson, the private sector?

The Minister can talk all he wants about knowing the business sector and what not. Does the Minister not know that 336,000 women, 76 percent of women, are employed in the private sector? They want some indication of where this Government is going to proceed. There was a commitment made by the previous NDP Government to bring in pay equity in the private sector during the normal course of the Government and I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that it would have been brought in probably this year or next year as part of the normal four-year term of the Government had it not been for the mid-term defeat. I am asking the Minister to put aside some of his personal attacks and deal with the issues. Where is the commitment of this Government?

Mr. Connery: The Member should know that Assiniboine South School Division decided to voluntarily implement pay equity, and our department is working

with them to help them. They are finding some real difficulties because of the low numbers of males to compare with. They are having a difficult time finding a model. We believe this is something that was valuable to go into it before we said "yes" to all the school divisions, that we would take a look at a couple and find out where the real problems are so that we can help them all in a row.

If we get a whole bunch of school divisions trying to implement pay equity and having a real difficult time, I do not think we would have done anybody any good. This way we are going to have the opportunity of this experience to then come up with a model that will assist us in implementing pay equity in the schools. But I can assure you that in our consultation, and I do not know if the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) has a list, but we sent these out to many, many groups, such as the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, School Superintendents, the School Business Officials, the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, other schools. We are looking at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Manitoba Food and Commercial Workers, MGEA, Manitoba Teachers' Society, Seven Oaks School Division. I do not see the Chamber of Commerce in here.—(Interjection)—Oh, I see, these are the school divisions.

Then we are looking at the municipalities, which is another large group, and if you look through them, there are a very, very large number of them. If you look at the women's community, key parties, we have gone to over 20 organizations there, I am told, to consult with them. We are looking at the human resources, which is the Canadian Public Personnel Management Association and the Human Resource Management.

In the private sector, we are looking at the umbrella groups: the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; the Canadian Manufacturers Association; the Chambers of Commerce, Manitoba; Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce; Canadian Labour Congress; Confederation of Canadian Unions; Manitoba Federation of Labour. We could go on and on and on—the Manitoba Dairy Association, the Manitoba Feed Industry, the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association.

So the Member can see that in our effort to consult we have not been selective but we have gone to all of the groups, so that we do not want to start with one group and then when it is completed, start slowly with another. We want to look at all of the concerns that we have and address them. This is a responsible Government. I think this is the proper way to go to ensure that the next step we take is going to be properly conceived.

This is what I would call a pilot on these, to have a look at them. We are going to ask some businesses to do a dry run, not that it would be implemented, but do a dry run on pay equity to see how it would affect them. We have got to do it among different sectors of the business community because every sector could have some different experiences by the number of men in the work force, the value of those male jobs, and that impacts on the pay equity for women.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister is suggesting that the difficulty with school divisions is related to the

significant number of female employees, the lack of comparative job classes. Is he not aware of the fact, for example, that in terms of hospitals, the numbers of employees eligible for wage adjustments, which means the number of employees in female-dominated classifications, by and large women but not necessarily strictly so, that the figure was 85 percent? So how, first of all, can we proceed in hospitals, which we are doing, but not proceed in school divisions?

Also, does the Minister not understand the concern that has been raised in the Legislature about proceeding in this ad hoc way in the sense that it creates more confusion than it does create order? I mean up to this point the Minister even himself admitted, despite the complaints of the Conservative Opposition, I might add, which I have heard ever since we have introduced pay equity in this province, that it has been working well. In fact, all the Minister could refer to, in response to the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer), was to minor glitches. It has been working up to this point in time, because it has been programmed, it has been comprehensive and because it has been organized.

My question is why now has this Minister moved away from this approach? Why is he now talking about trial runs in the Assiniboine School Division? Why has he put on hold—using his own words—the next stages of implementation? Why, in particular, has he made no commitment whatsoever for the private sector?

Now it is fine to talk about consultation. The Minister talks about this letter and the various groups that are here. He already has the stand of many of these groups on the record in favour of pay equity, particularly moving it into the private sector. I guess what I really ask is the bottom line, what is the commitment of this Government? It has already said "no" to pay equity in the private sector unless it is on a voluntary basis. We all know it is on a voluntary basis now. There is no pay equity to speak of in the private sector as a whole. There may be individual companies. I am sure there must be a few. In fact, I know there are a few that are voluntarily brought in, but the voluntary system just is not working. Neither has it worked in the public sector itself. It took the Government, the NDP Government, to take a leadership role on this. I might add, leading the country and many other jurisdictions are now following us in our example, to say the voluntary approach has not worked, that women deserve, as a right, pay equity, and we have to proceed in an orderly way.

So why is this Minister now reversing that? Why is he not looking at the experience of the pay equity? Why is he now, to use his own words, putting things on hold, putting pay equity on hold, those are his exact words. Why is he not proceeding in an orderly manner to implement it next in school divisions, next in municipalities and then in the private sector?

Mr. Connery: Let us be sure that we put it on the record that when the Bill was passed to implement pay equity, it was supported by the then only Liberal in the House, the Member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) and all of the Conservatives unanimously supported

the implementation of pay equity. I think the Member should know that the legislation really was constructed and developed for the public sector. There have been some problems in the public sector. For it to work in the private sector, we think we will have to maybe develop different models. That is why the consultation process is to go out to them and talk with them. We think this is the appropriate way. We will bring it in when people realize that, yes, they can be implemented properly and sensibly. There is not going to be a backlash. As you know, there was some opposition to it from certain sectors in the public sector. If we do the models and it is shown to work effectively and clearly and not to be out of sight as far as money goes, then it will be welcomed when the legislation comes in.

Mr. Chairman: I see we are running out of time. Is it the will of the committee to pass this item this evening?

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Chairperson, I also have a continued series of questions. If the Minister wishes to suggest that the Conservative Party has been fully in support of pay equity, I suggest you read the comments of the previous Conservative Labour critic. I can read them back to him. He sat in caucus with that Member. I think the position of the Conservative Party was quite clear. It certainly was not the kind of support the Minister is suggesting.

But I want to ask specifically, in terms of the private sector, because as I said that is where the greatest inequity exists, first of all, in terms of numbers. In fact, 76 percent of women in the labour force work in the private sector. But also not only in terms of the number of women, but also in terms of the wage gap. I believe the figure in the public sector is that women make approximately 81 percent of the wages that men earn upon average. The Minister can correct me if there is an updated figure on it. But in the private sector the figure is closer to the 60 percent, it is in the 60 percent range. So there is a far greater inequity that exists in the private sector. If the Minister has further information on that to update us in that regard, I would be very interested hearing that when we next resume the sitting of the committee.

Mr. Connery: It should be known that the previous Government realized themselves that they could not do everything at one time, because they know, they brought in legislation to cover a certain portion of the public sector. The Civil Service was first and then came the 23 large health care units and the universities. So they realized that it had to be implemented in a staged fashion. The only difference between them and us is that they were going to carry on before they had an opportunity to review what had been implemented and there was not time.

As you can see, we are doing models in the private sector. We are doing models in the public sector. We think when we move in the next stage that we will have a much more reasoned and much better piece of legislation to work with. It will move much more smoothly.

* (2200)

Mr. Chairman: The hour being ten o'clock, committee rise.

SUPPLY—ATTORNEY-GENERAL

* (2000)

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: Order, please. I call the committee to order again. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of the Attorney-General. I believe when last we left, the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) was finishing up his question.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Yes, Mr. Chairman, I had spoken briefly and the Minister was going to get back to me on the question of additional judges being put in place in the Dauphin area, which may serve in Swan River or in Pelican Rapids. I am wondering if the Minister has that information now.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Yes, the matter is presently under review by the department. I had discussions with the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for courts just after the House adjourned for the dinner break and I am advised that the matter is under discussion in that branch of the department. To say more at this point would not be very useful but the matter is being reviewed.

Mr. Harapiak: At the same meetings there were questions from the Native people to see if there could be a bit more involvement from the elders of the community when they are dealing with the sentencing and to be dealing in cooperation with the judge who is holding the hearings. I am wondering if there is any active consideration being given for having some involvement with the elders from the communities in the judicial system at all.

