

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Honourable Peter Fox(Kildonan):** Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 24 students, Grade 4 standing, of the Margaret Park School under the direction of Mrs. Smith. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, the Minister of Finance and Urban Affairs.

We also have 28 students, Grades 7 and 8 standing, of the Baldur School under the direction of Mr. Yaremchuk and Mrs. Hawks. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

And we have 10 students, Grade 9 standing, of the River Heights School under the direction of Mrs. Bowman, from the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights.

And 7 members of the Red River Community College under the direction of Miss McCaskill. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Logan.

On behalf of all the honourable members we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HONOURABLE SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a Return to Order of the House No. 10.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Any other Ministerial Statements; Notices of Motion.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HONOURABLE PETER BURTONIAK (Dauphin)** introduced **Bill (No. 29) an Act to amend The Snowmobile Act;** and **Bill (No. 30) an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HONOURABLE LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface)** introduced **Bill (No. 32) an Act to amend The Hospitals Act;** and **Bill (No. 33) an Act to amend The Licensed Practical Nurses Act.**

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. HARRY J. ENNS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Renewable Resources. The question is in light of the fact that we will be considering his Estimates this afternoon, has the Minister available for those considerations the last annual copy of the Annual Report of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

**HONOURABLE HARVEY BOSTROM(Rupertsland):** Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that I have received a copy, in my office, of the immediate last fiscal year's report.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I note by media accounts that the Federal MPs are having similar difficulties in getting that copy. Has the Minister made any attempts at getting that copy, before we consider his Estimates beginning this afternoon?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Speaker, we expect we will receive the report when it is completed. I have no idea of why the Federal Government has not published this report yet. At least they have not informed us. I might point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is not one of the items which is included within the Estimates of my department. This is a Federal Government responsibility.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the responsibility the Federal Government has in his field, I am also aware of the responsibility the Minister has in his field.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question please.

**MR. ENNS:** My final supplementary question: Does the Minister have any information that he is aware of or does his department have any information that would concur with the Auditor-General's comments about the Freshwater Fish Marketing's books, that they leave a great deal to be desired?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Speaker, it is not within the responsibility or jurisdiction of my department to oversee the books of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. I'm afraid that we do not have access to those records and we do not, therefore, have any comments further to that which has been made by the Federal auditors.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, another question to the same Minister. Has the Minister in the last few days received a specific request from either Lake Winnipeg or Lake Manitoba fishermen to opt out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Speaker, I had on my desk yesterday morning an unsigned typewritten statement indicating that there was some desire on the part of the fishermen who call themselves the Lake Winnipeg Fishermen's Association, I believe based in Gimli, that they would request opting out of the Corporation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. STEVE PATRICK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister of Labour. A couple of days ago the Minister indicated to the House that there would be some good news in respect — he was getting the parties together at Griffin Steel. Can he indicate any reports? Have the parties been together or was the Minister able to get them together?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HONOURABLE RUSSELL PAULLEY (Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and I concur in the basic premise of his question that we have not, as we have been accused of by some people, been sitting on our fannies doing nothing in this industrial dispute. I did have a meeting, as I announced to the House the other day, with representatives of CAIMAW Union and I gave an undertaking that I would do everything within my power to approach management's side with the objective in mind of having them sit around the bargaining table once more after this long period of time. I did speak to the solicitor for Griffin wheel and asked that negotiations be resumed. I'm happy to indicate to my honourable friend that my request was met in a positive approach by Griffin wheel, and I'm hopeful that they will be back around the bargaining table soon. I haven't had an up-to-date report this

morning but I do want to indicate to the House, Mr. Speaker, that one of my conciliation officers — I shouldn't say my conciliation officers — one of the conciliation officers of the Department of Labour has been engaged in discussions with both and the management group. Management have made certain requests for agreement with the Union that if agreed upon, then they're prepared to go back to the bargaining table. I think the so-called caveat, to use that word in its extreme, issued by the company is of a nature that I am very hopeful will be accepted by the Union and that the parties, either this morning or very shortly, will be back at the bargaining table. I'm sure my honourable friend would not expect me to disclose the full significance and contents of that caveat at this time because the type of caveat and the wording of it is confidential and I think my honourable friend, in the interests of bargaining would not ask me or insist of me to give him those conditions.

**MR. PATRICK:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of some reports this afternoon that talks have been broken down or delayed and if the Minister cannot get the two parties together within the next few days, would he use the last resource, the vehicle that he has at his disposal, and cause an industrial inquiry into the whole thing and perhaps get them back together?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Part of the question is hypothetical. The question is hypothetical.

**MR. PATRICK:** Do you reject it, Sir?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia wish to rephrase?

**MR. PATRICK:** Yes, I will rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister given up or is he not prepared to cause an industrial enquiry into the dispute?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I think my stance in the House and outside of the House in respect of an industrial enquiry commission has constantly been that at this particular time, and that's the phraseology I used two or three weeks ago, no useful purpose would be served by an industrial enquiry commission. Accompanying with that answer, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my honourable friend that I am most hopeful that it would not be necessary because I do feel, and of course I have reservations, I do feel that there is every possibility, despite some opposition, that the two parties will be back around the bargaining table within a short period of time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. ROBERT G. WILSON:** A question to the Attorney-General. Would the Minister be able to tell the House what bail, if any, was set for Mr. Patrick and Mr. Wright, after their first arrest on the crime of violence? And would the Minister indicate if bail has been arranged after their second arrest? Regarding the rape charges.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, can I rise on a point of privilege. Can the Member for Wolseley qualify which Mr. Patrick?