Mr. McCrae: I think Governments, certainly the Government of Manitoba, the present one, is becoming more and more aware of the positive input that Native elders have in terms of discussions about corrections policy and sentencing and so on, and I think the public inquiry into the administration of justice and aboriginal people will undoubtedly have something to say which may very well echo some of the things I have been hearing from some of those very Native leaders that the Honourable Member and I are discussing.

I think the Government today is listening and perhaps the previous Government had been listening more than ever before in the history of Native justice in the Province of Manitoba. I think that is a positive sign and I can tell you that I certainly have an open mind when it comes to Native justice issues, open enough to accommodate the public inquiry into Native justice issues. We will be very interested in the report that the judges make to us. In the meantime, other discussions are ongoing.

* (2005)

Mr. Harapiak: I am pleased that the Attorney-General has an open mind to it because that is a topic that

you hear quite often in the Native community because there is a lack of respect for the judicial system and I think if there could be more involvement with the elders then I think there would be more respect in the community to the sentences being handed out.

Just one of the areas that I would like to raise that has already been raised previously, and that is in the area of crime prevention in The Pas. The committee that was previously operating under Sergeant Garry Williams. It was very popular at that time and it was new in the community. There was a lot of public interest because previous to that there had been no involvement with the public. They worked on several very worthwhile projects, including Safe Grad, Neighbourhood Watch.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Edward Helwer, in the Chair.)

There is also a program put in place for dealing with children in low-income housing units, youth justice. There was a committee dealing with all those issues and there was a lot of public interest at that time. Since that time I think the people who first volunteered are quite often the more enthusiastic people and I think they are probably getting burnt out. There was involvement from the school boards and appointment from the community council, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and the The Pas Ministerial Association Recreation Committee.

There was a lot of involvement in the community and there was an awful lot of interest. Since that time there has been a change in a transfer of the staff sergeant who was previously started up the committee. He was a full-time person at that time. I guess there has been some new prioritization of needs in the community so there is not a full-time person on that committee anymore. I just want to ask the Attorney-General if they are still committed to try and assist the crime prevention committee working in The Pas area?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, we are interested in crime prevention in every corner of the province. This matter was raised earlier by the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) and I am not sure if I heard the question put by the Honourable Member for The Pas whether Sergeant Garry Williams is a member of the town detachment or the rural side at The Pas. (Interjection) The Honourable Member tells me, Mr. Acting Chairman, that Sergeant Williams was with the town detachment.

The Honourable Member, as well as the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), should be aware, if they are not already, that the town policing is a matter of contract between the municipality involved and the RCMP. We would be happy to raise this matter with the RCMP from their point of view. When it comes to the municipal arrangements the municipalities can have whatever they are prepared to pay for. In terms of the provincial contracts for the rural contract, that is a different matter, but if we are talking about a town detachment those questions would equally as well be put to the town councillors and the representatives at the municipal level, because that is with whom the contract for policing in the town is made.

Mr. Harapiak: I recognize that is a municipal responsibility but we also recognize that crime rates and high break-in rates in the community are not being carried out by people from the town itself. The police budgets in that community are much higher than any other communities. I think if you compare it with Swan River, although Swan River is two-thirds the population of The Pas, their police budget is three times as high. I do not think it is fair that the people from the Town of The Pas or the surrounding community would be saddled with the high police costs in that area. I am wondering if there is any consideration. I know this is a grant that comes under Municipal Affairs but I know the Attorney-General would have input in it. Is there any consideration of increasing the \$100,000 grant to a higher level than it is at this time?

* (2010)

Mr. McCrae: We have been having very interesting and, I must say, wide-ranging discussions with these Estimates. We really are not at the line in the Estimates dealing with the RCMP contracts. My assistant, regarding that, is sitting up in the gallery, which is a little too far away to get the message through.

The Honourable Member talks about a \$100,000 grant. I think, if he might remember to raise that issue when we do get to the RCMP matter, it might very well yield in more fruitful discussion. In any event, I can tell the Honourable Member that this is something that we will be raising with Assistant Superintendent Henry, I believe very soon, as early as tomorrow, this and a number of other issues.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(c) Research, Planning and Evaluation: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(d) Financial and Administrative Services: (1) Salaries \$711,500; (2) Other Expenditures \$129,200; for a total of \$840,700—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): If I am not mistaken we are on 1.(e) now? -(Interjection)- 1.(d). I only have one question. There is an increase in these two, when you combine the Salaries and Other Expenditures, of approximately \$170,000 by my calculation. Can the Attorney-General explain what the increase is accounted for?

Mr. McCrae: I think the Honourable Member is looking at the bottom line figure. If I take him up to under Salaries, Administrative Support, there is a figure that increases from '87-88 to this year from \$398,500 to \$453,000.00. Does the Honourable Member follow where I am at?

I think that might be the main component for any significant increases. I am advised that this increase includes pay equity adjustments and \$22,000 for severance pay for one employee. I think if that is the figure the Honourable Member—I think that is where I see the most dramatic increase. That may reflect the increase at the bottom line as well. Is that what the Honourable Member is getting at?

Mr. Edwards: Pay equity. Mostly pay equity.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(d)(1)—pass; 1.(d)(2)—pass.

1.(e) Personnel Services: (1) Salaries \$379,400; (2) Other Expenditures \$35,700—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: I wonder if the Attorney-General could indicate to the House how many chairpersons he has appointed to various boards during his term thus far.

* (2015)

Mr. McCrae: I apologize to the Honourable Member for the delay. The count that we have is that we have named five chairmen.

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General indicates five chairmen. Am I correct in saying that none of the chairpersons appointed were female?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member is correct. In the case of all of those boards though, I cannot tell the Honourable Member the case in each and every one of them but I believe that in some of them the vice-chairs are women. The Law Reform Commission, of course, the intention was to bring the Law Reform Commission in as it left and there was only one vacancy made available by one person leaving the province and that vacancy was filled by a woman by the name of Pearl McGonigal.

Mr. Edwards: How many of the chairpersons were Native?

Mr. McCrae: None.

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General has mentioned, and again I think it goes back to his June 9, 1988 press release, that there would be new training for magistrates and justices of the peace, and in the House recently we discussed that and I think there was a particular concern that I had that this Attorney-General had in fact appointed a number of magistrates and justices of the peace. Is Personnel Services, I presume, going to be developing a training program that the Attorney-General has promised for magistrates and justices of the peace, and I would ask him to confirm now that training will be retroactive to those not only who he has appointed but who sit as magistrates and justices of the peace now so that they all may have the benefit of a training program?

Mr. McCrae: Back in June, Mr. Acting Chairman, at the time I announced the Dewar Review, I also announced the training and retraining and seeing that manuals were kept up to date and followed and so on. There is no way that there can be any talk of training of magistrates and justices of the peace without including in the discussion the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba because we must recognize that the judiciary is independent and separate and apart from Government, from the executive branch of Government.

So immediately upon dealing with the Dewar Report and shortly after bringing on the new Chief Judge of the Province of Manitoba and immediately upon bringing in the new—what shall we call him, the reconstituted Deputy Attorney-General—in any event, immediately upon bringing Mr. Pilkey in, the emphasis was replaced, if I can use that expression. In other words the announcement was made first in June and I know that Mr. Toew's committee, the committee regarding The Summary Convictions Act, they have gone to work but I also know that immediately upon bringing Mr. Pilkey on board, the follow-up to the training and the manual matter was taken into account and I have had discussions with the Chief Judge Stefanson as well.

So it is not something I can do all by myself. I could not do it without the full cooperation of the Provincial Court and I have been assured of that support and cooperation.

Mr. Edwards: I wonder if the Attorney-General could give us a status, a report on the Affirmative Action Program as it applies to his department and the actual numbers of females and visible minorities that his department has been successful in placing and in particular I look for success in management levels within the department.

* (2020)

Mr. McCrae: I am advised that the less senior levels, we can report good progress, but in terms of specific figures, etc., we can get those for the Honourable Member.

To identify or recognize a commitment, one has to examine the actions of a department. I think if you look at the higher levels, you will see some changes in recent months. Certainly, I cannot take the credit for it, but the Legislative Counsel for this province is a female person brought in by the previous Government. The Registrar General of the Land Titles Office, the Land Titles for Manitoba, is a woman, very well-known, and with very much credited capabilities. We are very pleased that our Registrar General should be for the first time in history in this province a female person. The relationship that the Land Titles Office has with its new Registrar General, I understand is very positive. Certainly, it is positive between my office and the Land Titles Office.

I think when we can show that at senior levels we are making some progress in a short space of time, then we are headed in the right direction. I can point again to a number of the boards that we have appointed which have not been very many despite comments about Black Friday and so on. There have not been very many board changes in my department to this point. The Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) wants to get going similar to the discussion we had this afternoon I guess. He suggests that we certainly have made a lot of appointments. I understand there are something approaching 30 boards and commissions under my authority and I think to have made changes on five of them is not unreasonable at about the seven-month point in an administration.

I have not got all of the details, but I can tell the Honourable Member that if he checks each of the appointments made by this Government since coming into office that we have maintained a significant commitment to women in our society in terms of asking them to take part in the public administration of the province's affairs. We have taken due regard of Native people, of visible minorities and handicapped persons in terms of our appointments process. I think we have also done better, if that is the correct word, than the previous Government has and it is our policy to continue in that way, and to see that all groups in our society are properly represented on boards and commissions which govern the affairs of Manitobans.

I can point with pride as well to the Independent Law Reform Commission and thank Ms. McGonigal for agreeing to be part of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission. We, in this Party at least, see that as a very important commission in terms of the reform of our laws in this province. So I disagree with the Honourable Member when he suggests that there have been a lot of appointments, a lot of boards changed. That is just not true when taken as a percentage of my responsibilities. Certainly, we are doing the best we can and we strive as much as possible to see that all groups are properly represented on boards and commissions.

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): Mr. Acting Chairman, just a question on the area of Personnel Services to the Attorney-General. One of his officers in the Court of Queen's Bench was charged earlier this year. His functions were in the area of Small Claims Court. Can the Minister indicate what has been the disposition and what has the department done? Has the charge been disposed of and on what basis in handling this matter internally has the department acted?

* (2025)

Mr. McCrae: I understand an employee of the department was the subject of a charge. The employee involved has undergone significant rehabilitation counselling and programming. The charge has been stayed.

Mr. Uruski: Is the employee back performing his earlier duties?

Mr. McCrae: Yes.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(e) Personnel Services: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

(f) Computer Services: (1) Salaries \$593,700; (2) Other Expenditures \$396,800—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General has mentioned repeatedly, with some derision, that he estimates it will cost \$12.5 million, I believe he said, to put titles on the computer at the Land Titles Office. He says he does not say he did not say that. Perhaps he will clarify that in his answer what he was talking about, \$12.5 million.

Perhaps he could give this House some background information and some support for what his department has cost for putting the titles in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, which by my information are about 500,000, on to the computer so that the data base is complete, somewhat like they did in Toronto, in Alberta, but a decision which was not taken here in Manitoba. What are the figures that the department came up with to computerize, get the data on the computer? What support does the Attorney-General have for the actual figures?

Mr. McCrae: I would ask the Honourable Member to hold that thought until we get to Land Titles in the Estimates. This page has to do with Computer Services and other areas of the department. The Honourable Member has given me my lead and I should answer the first part about the \$12 million.

That \$12 million was a reference to the Honourable Member's question in the House, that we should spend every penny of profit made by the Land Titles Office in Winnipeg to solve the backlog problem. When you take that \$12 million, that is only for one year. The Honourable Member's suggestion could get pretty expensive over the years.

Mr. Edwards: I note that the Activity Identification of this department is to perform feasibility and cost-benefit analysis for the department. I would ask the Attorney-General to please inform the House what his cost was and what the Land Titles Office, in particular, what their cost was for putting those things on the title. Surely, I am sure they spoke to Toronto and Alberta, provinces that have just done it. They must have some documentation to support what the actual cost was going to be.

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member is correct when he talks about feasibility and cost-benefit analysis respecting the Land Titles Office, so that part of the budget contained on Page 30 of the Supplementary Estimates would be relevant at this point. However, the answers would best come, in terms of the Land Titles share of that cost for feasibility and so on, at the time that we are discussing Land Titles.

The figures on this page do not reflect costs for operating costs and conversion costs at the Land Titles Office, but as far as the feasibility and cost-benefit analyses, the Land Titles share of those costs we could probably get for the Honourable Member when we get to the Land Titles part of the Estimates.

Mr. Edwards: It is obvious the Attorney-General does not have that information at his fingertips. I am sure he would give it to me. Can I just ask, owing to obviously the shortness of time for all of us in the Estimates process, that I have that information, and then I do not have to ask that question again in the Estimates.

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member does not have to ask that question again and he can avoid the pain of getting another answer from me. We will get that information for him.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(f) Computer Services: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(g) Communications: (1) Salaries \$89,200; (2) Other Expenditures \$40,000—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: Could the Attorney-General indicate how many people are employed in this particular branch?

Mr. McCrae: Two.

Mr. Edwards: Again, perhaps I am wrong. I am going from—the Attorney-General forwarded to me some actual expenditures for '87-88 and do note that in the combined Salaries and Other Expenditures there is approximately a \$50,000 difference this year. I wonder if the Attorney-General can explain that or perhaps correct me, show me where I am wrong in working out that figure.

Mr. McCrae: Last year, there was only one communications person and now, with Corrections being part of Attorney-General, the requirement is there for two.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(g) Communications: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

1.(h) Public Inquiry into the Administration of Justice and Aboriginal People: (1) Salaries \$173,600; (2) Other Expenditures \$667,000—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: The New Democratic Party has already canvassed this particular subject with the Attorney-General at some length. I simply want to add a question. I realize, of course, it is within the prerogative of the commissioners to decide whether or not videotaping of the hearings be conducted. Has the Attorney-General explored with the commissioners the necessity for this and taken any concerns to the commissioners that have been clearly expressed by some Native groups and, in particular, I think the Brandon Friendship Centre was one that has made this concern very clear. Has the Attorney-General explored that need with the commissioners at all?

Mr. McCrae: Yes, the commissioners and I, at a meeting in my office, did discuss the matter of videotaping. As far as I can tell, the media have been present at a number of hearings with all their lights and cameras, too, so I do not think anyone who ever thought that the inquiry would not be a matter of some interest was probably, well, was mistaken because it is a double-edged sword because we want people to be interested. We want people to come forward and one way for people to be interested and perhaps be enticed to come forward is to know that it is an important inquiry and that their message will be heard.

The other side of it is that we do not want people to feel intimidated. We do not want them to stay home for fear of cameras and so on but it is a public inquiry and we really cannot recognize it for anything but that, a public inquiry. However, there was talk that perhaps

there might be some necessity for in-camera meetings which means out of the glare of the cameras and we felt that the Order-in-Council setting the commission up was sufficiently broad, and as did the judges. However, to be safe and on the legal side, we took the step of amending the Order-in-Council so that should the judges decide that in-camera meetings would help in terms of bringing out further evidence from various people who might come forward that right should be made available to the judges. I know that, being judges, they use that power judiciously and carefully. But I think that the judges are in the best position to decide about the use of videotaping and, as I understand it, they have opted to videotape for their own purposes I understand to assist them in reviewing what came forward to the inquiry at the time that they are preparing their report. So the matter was canvassed.

Mr. Edwards: Has there been any discussion or any suggestion by the commissioners that they might need the original time allocation for hearings extended?

Mr. McCrae: I think every time we have met we have discussed that matter. No one knows for sure how many people are going to come forward. We know that the interest has been there in spite of some of the things that have been happening, the interest is there. For instance, in a little community called Gods River, I think it was Gods River, 150 people showed up to listen to the proceedings. I was delighted because that was the time when the worst allegations were coming forward in this Chamber about intimidations and those types of comments coming forward and at that very time 150 people were showing up in a small community, so I was delighted with that too.

Mr. Edwards: If there have been discussions, and obviously I am sure that this is taken sort of month by month to see how things are going and how many people want to speak, but obviously it is in the spectre of the future that there may be a need to go beyond the initial hearings which I think are scheduled to go into March '89, is the Attorney-General committed to the commissioners, that should they require further funding in the next fiscal year to continue on some hearings, that that funding will be in place should the commissioners decide they need to have further hearings than are now planned?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member knows by now that I do not usually venture forward in an attempt to answer hypothetical questions. The matter has been discussed at, I believe, every single meeting I have had with the judges. At the last meeting I had with them their target was still the target set in the Order-in-Council which is the end of October 1989. That is the last discussion we had. They did not ask the question the Honourable Member did in the same way, will you allow us to go beyond our deadline? The deadline was set in consultation with the judges; everyone is aiming for that and that is what everyone is doing their best. But no one is going to make any ironclad guarantees, I would not suggest, and to ask for such things would not be responsible either.