**MR. WILSON:** Well, to reword the question I was asking the Attorney-General if Mr. Allan Patrick and Mr. Wilmer Wright, what bail has been set after their second arrest on the charge of rape and bribery?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HONOURABLE HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which would be a matter of public record, it's a matter being processed through the courts and I would suggest to the honourable member that if he would check I'm sure he could obtain that information from the courts. I think that would be a much more suitable place than to attempt to enlist that information through the

Legislature.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Well, a supplementary, then. Is the Minister's department contemplating holding rape suspects until their trials come around without bail? Because of the fact that these suspects continually seem to come up in problems prior to their trial, is his department contemplating a tougher stand or withdrawing bail from them?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Policy question. Order please. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. BOB BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister in light of the fact that the Minister in charge of Manitoba Development Corporation is not in the House at this time and I would wonder if, in light of the announcements of the third executive of Flyer Industries having resigned, I wonder if the First Minister could inform the House whether Flyer is undergoing a wholesale management change?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HONOURABLE EDWARD SCHREYER (Rossmere):** Well, Mr. Speaker, the distinction as between wholesale and retail isn't always that perceptible. There is, by degree, some change in management, but that would be true of any living institution.

**MR. BANMAN:** I wonder if the First Minister could inform the House whether the management problem at Flyer presently is hurting the tendering ability of this government-owned bus company?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Asking for an opinion. The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** My opinion would be that it's probably hurting no more or less than the kind of publicity that attaches to questions that wouldn't have any solution in any case.

**MR. BANMAN:** Final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he could inform the House whether the Manitoba Development Corporation is actively trying to recruit management personnel to fill these vacancies left by the three resignations?

**MR. SCHREYER:** As required.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Riel.

**MR. DONALD W. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister. It's in regards to Orders for Return which were filed in last year's session. I wonder if he could undertake to advise the House, when replies might be received for Orders No. 2, No. 5, 27, 30, 31, 34, 36, 39, 40 and 41?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, I'll take note of the numbers as read into the record now. I'm wondering if those numbers include the Return which I did file last week which ran to some 300 pages or more. But in any case we'll take tomorrow's issue of Hansard and take those numbers and bring the Returns forward.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Riel.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, the last one I record as being filed is No. 42 which was filed last week.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** The Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister please explain to the House the method of hiring with a rain check per diem. I have searched the Orders-in-Council without results regarding the commission pertaining to Mr. Murdoch MacKay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** The appointment of an Industrial Enquiry Commission is a prerogative of the Minister of Labour in the case that my honourable friend refers to. I think I used exceptional judgment in the appointment of the Industrial Enquiry Commissioner and there was no requirement to state a per diem rate for the individual.

I want to assure my honourable friend that as a competent Member of Cabinet, I am quite concerned with the Public Treasury.

**MR. WILSON:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked if it was a government policy to hire without a pre-arranged salary and I was hoping the Minister would have time today to tell whether the member was writing his own cheque.

**MR. PAULLEY:** I can assure my honourable friend and his laughing colleagues that any request for payment that comes on my desk is subject of intense scrutiny before payment is approved.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Attorney-General. The question is based on the seemingly large increase or the profusion of news releases that are now coming out of the office of the Liquor Control Commissioner, and I wonder if the Attorney-General could advise the House whether he is using his office as a commissioner of the Liquor Control Commission in promoting a place in this place as an elected member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

**MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask the Attorney-General a question regarding the Liquor Commission. I would like to ask if there are any proposed increases in the price of alcoholic spirits in the Province of Manitoba in the near future.

**A MEMBER:** Not till after the election.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Can he indicate to the House or clarify the present situation in respect to the Canada Winter Games? Have the games been awarded to Brandon or have they not? There seems to be some confusion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, in the name of Manitoba I made a statement yesterday that we were ready to make the contribution asked of us. The decision as to where the games will be held, if they will be held, rests with the Federal Government, so you'll have to ask the Federal Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a supplementary question to the Attorney-General and ask him if he feels that Mr. Syms is using his position properly in attempting to promote himself for office at the taxpayers' expense.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm satisfied that Mr. Syms, the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission is attending to his responsibilities in so doing. He has incumbent upon him a responsibility to do those duties to his very very best, and insofar as how that reflects upon him, of course, only time will tell.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Churchill. Order please.

**MR. LES OSLAND:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Northern Affairs. I would request the status of the winter roads in the north please.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

**HONOURABLE RONALD McBRYDE (The Pas):** Well, Mr. Speaker, because of the mild weather the winter road from Bloodvein to Island Lake area, these side roads are now officially closed. The road from The Pas to Moose Lake is officially closed, and the road from South Bay to South Indian Lake is closed. There is some traffic using those roads, but they are doing so at their own risk at this time. The road from Norway House is in good condition and will remain open for the next few days to allow freight in. The roads from Jenpeg to Oxford House and God's Narrows are in fair condition and they are open 24 hours a day at this time and will remain open until the freight is in or until the weather gets warm again and traffic can no longer pass over them.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, assuming that the Honourable Member for Morris asked the question in a non-bantering way and I assume he did, I would like to indicate that with respect to one's perception as to whether or not there is too much publicity, not enough publicity or just about the right amount of publicity with respect to the operations of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, that with respect, for example, if that's what my honourable friend has in mind, to some publicity attaching to Mr. Syms just the other day, it was that he was speaking at a panel on the invitation of a school division of the province, chaired by the school chairman, and that whatever was reported thereupon would flow naturally from that particular occasion and its nature. I would say, if it gives any comfort to my honourable friend, that personally I sometimes get the impression that there is perhaps a bit — it's a matter of judgement — hyper-publicity or excessive, slight degree of excessive publicity attaching to liquor control matters but it's a matter of minor degree and a matter of personal judgement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Speaker, the First Minister's efforts to cover up might have been acceptable . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Question.

**MR. JORGENSON . . . if it were not for the fact that . . .**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please. The Honourable First Minister have a point of order?

**MR. SCHREYER:** Yes, I have a point of privilege, at least I believe it to be and that is the use of the word "cover-up." I was indeed attempting to elaborate further on a reply given by my colleague. That would seem to me as the very antithesis of covering up. If my honourable friend isn't interested in information, then I might as well desist.

**MR. JORGENSON:** If the Minister is going to be given an opportunity to elaborate further, then I want to explain what I have to say. The fact is that what I . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River. Order Please.

**MR. JAMES H. BILTON:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs if I may. With the reported closure of the northern winter roads, can the Minister tell us approximately the tonnage that's outstanding yet to be delivered and how it is going to be delivered?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Speaker, the roads that were open were open for the amount of time that we said they would be open. If there is tonnage still to go over some of those routes, then it would be the

lateness of those wanting to have the goods delivered that is causing the problem. There are only about four loads left to go into Norway House and they'll go over the next couple of days. There are about 20 loads to go into God's Narrows-Oxford and about 20 loads to come out of God's Narrows-Oxford which could be done in a week and if the weather stays cold for a week, there'll be no problem in getting those particular supplies in. The tonnage to date is that 84 million pounds of freight have been moved over this system. That figure includes 40 million pounds of pulpwood from Moose Lake to The Pas.

**MR. BILTON:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has mentioned the tonnage that has already gone. Could he tell us the tonnage that is yet to be delivered and how it's going to be delivered and the approximate cost?

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Chairman, I did mention for the honourable member that there were about 20 loads yet to go into Oxford-God's Narrows; about 4 truckloads to Norway House which might be on their way right now. If the honourable member is implying that if and when the Conservatives — God forbid — should ever come to office that they'll control the weather, that's a statement he might want to make but I can't.

**MR. BILTON:** I appreciate the Minister's humour, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to follow the same lines. Does he intend to fly this material in, Sir?

**MR. McBRYDE:** Mr. Speaker, I've explained to the honourable member for the last six years at least; every year I have to explain the same thing to him but I'll do it again. The Department of Northern Affairs is involved in the construction of winter roads. We let the people that want to deliver goods and the people that contract to deliver goods know when the roads are open, how long we expect to keep them open providing the weather is reasonable. It is up to them to deliver the goods. If some of the suppliers haven't started to deliver goods yet, then they're probably going to be in trouble. I don't know how they'll get their goods in. They'll have to worry about that.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would call in sequence the adjourned debates for second reading.

### ADJOURNED DEBATES — SECOND READING

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Bill No.2. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Stand, Mr. Speaker. Agreed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No.4. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge — and Bill No.5. Stand both?

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Speaker, the member was ready to speak. He wastied up with a constituent. If somebody else wants to speak he may but the member was ready to speak.

**MR. SPEAKER:** We'll go on to No. 5 and see if he comes back.

Bill No. 12, the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

### BILL (NO. 12) — AN ACT TO AMEND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS ACT

**HONOURABLE BILLIE URUSKI (St.George):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will only take a few moments for me. I've had a chance to peruse the remarks of the Honourable Member for Gladstone and the Member for Assiniboia and I want to indicate to the honourable members, I thank them for the remarks, the Member for Assiniboia raised the question about the length of time, the days for Court of Revision being brought down to either one or two days from three. We have found from councils and from secretary-treasurers who have primarily conducted those Courts of Revision that they have really spent three days sitting alone during that period of time and it's on the suggestions that have been from district meetings and the like that we have incorporated that change to leave it flexible as the case may up to each individual council the rest of the changes that are proposed will be dealt with in committee and of course are primarily of a housekeeping nature.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt second reading of Bill No. 12?

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that the debate be adjourned.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No. 12, the Honourable Minister was closing debate.

**QUESTION put MOTION carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill No.15, the Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** May I have the matter stand, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed)

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable member was absent for Bill No.2. Does he wish to go on that one?

**MR. WILSON:** No. Stand, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

**MR. SPEAKER:** That cleans up all the bills. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That cleans up all the bills. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, before presenting the official motion that you leave the Chair, I would like to remind honourable members that we will commence the Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development in the Assembly this afternoon and also that the Estimates of the

Department of Renewable Resources will be held in 254. It is anticipated that following the presentation of the Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development, the Department of Labour will follow in the Assembly and that following the deliberations on Renewable Resources in Room 254, the Department of Northern Affairs will follow.

With that information to my honourable friends in the Assembly, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable, the Minister of Renewable Resources, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Before the Motion is put, I would like to protest the actions of the House Leader.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Let me place the Motion . . .

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Then I raise a point of order . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable member can speak on a grievance if he'd just . . .