Mr. Edwards: Can the Attorney-General indicate—I know that for instance I think Mr. McMahon is working

with the inquiry. How many others are working with the inquiry from the Attorney-General's Department?

* (2040)

Mr. McCrae: No present employees of the Department of Attorney-General are employed by the inquiry.

As I have said in the House before, there are two employees of Northern Affairs. Mr. McMahon, the secretary to the inquiry, is employed by the inquiry. He was an employee of the Department of Attorney-General.

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General has mentioned Mr. McMahon who is now employed by the inquiry as a separate entity, I guess, on a loan basis from the Attorney-General's Department, and two other employees from the Department of Northern Affairs. My calculation brings that to three. Are their salaries included in the salaries, Professional/Technical Administrative Appropriation here? If so, what amount do those three represent?

Mr. McCrae: If you count the two commissioners and you count the two employees from Northern Affairs and Mr. McMahon, that is five. There is a total of nine all together—sorry, a total of 13 all together. The Northern Affairs employees, the people who are taken from Northern Affairs, show up in the Northern Affairs Estimates.

Mr. Edwards: Could the Attorney-General indicate how many employees the commission has which are involved in research, the preparation of research or the doing of research at the behest of the commissioners? Could he also indicate what supplies and services to the extent of \$327,300 it represents, in particular, if that sum represents specific allocation for research?

Mr. McCrae: I will answer the first part first and then ask the Honourable Member to repeat the second part of his question.

The first part is how many researchers. There are six—four working for the administration of the inquiry plus two from Northern Affairs also working for the inquiry. So that is six altogether. It may not come out to six staff years. It might come out to so many four years and so many weeks or something like that because of the nature of the inquiry not starting at the beginning of the fiscal year. That is how many actual people are involved as researchers.

Mr. Edwards: Just to repeat the second part of that question, the Supplies and Services under Other Expenditures being \$327,300, does that include any allocation for further research, should it be required by the commission?

Mr. McCrae: Yes, it does. In the '88-89 fiscal year, \$125,000 is earmarked for external research. For the fiscal year, '89-90, the budget that we are talking about sets aside another \$75,000 for external research.

In addition to the six researchers the Honourable Member and I discussed a few moments ago,

throughout the life of the inquiry we are talking an extra \$200,000 above and beyond the six researchers.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Acting Chairman, there have been continued requests from a number of Native organizations across this province for the funding of research into alternate proposals dealing with the administration of justice in the province. There was to be a meeting, I believe, on the 18th, or a request for a meeting with the Attorney-General and the Premier. Has that meeting been held and has the Attorney-General made any further decisions in this respect, or any reversal of decisions that he has already announced in the House with respect to the funding of Native groups into specific proposals that they could make to the commission dealing with the carrying out of justice within their own communities?

Mr. McCrae: Prior to the supper adjournment, Mr. Acting Chairman, the matter of research done for Native groups in the province was discussed between myself and the Honourable Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper). I will very, very quickly say to the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) just one little correction to his preamble, no final decisions, yes, no or maybe, have been announced by me in this House. If you check the record, I think you will find that I have not made any final determinations about that.

I can tell the Honourable Member that there was a meeting held on November 18 attended by myself, the Premier (Mr. Filmon), the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) and representatives of five or so, six Native groups. I can tell the Honourable Member it was a positive meeting. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland, I think left the Chamber with a smile on his face tonight after we finished the discussion. That is really all I can say to the Honourable Member right now, but it was a very positive meeting on November 18.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Acting Chairman, can the Attorney-General then confirm that he is considering proposals that have been put forward earlier by the Member for Rupertsland and other Native groups requesting funding for research to provide the commission with ideas and proposals into the handling of native justice in this province, that the commission could in fact look at some concrete proposals which would go beyond what the commission presently is doing? That is, hearing individuals' complaints about the justice system as to how they have been treated and some other commentaries that have been made. I, for one, who has been sitting in this House, maybe not every day, have heard questions been raised of the Attorney-General and up to this point my recollection is that he has basically said "no" to any such requests.

Mr. McCrae: I have not basically said anything to the requests in terms of "no" or "yes." I have defended the commitment of this Government which I think is significant to the justice inquiry. I have discussed matters, such as the grant made to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs by my colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), \$325,000, of which any portion of that could be used by the chiefs to finance

research and preparation of presentations to the Native inquiry. I have referred to the \$100,000 grant awarded to the Assembly of Chiefs by the federal Government. I have referred to the research component of the inquiry itself.

I have referred to my wish to preserve and protect the independence of the inquiry and my wish not to be seen to be interfering in the affairs of the inquiry, and my wish not to be seen to be buying from one group as opposed to another group. Perhaps a well-painted story about how the Department of the Attorney-General treats Native people in this province. I have tried to avoid getting into that kind of difficulty. That is why I said the meeting that I had on November 18 with the Native leaders was a positive one in terms of making any commitments or in terms of answering questions about what I am considering. I will tell the Honourable Member that we are going to have another meeting.

* (2050)

Mr. Edwards: Is the Attorney-General committed to the principle of aboriginal self-government?

Mr. McCrae: I should like to have clarification from the Honourable Member as to what it means to him.

Mr. Edwards: I would ask the Attorney-General, is he committed to the principle of aboriginal self-government? I presume that he understands the principle of aboriginal self-government himself and if he does not, I will be happy to give him what I perceive it to be. I would be shocked if he did not have some idea himself, and if he wishes to explain what his idea is and his answer, that is his prerogative.

Mr. McCrae: I do not think the Honourable Member needs to be shocked. I would just like to have him put on the record his Party's position as to what Native self-government is.

Mr. Edwards: I will repeat that it is certainly the Attorney-General's prerogative to limit or define what he perceives aboriginal self-government to be. My question is, is he committed to it in principle, and if so, to what extent? It is very clear, based on the five constitutional conferences which occurred in this nation and in which this province took a role, albeit it was another Party that was in Government, but certainly the Native peoples have been very clear in what they perceive to be their legitimate rights to self-determination in this nation.

I am sure that the Attorney-General is well aware that while there are many facets and many views as to what the details of that entail, there is a fundamental principle that Native peoples in this nation are entitled, as a right, to self-determination. Does the Attorney-General agree with that principle?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member has not put the position that he takes or the position his Party takes as to what a definition of aboriginal self-government is, so it is very hard for me to answer his question in

that kind of vacuum. I will invite him one more time to tell us what he means by his question, what aboriginal self-government means to him, and then I will give him an answer.

Mr. Edwards: Let me be abundantly clear that the Liberal Party does support, always has—we have been on record many times in this House, if the Attorney-General has been listening—the principle of self-determination for aboriginal peoples in this nation.

Is the Attorney-General in agreement with the concept, the principle, of the right of Native peoples in this nation to determine their own future? By that I mean not only with respect, obviously, to aspects of the justice system, but generally a growth in independence in this nation as separate nations. Does he agree with that?

I am sure he is well aware of the many—I know that the Attorney-General seeks desperately to avoid making any commitment on anything. That is his style. I think it is an insult to the Native people in this province if he will not come out and say how he feels about the very clearly-enunciated principles.—(Interjection)—The Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) says I am looking for a scathing attack.

I think he would be well-advised to listen to what I am saying, which is in keeping with what the Native people in this province have been asking for, for some time, which was the substance of five constitutional conferences in this nation. It is a very simple question and I did not ask the Attorney-General to commit himself to any specific details. I asked him to commit himself to the principle of Native self-government.