**MR. JORGENSEN:** The point of order is that traditionally in this Chamber, since we adopted the new rules, the order in which the Estimates will appear outside the House is determined by the opposition. There has been no consultation with the House Leader on that particular point. We agreed to allow the Department of Renewable Resources to go in there at this time. I will tell him when the other departments will go in there and what other departments. Until then, I want him to keep his counsel to himself.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour on the same point of order.

**MR. PAULLEY:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. On the same point of order, I did have some discussion with the honourable member who has just sat down and there was indecision at that particular time as to whether or not the Estimates of Renewable Resources would follow Agriculture or whether it would be Northern Affairs, one or the other. Now, if my honourable friend is so irate that I didn't really clearly delineate to him which department would follow the Department of Renewable Resources, I apologize to my honourable friend; I would suggest that he keep his cool and I am prepared to discuss with him at his convenience what department should follow the Department of Renewable Resources. The last thing I want is any repetition of the irateness of my honourable friend, the Member for Morris.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair for Health and Social Development and the Honourable Member for St. Vital in the Chair for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

ESTIMATES - HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. William Jenkins (Logan):** I would refer honourable members to Page 27, The Department of Health and Social Development, Resolution 58(a)(1) Minister's Compensation — Salary and Representation Allowance. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**HONOURABLE LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that things will cool down a bit, and that we'll be able to look at the Estimates of the department in a business-like way.

I believe, Sir, that it is apparent that given the limited time that I have to make these open remarks, it would not be possible for me to comment on each and every activity of the Department of Health and Social Development.

The members, no doubt, are anxious to review the Estimates of the department in detail and I will make every effort to provide prompt and complete replies. Consequently, I will restrict my comments to some of the most important features of the Estimates as well as a number of developments which have taken place over the past year.

It will be remembered, Mr. Chairman, that in 1976 I placed before the committee a request for 1.3 percent more in staff man years, which I described as a virtual no-growth situation. At the same time the total funding request represented a 25 percent increase over the previous year. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that these figures reflected an effort by the department to strike a balance between fiscal restraint and the necessity to provide essential health and social services.

Over the next year, Manitoba faces the same kinds of economic and social pressure that existed last year, and as a consequence the 1977-78 fiscal year will require a similar type of discipline. For this reason the Estimates before you, Mr. Chairman, will request an increase of less than one percent in staff and an overall increase of funding of approximately 8 percent. I feel that the members will acknowledge that under the constraint facing us today, the Estimates of this department demonstrate a commitment to establish reasonable expectations, identify meaningful priorities, and exercise cost consciousness.

It goes without saying, Mr. Chairman, that in the field of human services it is impractical and imprudent to apply a fiscal criteria to all programs and services. In the face of rising costs, it would be both simple-minded and irresponsible merely to place the iron-hand on restraint, on future developments, and thereby disregard the possible ramifications of neglect. In the Department of Health and Social Development we have recognized that the field of child and family services, which has experienced a considerable escalation in expenditures, requires particular attention, not only because of an increasing financial burden, but also for a wide range of programatic and organizational factors needing review and assessment.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, the Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development will include a request for a special program expansion and development fund, which will be utilized to improve the child and family service system. Part of this fund will be used to increase the rates of payment to foster parents by approximately 35 percent and a new integrated and co-ordinated child abuse unit will be developed. As a related development, an extended care facility for the treatment of emotionally disturbed children and adolescents will become operational within the next year. The department also will make arrangements to hire a number of native family counsellors to deal with the special problems facing native people living in Winnipeg. Because the placement of children requiring care is one of the principal necessities in the child welfare system, and therefore one of the department's main objectives will be to discuss with the Children's Aid Society the feasibility of establishing a paneling process designed to ensure the placement of children in environments most suitable for their well-being. As we focus more sharply on child and family services, we will work in close liaison with Children's Aid Societies and institutional care providers.

One of the important responsibilities we have though with our children is to ensure that serious ailments do not go undetected. In our effort to meet this obligation, the Department of Health and Social Development will be making a new thrust in improving hearing screening programs. Under this program a mobile van with an audiologist and portable equipment will be used to visit schools in a service developed along lines similar to that of the Children's Dental Health Program. Children identified as having hearing problems in the schools, through the mobile van services, will be referred to established centres in Winnipeg as well as two new regional hearing centres to be developed in Thompson and Brandon. At these centres further assessment will be made, after which treatment will be provided or referral to specialized medical professionals will be made. In addition, in order to co-ordinate assessment, treatment and follow-up activities, an office of hearing conservation will be developed.

I am pleased to report that several of the department's major new programs of recent years are developing well. The Children's Dental Program, for example, was initiated in September of 1976, utilizing seven dental nurses' teams and two supervising dentists in the Interlake region, Swan Valley and Duck Mountain School Divisions, as well as the City of Flin Flon. Approximately 1,400 six-year-olds in nine school divisions were eligible for the program and at this time we are experiencing over eighty percent participation. The program will be expanded to other regions later in 1977.

The Children's Day Care Program also expanded in 1976. The program now includes over 160 group day care centers, 200 family care homes, providing over 5,200 spaces for children. At the same

time efforts have been made to improve the program by increasing the *per diem* fees that the day care centers can charge, as well as the maximum income below which families are eligible for subsidization of their day care costs. We are particularly proud of the day care program, as it has been one of the most progressive and well-financed programs in Canada, while at the same time acknowledging responsibility of the individual centers to operate their own services.

The Estimates before the members, Mr. Chairman, will provide the increase *per diem* charge as well as a modest expansion of the program in 1977 and 1978.

The Home Care Program also saw an increase in utilization in 1976. Serving approximately 7 1/2 percent of Manitoba's population over the age of sixty-five, this service which has been acknowledged as one of the finest of its type in the country, has proved to be an appropriate and economical alternative to higher levels of care. With an ongoing care load of about 8,500 it has provided individuals with an opportunity to maintain a degree of independence in the community. The Estimates of the department include a request that will provide for normal expansion of this program. In addition, the department will introduce a Home Renal Dialysis Program for carefully selected patients. The department will provide equipment, instruction, and support staff. Because the home care program has developed so rapidly, we have experienced additional pressures in our more traditional public health efforts. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, we are seeking approval for funds to provide for an additional ten public nurses to provide these vital services.

Mr. Chairman, before the members begin their detailed examination of the Estimates, I would like to take the opportunity to express a brief personal view arising out of my two years in this very large portfolio. When I first appeared before this committee as Minister of Health and Social Development, I cautioned the members that I had a great deal to learn about the department. Since then I've had much homework to do and indeed I have become acquainted with a wide range of programs and services offered, not only by the Department of Health, but also by the many agencies, organizations, and facilities funded by the department. I have grown to respect the various providers of services and I owe a special debt of thanks to the many dedicated individuals in the Civil Service. Of these I'm particularly appreciative, of work done by my senior officials including my Deputy Minister, Mr. Ron Johnstone, Dr. R. Tavener, our Chief Medical Consultant, Mr. Don McLean, our Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Services, Mr. Ron Hikel, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Social Security Division, Mr. Reg Edwards, Chairman and Executive Director of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and Mr. Dave Werthman, co-ordinator for the department.

I only wish that the members as well as the public could recognize the long and difficult hours that these gentlemen contribute in the services of the people of Manitoba. Of all the things I have learned perhaps the most important is how much more there is to know. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that all members will agree the hardest problems we confront are those that involve people. The Department of Health and Social Development is, if anything, a people oriented department. All our programs and services relate to the needs and problems confronting people.

More importantly, the people whom we serve often are those who face particular crisis. Our clients are individuals with physical ailments, financial distress, mental illness and social disabilities. Many of our clients are too young to care for themselves and have no one to turn to but government. Many of the people we serve are old and infirm and we have a responsibility to see that they receive the services they need in their declining years. Many of our clients have proven themselves to be unable to cope with the ordinary pressures of living and they turn to us for help. Over the past two years, Mr. Chairman, I have learned how difficult these problems are. Frankly, I do not believe it is possible for a government to remedy every ill, to solve every human problem and spending more will not necessarily result in solutions.

I must say it is the attempt to meet the challenge of human needs that is the source of our greatest frustration and our highest hopes. We know that we cannot do it all but as responsible representatives of the people, and more significantly as compassionate human beings, we accept gladly the challenge of improving the human condition and minimizing human suffering. It is in that spirit, Mr. Chairman, that I respectfully submit the Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development.

Now, before sitting down, Mr. Chairman, I think it would be helpful if I dealt at this time, and not necessarily repeat at every issue, that I dealt with the staff man year in the department. I would like to say that last year the total, that is the department and the Manitoba Health Services Commission, but I'm leaving corrective and rehabilitative services out of that because the Minister is well capable of dealing with that himself. Well the total of these people that answer to my ministry was in 1976-77, 4,210. I'll repeat that slowly and I hope that those that are interested will take notes so we could proceed. It was 4,210 and this year, the total for the department and the Manitoba Health Services Commission is 4,241 1/2 for an increase of 31 1/2.

**A MEMBER:** Are you the half?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** You're flattering me, I didn't realize I was ... all right. The last year, again I repeat this does not include corrective and rehabilitative services, just the department and the Manitoba Health Services Commission, 4,210. This year 4,241 1/2 for an increase of 31 1/2. Now, besides that there were 23 positions that were either transferred or abolished. So if you add the 31 1/2 and those 23, which are not new positions that is not additional staff man year, I will tell you where these positions are. Now there are 23 and if I go a little too fast just slow me down a bit, 23 in the children dental program, which is actually a new program; 10 the Public Health Nurses as I mentioned earlier; 5 Continuing Care Program or Home Care; 3 Office of Residential Care, which is something new and



I certainly hope that we can discuss this, I think it is quite important; 2 for the Day Care; 5 New Careers, these are Native people; 1 Child Welfare; Home Ec 1; Income Security 1; Fitness and Development ½. That is only the department, that was 28 ½ for the department and there's three addition of these 31 ½, three of those were addition for the Manitoba Health Service Commission and we can deal with them at that time.

Now to, you know this could be only half the story if I don't talk about the Contract staff. Because if I'm switching and getting more people on contract, we're not improving too much. Last year, the end of 1976, the people on contract were 190; the department 47 and Mincome 143, so a total of 190. This year 34 or minus 13, 34 for the department and 97, or 46 for Mincome for a total of 131, or a reduction of 59. And in approximately three months there will be another ten or so whose contracts should be finished. So now I think that's as complete as I can give you as far as the staff and if it is your wish now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go on with the scrutiny of the department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The procedure now is that we'll leave this item and return to it at the completion of the rest of the Department of Health Estimates. We'll now go to Resolution 58(a)(2) Salaries \$181,000.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. ARNOLD BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the brief introduction by the Minister. We appreciate the fact that his department is going to show restraint. We are dealing with a department with an expenditure of \$430 million and I believe that this growing cost of health and social development is a concern to everybody. So we are pleased to see that the Minister says that they are going to practice restraint.