I will do it again and I would suggest that his attempt to dodge the bullet, as he does, by not putting himself on record for anything, would be an insult to the Native people in this province. Now let him be clear to the Native people of this province how he feels about their legitimate aspirations for self-government.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Honourable Member could not wait to get things rolling here tonight, could he? The Honourable Member speaks of the principle of Native self-determination as some kind of bullet that Attorneys-General across this country are supposed to dodge. I do not take my responsibility quite like that. Really, the Honourable Member has some audacity here tonight to talk in those terms of something that means everything to so many Native Manitobans. Those who do understand what they are talking about, within which group the Honourable Member cannot share a place because he does not enunciate very clearly what he means by self-determination, and this is the trick that Honourable Members on that side like to play and, to some extent also, the previous Government of this province like to play that trick by saying, well, we are for it and we will figure out what it is some other time that we are for.

I have a little problem with that kind of thinking and I think that is why we are on this side of the House and the Honourable Member is on that side and the New Democratic Party are over on the other side of the House as well.

I mean, it is a pretty irresponsible way to proceed, to grab some concept and, without a full understanding of what it is you are talking about, and then say, I am for it, and what about you? If you are not, you are just one terrible sort of fellow to have for an Attorney-General in this province. I do not subscribe to that kind of fluff that we are getting from the Honourable Member when it comes to the very important principles and very important matters for the future of Native Manitobans and for all Canadians.

Now that being said, the Honourable Member still has not given me much of a definition of aboriginal self-determination. I see his colleague, the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), with a very, very concerned look on her face and I know that she is very worried about the questions that her colleague from St. James is asking tonight, and the definitions that he would deign to put on the record about aboriginal self-government.

I make that observation, Mr. Acting Chairman, because I know Honourable Members in his caucus have not made up their minds what Native self-Government is. I happen to know that they will not commit themselves any further than they have, other than to ask questions about it because they do not know what they are committing themselves to, and that is probably the most responsible thing they have done this whole Session, and that is not to commit themselves to something that they do not know anything about, and the Honourable Member certainly does not know what he is talking about when he talks about aboriginal self-determination.

Now that being said, the Honourable Member wants to talk about this as a bullet. I do not see it as a bullet, I see it as part of a nation-building exercise and a discussion that is ongoing, but the Honourable Member seems to think it is all there in a nice neat little nut and needs only to be cracked open and there it is. Well, it is not quite like that, but I can say that as Attorney-General of this province, I have been supportive of Native thrusts that I have seen and we continue to be supportive of them.

I have had meetings with Native leaders and people involved in Native programs, all of which tend to point in the direction of more Native self-determination. So to that extent, and to the point where we are in our history, yes, I can say that to that extent I am very much working toward more self-determination for Native peoples who are helping themselves in terms of programs that they need. They are delivering the programs to themselves and to the people in their communities who need those programs. So, on that basis, I think I can give a positive response.

When I say that I would not want that response to be confused with some airy fairy, pie in the sky, Alice in Wonderland definition that the Honourable Member for St. James has of aboriginal self-determination. He clearly does not know what he is talking about and asks me to accept the words without knowing what the meaning is and this debate will go on for some time. The Honourable Member seems to think the debate should be over now, either you are for it or against it and if you are not you should not be in

Government, or whatever it is, but he certainly does not have a clue what he is talking about when he is talking about aboriginal self-determination and I wonder if he has ever even had a meeting with a Native group.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Acting Chairman, does the Attorney-General support the holding of further constitutional conferences between all First Ministers in this nation with respect to aboriginal self-Government and, if so, has he communicated that support for further constitutional conferences to his federal counterparts?

Mr. McCrae: The one thing I found out in this country, Mr. Acting Chairman, nothing ever gets done unless you talk about it first, unless you talk about it for a good long time, so the answer is yes.

Mr. Edwards: Is the answer yes to both? Does he support further conferences and he has communicated it to his federal counterparts, or just the first of those questions?

* (2100)

Mr. McCrae: The question of discussions at the federal and provincial level, to this point, I have not attended any federal-provincial First Ministers' Conferences. I have attended Conferences of Ministers of Justice—well, one conference—and the Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Rights.

These matters would have come up at those meetings but in terms of the leadership of the Government of this province, that is left to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) of our province. He has frequent discussions with federal officials, notably the Prime Minister, about a number of matters of concern to Manitobans, so that question might better come up when we are discussing the Estimates of the Executive Council.

Mr. Edwards: Given that we have a new national Government in this country and we no doubt will have a new Minister responsible for Native Affairs, would the Attorney-General—and he says he has not been to conferences where these have been discussed—would he undertake to bring this matter up, to speak to the Premier (Mr. Filmon) to have this matter brought up, given the very great concern amongst Native groups in this nation that there will be no further constitutional follow-up to the five conferences, of course, which have failed to come up with a concrete proposal plan between Natives and the various Governments in this country? Would he undertake to make that support for further conferences now?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member a little while ago talked about aboriginal self-determination and now he says there is no concrete proposal for the future. Maybe he should give us a concrete proposal and then maybe we can decide whether his proposal has any merit and whether it should be brought forward.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Acting Chairman, I want to thank the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) for indicating that he is prepared to consider requests made by the Native

communities for research into alternative justice proposals and that I will be so advising them, giving that he has indicated to me that he has not acted, he certainly has not turned any proposals down and I am very pleased with that.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Shall item 1.(h) pass?

Mr. McCrae: I would not like the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) to put too many words in my mouth. I must say that I am quite capable of discussing these matters with those people who we have been meeting with all by myself. I do not think I need the Honourable Member's help as to telling them exactly what I will consider and will not consider. What I said to the Honourable Member a little while ago stands. We have had one good meeting and I think our next meeting should be equally as positive. That is what I said and that is what I stand by.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Attorney-General as well did say that he certainly is not one who has given his responsibilities in this area, has turned down any requests, as I had certainly taken from his earlier comments in this Assembly, and I am very pleased that he is now prepared to consider those requests.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 1.(h) Public Inquiry into the Administration of Justice and Aboriginal People: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

2. Criminal Justice (a) Administration and Special Programs: (1) Salaries \$187,400; (2) Other Expenditures \$275,500—the Honourable Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: Can the Attorney-General indicate when we might expect to have his decision on the future of the Victim Impact Statement Project?

Mr. McCrae: The experiment, if you like, the pilot project in Manitoba is complete. Before going forward or making decisions about the future of the program we need to hear from North Battleford, Victoria and Calgary as to the success or otherwise of the programs undertaken in those communities, because the Victim Impact Statement has had different dimensions to it in the four centres—Winnipeg, North Battleford, Victoria and Calgary—and so when all the data from all four pilots is brought together and evaluated, then we will know better; and as far as exactly when, the sooner the better but I do not have a date for the Honourable Member.

Mr. Edwards: That is the first time I have heard that there differences between various programs and I suspect there might be quite a reasonable explanation. Perhaps the Attorney-General could indicate what the differences are between the various projects and indicate when he expects those projects to be—the assessments to be completed for them?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member asked somewhat specific type of question about the four aspects of the

pilot and so it took a moment to get that information together. In Calgary letters go out to victims, letters only, and in Calgary apparently are getting something like a 10 percent response. In North Battleford an RCMP member and the Victim Impact Statement worker go personally to do interviews. In Victoria the work is done by the Victoria City Police and in Winnipeg the Impact Statement worker goes out and collects information.

Nobody knows that that process has been undertaken until after the guilty please. So I think these differences and others I assume in the way the programs are being done in the various centres all have to be evaluated at the same time so that a program can be put together that will be properly coordinated and comparisons can be made with the various ways of delivering the service to find out which is the best, which is the most cost efficient and which delivers the best result for the victims involved.

Mr. Edwards: Our project, of course, in Manitoba has run its course and an assessment has been done, it has been forwarded to the Attorney-General. Does the Attorney-General know if that is the case with the other three projects and if it is not the case, when their assessments will be completed so that an evaluation of the four could be done.

Mr. McCrae: We have not received reports from the other three communities. The fact is this being a federal-provincial type of thrust, the reports of the four centres go to Ottawa first and we get the information from Ottawa. That has not happened yet so and I cannot give the Honourable Member an exact date on when we will hear from Ottawa.

Mr. Edwards: I would simply ask the Attorney-General to advise me when he learns that the projects are all in Ottawa; and I would also ask, has he contacted Ottawa to find out when they might be done? I realize that it is a federally sponsored, in part, program but there are many in this province who have taken a great interest in our project here, our program, and are feeling frustrated that the Attorney-General has had the assessment report, yet no decisions seem to have been made as to the future of the program. Will the Attorney-General undertake to contact the people in Ottawa and ask when that project might be able to be evaluated in full, given the four centres that it has been tried in?