I wonder under this first item, Mr. Chairman, before we go to the first item, maybe I should just for the benefit of the Chairman, maybe I should just tell him that my colleague, the Member from Fort Garry, is going to assist me in these Estimates and he will be primarily dealing with the Social Development part of the Estimates. —(Interjection)— He's an expert, yes.

My first question is, can the Minister identify some of the people that are involved in this salary of \$181,000.00? By identifying, I mean are these professional people, most of them, or what qualifications do these people have? And if I just may, I have a further question over here. The salary has decreased by \$1,500.00. Last year the Minister spent \$182,500 and budgeted was \$167,700.00. Can the Minister explain why there seemed to be an overexpenditure last year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the staff man year was the thing that we thoroughly looked at last year. It's the same people, the Deputy Minister, the Assistants to the Minister and Deputy Minister and secretarial staff and so on. We are working as a — here my honourable friend should remember that last year I talked about working more as a team. Now, we didn't spend all that money last year; it wasn't that we overspent. Because of the restraint during the year we didn't fill many of the positions and we are going to phase this in. The positions are there, they're recognized, but again, continuing the restraint, we are phasing these positions in and some of these people will certainly not be there all year, so therefore we will need less money.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution (a)(2)—pass; (a)(3) Other Expenditures \$81,200—pass; 58(b) Social Services Advisory Committee: (1) Salaries \$54,200. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that under this item we can perhaps discuss the functions and what kind of advice the Minister is getting from the Advisory Committee. Can we deal with such things as the present ratio of the hospital beds per thousand people in, say, the City of Winnipeg and in the Province of Manitoba, or under what item can we start discussing that? Would it be under "Policy," on the next item, "Policy Committee" under (c)?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, we would suggest that we deal with personal care and hospital beds and so on under the Manitoba Health Services Commission. This is the responsibility of the Commission. This is only the Advisory Committee, the social — what did they call it last year — (Interjection)— Yes, and they changed the name, that's the only thing that is covered in here. It's the welfare appeal system, is in there also.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** For a point of clarification for the Chair, then that would be on Page 34,

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many appeals this board dealt with? How many appeals did this board deal with in the last fiscal year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Projected 400 appeals.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 58(b)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister, under this item, could bring us up-to-date on the issue that was raised last year concerning the report that was done by the Canadian Council on Social Development on the legal rights of those on social assistance in relation to questions of privacy? I believe that last year in the Estimates he said that he would undertake to review that report and see how it applied to Manitoba. I wonder if he has had an opportunity to review that at this time and determine whether the particular allegations that were made at that time concerning the abrogation of certain rights of individuals were in fact applying in this Province?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I must apologize to the member. If he said that I made that statement I did, but I don't remember and I couldn't comment at this time. I'll have to take the question as notice. I'm ready to discuss the work of the appeal and the success and so on or the rates in different municipalities, but to comment on this report, I'll have to take that as notice.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I would also like to ask the Minister, then, whether under this item relating to the status of people on social assistance, if the department has begun to examine the issue of the housing locations for people on social service assistance programs? What's become

apparent, both through the tragedies related to the fire problems, but also I think some of the other circumstances are pointing out that many families or individuals who are on social assistance are put into substandard housing and that find very little recourse for appeal on it. I wonder if the Minister would be prepared or the department is prepared to examine the situation in relation to the position of those on social assistance to determine whether their housing standards are at least fair and equitable and clean and sanitary, and that they are not being subjected simply to finding a place no matter what it may be like. I think that that was certainly one of the issues that came up as a result of the inquest into the Town and Country fire.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the staff who are trying to help these people — and there's a limited staff — that will do everything possible to provide the best accommodation available. It is not our responsibility — I'm not saying concern — but it is not the responsibility of the department to build houses and so on. So we certainly will try to get the best facilities and the cleanest facilities that we could manage for these people.

Now the city also has a responsibility in this because I think that the problem is probably more pronounced in the City of Winnipeg than in other areas. I think that that is clear, and of course, they do the administration of the welfare program in Winnipeg, helping these people with the housing and so on.

Now related to that, that I'll cover later on, we felt that we have been lax in inspecting, for instance, guest homes and some of these homes and working with their standards, and we're working with the city now to create an office that will do more of that. We've been lax in the past, but as far as strictly people, we're there to provide the rental to assist them get the best facilities, but we'll have to rely on other departments and on the city to provide the housing. We can't do anything if the housing is not there.

I'm not saying I'm not concerned as a Member of the Cabinet, but it is not my direct responsibility as Minister of Health at this time. We can only do the best we can under the existing situation.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, following up on that I'd like to ask the Minister then, if it is a customary practice when the social worker who is dealing with a family who receives social assistance, to examine the conditions of the housing and to make a report so that there is some form of information as to exactly what is taking place in relation to that accommodation; and that if those reports are ever assembled and if there is any information the Minister has that he can provide us in terms of the kind of accommodation that people on social assistance are living in at this stage.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** As I stated it is the Department of Health, but that administration of that part of the City of Winnipeg is done by the city, and we have no such record. Mind you, if we can get at something else, I would hope that some day — and I think it would be better, the people would be better served, not that we necessarily do a better job — but if it was co-ordinated and if we accepted the responsibility of probably delivering the services in Winnipeg, we don't want to impose on the city, but I might say informally, if we were requested to do so we would sit down and talk to them and consider it very seriously. I think this would help, I don't say we'd do a better job, but we'd have the responsibility of it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, just as a matter of clarification. I notice that there's an item here, Mr.

Minister, "Recoverable from Canada \$50,000.00." I wonder if he could — and I notice this goes on all the way through the Estimates — I wonder if he could explain to us probably briefly just how this is brought about? Does the department decide on an overall figure for a particular function and then negotiate with Ottawa insofar as the refundable amount is concerned? I notice in this instance it's almost half of the item, but in other areas the people of Manitoba are carrying quite a load.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It is something that will be difficult to know if this will keep on. In fact, we're practically certain that there will be some other arrangements, but presently these are under certain arrangements between the Federal Government and the Provincial Government. For instance, in this item here, that 50 percent of all welfare is paid back to the provinces by the Federal Government including administration. This is part of the administration, so the administration part, this would be the 50 percent that we would get back. But this is also subject to change with the changes in funding and cost-sharing and so on that is being negotiated now or being enacted legislation by the Federal Government.

**MR. BILTON:** I take it from the Minister that each item is negotiated with the federal health authorities. But how is that figure arrived at all the way through the Estimates?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Under the agreement we determine this and the Federal Government accepts the figures. Of course, we don't decide what percentage and so on, this is clearly under this and in most instances it is 50 percent of certain costs as through existing legislation at this time. Now this is under the Canada Assistance Plan. It is 50 percent including — and this is why you see a certain amount here — including administration needed to provide these services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, one of the intriguing items in this particular Estimate is the fact that there has been a cutback in the absolute dollar figures of what used to be called the Welfare Advisory Committee, and if you add on a certain inflationary factor I assume that that means that there has been a direct cutback in the staff or services being provided by this committee. I'm just wondering what services have been cut back. It is purported to provide two functions, one is to make

recommendations to the Minister about changes in the formulas and needs and so on; the other is to provide an appeal procedure. Now which part has been cut back, the recommendation side or the appeal side?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** . . . let's say 1972, 900 to 400 now, there is a gradual cutback on the number of appeals so the cost is less. No, there's no cutback on services and there's no cutback as far as the government, that we're pulling anything away from them. If there's less appeal the costs will be less also automatically.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if there has been then this decline in the absolute number of appeals I'm not sure how that translates in a cutback in expenditure. Could I assume that there are certain fixed costs that the board itself would have. What I was asking, has there been a cutback in the actual staff complement servicing people or is there some per diem cost or per unit cost attached to each appeal that goes through, and how is that worked out?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There is a limited staff, but most of the people on the board — there is a per diem when they're sitting, and mostly the travelling costs also, and if there's no appeal well then they don't move.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to know has the Appeal Board itself established the practice of assigning any form of advocacy role, say through Legal Aid. People who are coming before that board who have appeals oftentimes are in a position where they are not able to fully represent themselves with all the kind of knowledge and information that would normally be required. Does the board make a point of assigning any form of advocate, whether Legal Aid or through the department, to make sure that each of the appellants when they come forward to the board, both have a full recognition of what rights they have and are able to make sure that they get proper representation.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, and that of course, my honourable friend I'm sure wants to include those on municipal assistance also that appear before the board.

Now I don't think the board has the authority to assign anybody, but I'm sure they steer the people in that direction and make it quite clear that they're entitled to service, and apparently they're dealing with Legal Aid in many many instances — most instances.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would then just like to ask the Minister, in terms of the recommendations that he has been receiving from the Advisory Committee, can he indicate whether they have undertaken any recent assessment of the costs of both necessities and also in a discretionary area that have been occasioned by those who are in receipt of social assistance, to determine how realistic the present funding formulas are for social assistance for families who have need? And I think in particular that because the costs in certain key areas, primarily food for one, are not subject to the full weight of the Anti-Inflation Program and therefore have been rising at a rate

that is not fully controllable, whether in fact the assistance given is on a par with what it was last year or in fact in real dollar terms, is it falling back?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This would be mostly to set up the price that the Provincial Government will accept or will legislate. This, I'm afraid, is the responsibility of the department. There might be some advice, but very little on that. But what they do is compare — most of the appeals are in municipalities and so on — compare the municipality with the government and this is where they're quite concerned, and I'm quite concerned also. But it is something that unfortunately we haven't been able to resolve yet, something that is being considered by the Cabinet, should we have a minimum rate? There's no doubt, I'm not going to hide that it caused some difficulty. Some municipalities are quite proud to say that they have nobody on welfare, but they make it so difficult for the people that they push them towards Winnipeg which has a higher rate and so on. This something that we're definitely looking at. It's a difficult thing because we don't do the administration. I don't think any legislation will be ready at this time, but this is something that at least the department wishes to make some suggestion to Cabinet and then we'll have to wait to see what happens.

We're concerned because some municipalities are very very low, and also the way they might call these people in front of the council and so on, and it makes it very difficult. They're not all working the same, and we have trouble with some of the municipalities, but apparently we haven't got the legislation in to do too much about it at this time.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could perhaps clarify it a little bit more. He indicated that the department is now preparing proposals for Cabinet relating to changing the formula for social assistance. I wasn't sure whether he was saying, equalizing it between municipalities so that the differential between what's given at the municipal level and what's given from the provincial sources would be brought up to a common standard, or the legislation would in fact be directed towards changing the procedures of delivering social assistance. I wasn't sure whether he was talking about a provincial take-over of responsibilities or regulations applying to municipalities. I wonder if he would mind clarifying that.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, I've probably talked too much already, because the Cabinet might not accept this. But, no, we're looking at the standard, to have the same standard in a municipality or a minimum that they would have to meet — not necessarily a maximum — if they want to pay more, fine' because I feel and the Advisory Committee also that the minimum is way too low.