* (2110)

Mr. McCrae: I think the most frustrated person is the Honourable Member for St. James, Mr. Acting Chairman. I think anybody who is interested in seeing a successful victim impact statement program in operation in our province wants to see that it is done properly and carried out properly. The Honourable Member, by his questions, seems to imply that it does not really matter what kind of program you have got as long as you have one and let us get on with it, but it really should not be done that way. I think if the Honourable Member thinks about it and reflects a little bit, he will know that the right way to do it is the deliberate way, the way that comes up with the right answers, the way that designs the best program.

We will do our best to cooperate with the Honourable Member on the progress of this matter. Yes, we are very much interested in victims and victim impact statements and victim services. Yes, our Party is the Party that has had the most to say about this up until now, and our Party will continue to be the leader in victim services and to continue to be the leader in crime prevention.

I appreciate the Honourable Member's questions, but I will not be rushed by the Honourable Member to the point where mistakes are made or where programs are half-baked before they are put together. They should be fully baked, properly put together, having in mind the needs of victims and having in mind the importance of crime prevention in our province. Those things have to be done properly.

I am here as Attorney-General to try to see that they are done properly. I am well advised by the Assistant Deputy Attorney-General for Criminal Justice. I will heed his advice and work with him and the department to ensure that the best possible programs are made available to the people of Manitoba.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 2.(a) Administration and Special Programs: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(b) Crown Prosecutors: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(c) Fatality Inquiries Act: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 2.(d) Board of Review: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3. Legal Services (a) Administration and Special Programs: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

3.(b) Civil Legal Services: (1) Salaries; (2) Other Expenditures—the Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: Just a very brief question. Is it true that the department will not be publishing indexes to any of the re-enacted statutes of Manitoba?

Mr. McCrae: I am advised that this matter would be a Queen's Printer cost and that the matter is being looked at. There are costs involved.

Mr. Edwards: I do not mean to delay this. It is a Queen's Printer cost to print it. It would be my assumption that this Administration and Special Programs, under this appropriation, would probably be responsible for drafting the indexes. Are they going to be drafting indexes for the re-enacted statutes?

Mr. McCrae: I understand that is not the present intention.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): Item 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures, pass?

Mr. McCrae: If I may on that, on the last question, the department is working up a computer printout. That is proposed to be available to the public, a computer access to the statutes which allows the public to search the statutes. That is proposed to be available to the public.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 3.(a)(2)—pass; 3.(b) Civil Legal Services: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(c) Legislative Counsel: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(d) Manitoba Law Reform Commission: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(e) Family Law: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 3.(f) Constitutional Law: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 22: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,111,800 for Attorney-General, Legal Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

4. Law Enforcement (a) Provincial Police—pass; (b) Law Enforcement Administration: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(c) Manitoba Police Commission: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(d) Law Enforcement Review Act: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 23: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$34,003,700 for the Attorney-General Law Enforcement for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

5. Court Services (a) Administration: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(b) Courts of Appeal and Queen's Bench: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; (c) Provincial Court: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

5.(d) Court Reporters: (1) Salaries; (2) Other Expenditures—the Member for Interlake.

Mr. Uruski: Just one question in this area.

There was a move to change the procedures dealing with court reporting to use, if I can put for a lack of a better term, mechanical equipment in terms of dealing with court reporting that would save the department some staff years. Is that in fact occurring or has that in fact occurred?

* (2120)

Mr. McCrae: I think the Honourable Member for Interlake was asking a question about court reporters. I was not able to hear the whole question, but I think he asked about the change in the way that court reporters do their work or deliver the service.

The court reporting in Manitoba in the last few years has undergone some somewhat difficult times and changing times. It is true that technology is changing. As a court reporter, I can tell you that a court reporter has to keep his or her head up. I should stress her because there are more and more women in court reporting than before. We have quite an about face in that particular profession. Reporters have to keep up with the changes in technology in this day and age. There has been a move in recent years in this province, unfortunately, by the Honourable Member's Government over the last number of years in a sense to starve the court reporting area of responsibility of courts. When that happens, the Bench and the Bar are not well-served and neither are the litigants.

The previous Government attempted to solve that problem by replacing court reporters with tape recorders. That program has a place in the court reporting system within certain limits. I believe that the previous Government perhaps went a little too far in its zeal to save money by keeping the staffing levels down when the rest of the court system was growing and when the volume of work coming before the courts was also growing. What we are doing right now is continuing to evaluate, but for the moment the court monitor program is in a bit of a holding pattern in an attempt for us to find out if we can in the future carry on with court reporters.

I can tell you, Mr. Acting Chairman, as a court reporter, I think the Bench, the Bar and the public are better served by qualified and highly trained court reporting staff. There are some courts which are less contested than others where it could be argued that a court monitor system might be useful and indeed is to some extent useful in Manitoba. The proper balance between those two methods of delivering services is what we are trying to arrive at.

Unfortunately, and I say this in I think the proper spirit in terms of the Honourable Member, that the previous Government was perhaps moving too quickly in the direction of the court monitor program and finding it easier and easier not to bring on more court reporters into the system, which ultimately resulted in some of the problems we are seeing today and which we are turning our attention to in a very diligent way. That is, we find problems with courts not being covered by court reporters or courts and lawyers and litigants standing in the halls waiting for a court reporter to become available. That is the problem that we now have. We are working very hard with the court reporting staff and with the administration and myself to try to solve that problem.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 5.(d) Court Reporters: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(e) Sheriffs: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(f) Canada-Manitoba Court Communicators: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(g) Maintenance Enforcement: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(h) Legal Library Resources: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(j) Rural Courts: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 24: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$19,729,100 for the Attorney-General, Court Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

6. Protection of Individual and Property Rights (a) Manitoba Human Rights Commission: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass.

6.(b) Canada-Manitoba Legal Aid: (1) Salaries; (2) Other Expenditures—the Member for Lakeside.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Mr. Acting Chairman, I have a request of the Attorney-General. I have a number of my constituents, roughly 450 to 500 who from time to time take umbrage of the fact that they are not

allowed to vote in elections. I am referring to my constituents in Stony Mountain, and I understand that they have recently pursued their request for the right to franchise at the lower courts, at the Queen's Bench level, and it is my understanding that they are certainly contemplating pursuing this to Canada's highest court, the Supreme Court.

My simple question to the Attorney-General is whether or not Legal Aid is providing the legal services to these constituents of mine.

Mr. McCrae: My understanding is that the legal counsel, at least one of the legal counsel—it may be both but at least one of them—is employed by the Special Projects section of the Legal Aid Society of Manitoba.

Mr. Enns: I will not take up further time of the committee's considerations of the A-G's Department on this occasion, but I would put the Attorney-General on notice that I will be filing an Order for Return with the Minister asking for the monies expended to date on behalf of the inmates of Stony Mountain in their legal effort to obtain the franchise.

I think it is of interest, of a concern. I do not mind putting on the record that I am not in favour of granting the right to vote for inmates, not because I choose to discriminate against anybody, simply because in my judgment they have forfeited certain rights. So they have neither the rights of free association with their families, or free association on the streets for very specific reasons as set out by different laws that this Attorney-General has to administrate, and indeed the Solicitor-General of Canada has to answer for to the House of Commons.

But I think it would be of interest to note just how many thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money are being expended on what could certainly be a very expensive court case. I would think, being a layman and not learning the law, that an appeal to the highest court of Canada, the Supreme Court, we are talking in terms of several hundreds of thousands of dollars—several hundreds of thousands of dollars that perhaps the residents of Winnipeg Beach may rather have in place of RCMP services, or indeed any other community that is faced with ever increasing costs of policing.

I refer to a community that again in my constituency, the community of Stonewall that is finding itself extremely burdened by the policing costs. I realize that there are other contributing problems to that, that perhaps requires a greater sharing on the part of associated neighbouring rural municipalities to help share the particular burdens that the Incorporated Village of Stonewall faces, that their burden is unfair.

But these are the kind of questions that certainly my constituents ask me, perhaps myself more so than often inasmuch as that particular facility is located in my constituency.