Also another side effect that is not too good, I think, that they're forcing many of these people to Winnipeg, to move to Winnipeg where the standards are higher, and I don't think that's good to move all these people in the core of Winnipeg, that creates a lot of trouble for Winnipeg.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, perhaps finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to raise the issue with the Minister in respect of this, that people I've talked to in my own constituency who are on social assistance have found that the primary difficulty that they face is in those areas of incidentals which aren't covered by the strict food, clothing, rent formulas, but in fact come into the area providing for furniture, some upkeep of household goods, and that there seems to be a certain kind of restriction that seems to have been placed — and no one is too sure why — on the calculation of those kind of miscellaneous category of goods.

The other issue which is a much more complex one, Mr. Chairman, and I almost hesitate to try to explain it because I'm not sure if I can fully get it out myself. But it really does relate to the situation

**MR. DESJARDINS:** If the member would allow me. There is no doubt that this could be, if the member insists, that we can talk about this because we have an Advisory Committee. I wonder if my honourable friend would be kind enough to wait until we get to 62, Social Security, where we go into detail and where the staff that can help me with this will be here, because now we're really talking about details and this is mostly administration so far, and this gentleman, is of more concern. Thank you very much.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to do that. Maybe I could just leave though, for information, that the Minister might be prepared to bring at that time; the particular case where there was a change in the rules relating to those who might own a house and were providing some rental revenue properties for it but were also receiving social assistance — say an older person — and all of a sudden the regulations were really changed to almost force them out of the housing business. I think he knows the regulation I'm talking about because there have been some appeals on that. I'm prepared to wait to discuss the details of that particular problem, but I think it is a fairly important one when it has affected some people, perhaps in an unjust way and I would like to get it clarified, but I am prepared to wait till the next item.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, to make sure that I understand my honourable friend, I would like to see if this is the point that he is concerned about.

Right now we've put in a lien against property — we've put no liens at all, the Provincial Government — except if it is to increase the equity of the people. But the City of Winnipeg puts a lien on anything. Now is this what you're talking about? No? This wouldn't affect your point at all?

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, just to clarify it. I will provide the Minister with some information, then maybe we can discuss it at the next item in 62.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 58(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—Other Expenditures \$57,400—pass; Resolution 58(c)—Policy Committee — Review and Planning (1) Salaries \$47,900. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I must say that there no doubt will be opportunities through the course of the study of the Minister's Estimates to question him quite sharply with respect to increases in the budget, increases in the appropriation that we're being asked to vote, so at this juncture I want to say that it is only fair that I express to the Minister my general satisfaction at the fact that there is an area in terms of his departmental operation where obviously a restraint program has been in effect, and where he has succeeded in not only holding costs under control but reducing them.

I say that in all sincerity, I welcome it. We have taken the position for sometime with respect to government budgeting generally, that there are obviously some areas which are extremely difficult to cut back. There are others in which there is no doubt fat and duplication and savings can be effected.

So I want to advise the Minister that that does not go unnoticed on this side of the House and I commend him for having effected some savings in this area. At the same time, I would appreciate an explanation of the actual changes that lie beneath that reduction in expenditure on this particular appropriation. The overall appropriation for the executive function is down by some \$100,000 and the majority of it comes under the Policy Committee Review and Planning aspect. There we're looking at almost the entire \$100,000 reduced appropriation for the executive function in total. It has been our view in the past that some of the exercises in Policy Committee Review and Planning have been unnecessary exercises, have been directionless exercises and have contained a good deal of redundancy and fat. Has that reason commended itself to the Minister and is that what underlies the reduction in expenditure? How many people would be involved in this particular reduction? From whom was he getting his review and planning advice and from whom is he getting it now?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think we discussed that last year quite thoroughly. The idea is still the same, that we would try to co-ordinate the planning; we probably work a little differently than other departments but when this question of restraint came in, it was felt that the best example the Minister could set was to start with his own group, policy and so on. And why there is a difference is that we did not fill the position, we were just starting; the money was in there last year for that. We filled some positions and now we intend again to carry on because of the difficult times and so on, but these will be phased out gradually as we get the proper people. There's no great rush later on in the year so we can save some of the money that we have for this item. But we are not changing the policy set out by the Department of trying to co-ordinate the policy and the planning.

As I say, this is not all the planning that is done there. If I can give you examples — there is always something. There are certainly many crises in a week in this department and you must be able to move fast at times. For instance, there was the difficulty that we had with the Patient Air Transport program and so on. This policy committee and co-ordinators are the one that co-ordinate and start looking at this immediately and if we haven't got these people sometimes We it is quite difficult. are

also very aware of the restraints to program. We, as I say, wanted to demonstrate that we should start with the Minister so it could carry on through the department, and I think once you have seen the department that we have been fairly successful, especially in administration, cutting down quite a bit.

I believe the member was here when I was talking about the staff. We are very proud of that also, that we have a very limited increase in staff and a reduction in contract staff also. So we felt that maybe we should start by our department. But we are not saying that the system is bad — we're getting a nucleus of people that will co-ordinate that. We meet