Also, Mr. Acting Chairman, I am always looking forward to the next election. If I am going to have an additional 400 or 500 voters on the electors list, I want to know exactly where they are. Well, I know where they are. It is just that I want to know what I have to

promise to get them out, you see, and I always believe that in this business that I am occupied in, prudence is well-advised.

* (2130)

Mr. McCrae: I must say, Mr. Acting Chairman, I have been under intense questioning all day long by the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski), the Honourable Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) and the Honourable Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper), and I must say I have not been faced with a more difficult question or questionnaire all day long. So I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) should understand I take his questions and his comments very seriously indeed. I can tell the Honourable Member, before I get to—(Interjection)—The Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) suggests I should take all questions seriously. Some are easier to take seriously than others. I have had some questions from the Honourable Member for St. James today which have been useful questions. The odd one slightly, just ever so slightly argumentative, and we have had our little back and forth and that is all over now.

But now the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) raises a very, very serious matter about the franchise in this country and who should pay for those to obtain—for some people to obtain the franchise. I can tell the Honourable Member for Lakeside that the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Manitoba, the Legal Aid Society of Manitoba, makes the ultimate decisions about who gets legal aid and who does not. But I would deal—I understand and hear the Honourable Member when he makes the point about policing services in Winnipeg Beach and certainly child enforcement or access assistance or any number of wife abuse programs could all benefit from dollars spent in other ways. I take those comments very clearly as an expression of concern on the part of the Honourable Member for needy Manitobans in this province and those who require Government programs and various forms of Government assistance.

But on the actual case, I would tell the Honourable Member that the case in this particular case is in regard to the Canada Elections Act and I have asked for a copy of the transcript of the judgment of the Manitoba Court of Appeal and I have turned that over to my legal advisors of whom we have a number of very, very highly qualified people in our department to render legal opinions when called upon. I have asked for an opinion as to what position that puts the Province of Manitoba in its Elections Act in view of the judgment rendered. I will share with the Honourable Member the conclusions that are arrived at.

I was happy to see, as the Honourable Member made his comments, that the Liberal Party endorses the position taken by the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) and so it is good to have that on the record. I know the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) would have found himself to be in agreement with the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). So issues like this are important issues and it is important to try to identify what the feelings of the Members of the

Legislature are and it should be a comfort for the Honourable Member for Lakeside to know that he is now alone in this Chamber in expressing the views that he has today.

Mr. Edwards: I really resent the Attorney-General attempting to twist meanings, attempting to impute motives and I think he does it often with respect to things I say. Now when the Member for St. Vital, and I was here when the Member for St. Vital said, in response to, we could give some money to the people of Winnipeg Beach for their police services, he agrees to that. It is something this Party has been on record for a long time, it is something his Party has been on record for, and he has not come through on it. That is his problem.

I sincerely resent that and I would ask the Attorney-General to go on record as the Attorney-General for this province. How does he feel about the opinion of the Member for Lakeside? What does he say about it? His own Party Member has been big enough to come out with a specific view of the results of that case, what does the Attorney-General think?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have a high enough regard for the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) to trust him to be able to speak his own mind rather than to ask the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) to be his mouthpiece. I cannot for the life of me figure out why the Honourable Member for St. James would resent a discussion between myself and the Chair and the Honourable Member for Lakeside and the Honourable Member for St. Vital. I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. James has to get into the act when the exchange was between the Members that I mentioned. The Member for St. James has a funny way of getting involved in a discussion that has been going on. We were doing quite nicely without him and if he wants to get into it now that is his business, but he is free to ask whatever questions he likes. I see the Honourable Member for St. Vital wants to stand and explain his position. I welcome that; glad to hear him do that.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I just wanted to respond to the Attorney-General that I was not in my seat at the time and I really did not hear his remark, but if he is indicating that I agreed with everything that the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) said, he would be badly mistaken, because I usually agree with everything he said, but especially if he reads more into his remarks than he really said. The only part that I agreed with at any time when I said Hear! Hear! was that the priority to spend that money in policing in Winnipeg Beach would be better than spending it on where it is being spent right now, and in saying that I do not explicitly say—although I may think it, I do not explicitly say—that I am in favour of putting RCMP back into Winnipeg Beach, so you are reading a lot more into anything of a simple statement that I made. I always thought in this House that the Attorney-General, up until this moment, was above that sort of action.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, if I am going to be corrected I would far sooner be corrected by the

Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) than the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) who is quite able, and has just now quite ably dealt with the issue raised by myself. Perhaps if I have taken something out of context and should not have, I do apologize to the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

On the other hand, if he would like to stand in his place and tell us with which part of the comments of the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) he disagrees, I am sure all of Manitobans and certainly his constituents would like to know with which part of the Honourable Member for Lakeside's remarks he disagrees. He has made the point that he agrees with one part. I would like to know now which part he disagrees with so that we will all know what the position of the Liberal Party is on this particular issue.

Mr. Rose: The one part that I do disagree with is that I disagree that if I were in the Member for Lakeside's position, I would not put myself in a position of offering anything to those people in that jail in curry for their votes. I know that the Honourable Member for Lakeside was being somewhat facetious when he said that, and to back up my position that I would not do that, I wrote to all the newspapers in Winnipeg just last week and expressed that in writing. It has not been printed yet.

That is the part I disagree with. I would hope that the Member for Lakeside supports my position, which I am sure he does, that we hope it never comes that we do have to curry their vote.

* (2140)

Mr. McCrae: I think I understand what the Honourable Member is saying and I will be sure to make sure I find out what it was the Honourable Member wrote, so that I can get perhaps an even clearer understanding, if that is possible, after hearing the Honourable Member's explanation tonight.

As far as the Winnipeg Beach detachment, I think I have dealt with that, but the Honourable for St. James (Mr. Edwards) seems to want to insist on bringing it up again and again and again and time is passing, but he seems to want to hear more about Winnipeg Beach, so we will get into that.

As I have been telling the Honourable Member, I do not know if he has been listening but I have told the Honourable Member that the matter of rural policing became a concern in Manitoba previous to the last election because the previous Government went around the province making cuts in RCMP protection across our province, to the extent of closing detachments and changing arrangements, so that certainly in the community of Reston there was a detachment removed, as well as the community of Winnipeg Beach.

If the Honourable Member for St. James would care to do so, I would be happy to show him a map of Manitoba which shows that Reston is at least 25 miles away from the nearest RCMP detachment. The people in that area felt pretty strongly about the closure of the detachment at Reston because the closest RCMP detachment was 25 miles. We have moved quickly to

commit ourselves to the reopening of the Reston detachment. I am assured by the Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP, Assistant Commissioner Henry, that every step is being taking to ensure that the rest of the detachment will be reopened without delay.

With respect to Winnipeg Beach, the Honourable Member suggests that without the benefit of meetings with anyone, without the benefit of meetings with people in Winnipeg Beach, without the benefit of meetings with officials of the RCMP, that we should have reopened a detachment at Winnipeg Beach.

The Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) has not gone quite that far if I heard his comments correctly tonight. Just to be perfectly safe, I will have a good read on what it was the Honourable Member for St. Vital said about Winnipeg Beach, because it sounded to me that he and the Honourable Member for St. James were not exactly onside on that. But that of course would not be the first time that Members of the Liberal Party have not been onside. We found a number of occasions where the old hook has had to be used on some Members of the Liberal Party. I suggest that somehow the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) has a good relationship with his Leader because she does not use the hook often enough with the Honourable Member for St. James.

As I was telling the Honourable Member, who seems not to have heard what I said, we have assigned two additional highway patrol officers to be added to the Gimli detachment, which I remind the Honourable Member is only eight miles away from Winnipeg Beach. As a result of a meeting held on November 10, attended by the Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP and the Honourable Member for Gimli, the present occupant of the Chair (Mr. Helwer), and Mr. Hill, the director in our Law Enforcement Services Division of our department, it was acknowledged by the Mayor and Council of Winnipeg Beach that total criminal cases are down. Break and enters and thefts are down. Response times are adequate from Gimli. The hours of police coverage has increased by four hours per day. There have been few public complaints received. The RCMP at Gimli are reasonably accessible by telephone.

I really think, when we talk about issues, such as the Winnipeg Beach detachment, yes, where there are assignments of people to detachments at Gimli or the reopening of the Reston detachment, yes, there are monies used in other places that could be reprioritized and spent to increase rural policing in the province. We, as a Government, have made that collective decision that the cuts envisaged by the previous Government will not go ahead. That is part of our budget. The Honourable Member seems to want to raise the issue of Winnipeg Beach. Let him tell me now. Is it his position that we should locate a detachment at Winnipeg Beach?

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General has indicated that he will be reading comments made today in the Estimates. I hope he will.

I would ask him to take a read of the comments of the former Member for St. Norbert and his own Premier

(Mr. Filmon) in the last Session of this House in which specific commitments to the people of Winnipeg Beach to restore the detachment remain. Will the Attorney-General have an RCMP detachment in Winnipeg Beach for the summer season of 1989 or not?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member does not wish to answer my question, but I will answer his. The answer that he will not give is that he would locate a detachment. He has not said one way or the other.

I am saying the Honourable Member can remind me about something that Mr. Mercier, a very highly respected person in this province, he can repeat for me what he likes, what has been said. I can tell him the platform that I ran on in the 1988 election campaign and that was to maintain and, where appropriate, increase rural police services. Where appropriate, we are increasing rural police services? We are increasing it at Reston, Manitoba. We are increasing it at Gimli, so that the Town of Winnipeg Beach can be adequately policed. The Honourable Member has not put his position on the record but I have put mine.

Mr. Uruski: In this whole area that we are discussing, the Province of Manitoba set up the Victims Assistance Fund where there was an allocation or at least an assessment made on every fine paid to provide assistance for victims of crimes. Can the Minister indicate whether in all instances or whether in fact that assessment, I believe it is 12 percent of the fines, is being collected by provincial judges, and how many applications have been approved under the fund, and what is the status of the fund today?

Mr. McCrae: With respect to the first part of the Honourable Member's question, I can tell him that even before Chief Judge Stefanson was sworn in and certainly after the issue of the levy on provincial fines has been addressed by myself and Chief Judge Stefanson, Chief Judge Stefanson is in the process of making inquiries of the judges of his court and will be getting in touch with me regarding the results of his inquiries. I think I can say that it is his wish and certainly my wish to see the provincial judges in our province levy that surcharge on every possible occasion.

But I stop short at the point where some would suggest that we remove from the judges the discretion to say, no, we are not going to levy that in the case of hardship for families and so on. We are sensitive to the need for that discretion. We are also concerned or disturbed, shall I say, if provincial judges are not even applying consideration to the matter of whether to impose that surcharge. Wherever the surcharge is appropriate, Chief Judge Stefanson and I are both concerned and hoping to see to it that those surcharges are levied in every case where it is appropriate.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am just not quite sure of what the Attorney-General is saying. Is he saying that they have not resolved the difficulty that some provincial judges in fact are not applying that surcharge, and if they are not applying it, in what instances are they not, can he tell us? If they are not, how long will it be before this question will be resolved? I asked the

earlier question, how much has been collected and how much could have been collected had the surcharge been applied in all the cases that have been disposed? I can agree with the Attorney-General that there may be some discretion where there may be hardships on families in the area of placing this surcharge. However, I would have some difficulty even in those instances if the charges and offences were against the person. So I ask the Attorney-General for some further clarification in this area.

* (2150)

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, I think we should clear up for the Honourable Member, perhaps he is operating under a bit of a misconception. I think if there is a problem in regard to collection of the 12 percent surcharge, it is a very small problem. I think it has been blown a little bit out of proportion by certain people in our society, shall I say. If the Honourable Member understands that the vast majority of provincial offence notices are paid either over the counter or through the mails, he will understand that the surcharge is built in and it is paid automatically.

Those other matters that come before the courts, I can tell the Honourable Member, and he knows as a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that an awful lot of traffic offences are handled over the counter or through the mails, not in personal appearances before the court. If the Honourable Member understands that there is only a small percentage of provincial cases actually come before a judge, he will know that the problem is smaller than what is sometimes perceived.

The Honourable Member should remember that the surcharge does not relate to matters of violence, because matters of violence come under the Criminal Code of Canada, which makes those federal offences. That is the subject of Bill No. 86 in the Parliament of Canada. We hope to be able to tap into a further surcharge on criminal code offences, but certainly presently the surcharge applies to only provincial offences, such as traffic and liquor control and so on. So if there are surcharge monies falling through the cracks, I suggest the cracks are not very wide and this is the subject of inquiries being made by Chief Judge Stefanson.

I do not think it will be very long before I hear from him because I believe, from my discussions with him, that he shares my concerns. Now, the other part of the question dealt with victims assistance grants. The exact number of grants made, I would have to get for the Honourable Member. There are four right now. We are moving as expeditiously as we can to see that those grant monies are dispensed in accordance with the recommendations made by the Victims Assistance Committee to the Attorney-General.

But we are working on some other thrusts, Mr. Acting Chairman, and that is to beef up accountability procedures and to understand the criteria that we are using for making these victims assistance grants. I want the Honourable Member to know that I appreciate the concern that his Party showed in bringing forward in

the first place the assistance for victims of crime Act, and the thrust that they had in mind and the intentions they had. Now we are finding there are some minor glitches in the procedures to be followed under the legislation. We want to see that every possible dollar raised is used to the maximum possible benefit to victims in this province. In no way would we like to hold up grant monies for an undue length of time or for a length of time that would cause hardship for victims.

But we think victims would appreciate it very much. Victims in this province would appreciate it if all the dollars available are used to the maximum possible benefit and that is what we are working on, Mr. Acting Chairman.

Mr. Uruski: Could the Attorney-General advise, and if he does not have the information, provide it at a later date, as to how much money is presently in the fund and how many applications in fact have been approved to date?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Acting Chairman, I will indeed provide to the Honourable Member the exact number of grants and the amounts of those grants that both have been made and are in the process right now. I can tell the Honourable Member that we are in the neighbourhood of about \$900,000 in the fund right now. We bring in about \$58,000 a month. Now, we have a significant pot of money there to be used for victim services. We want to be sure that we have a framework for the future because we see this as being a very useful fund for victims in Manitoba and we want to see that the substantial amounts of money that are going to come in, which is what makes it a good idea, that those monies are spent to the maximum benefit of victims in Manitoba.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 6.(b) Canada-Manitoba Legal Aid: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 6.(c) Public Trustee: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 6.(d) Land Titles Offices: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 6.(e) Personal Property Registry: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 6.(f) Canada-Manitoba Criminal Injuries, Compensation Board—pass.

Resolution No. 25: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$20,252,300 for Attorney-General, Protection of Individual and Property Rights, for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 1989—pass.

7. Corrections (a) Administration: (1) Salaries; (2) Other Expenditures—the Member for Interlake.

Mr. Uruski: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, just a general question on Corrections. There have been proposals made to the Attorney-General from the Interlake Reserve Tribal Council concerning facilities that they have had at the old CFS Pineimuta, Gypsumville, the old Gypsumville base. Those submissions were made, I believe, as far back as August. My understanding is that there have been no communications from the Attorney-General's Department to those who made

those submissions and can he advise as to what the status of those submissions are since they have not heard from him since the meeting that they held last August?

Mr. McCrae: There is a committee of Ministers and a subcommittee of officials involving my department, the Department of Education, the Department of Economic—Welfare anyway—the Social Security and Employment Services as well as Education, and the lead ministry in this regard is the Minister responsible for Native Affairs (Mr. Downey).

The Honourable Member, if he would like to drop me a note, I would be happy to let him know where we are at with that, at this point.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 7.(a) Administration: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 7.(b) Adult Corrections: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; (3) External Agencies and Halfway Houses—pass.

Mr. McCrae: I know I do not have the right line for this, but I would like to introduce to the Legislature our new Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Corrections, Mr. Don Demers, who joined our

department October 1, I believe it was, and we are pleased to have him and welcome him to the service of the department.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Helwer): 7.(c) Correctional Youth Centres: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; 7.(d) Community Corrections: (1) Salaries—pass; (2) Other Expenditures—pass; (3) Program Development—pass.

Resolution No. 26: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$42,372,300 for the Attorney-General, Corrections, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Okay, we go back to (1)(a) Minister's Salary. The staff is excused for this evening.

It is the hour of 10 p.m. What is the will of the committee? Committee rise.

* (2200)

IN SESSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko: The hour being 10 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday).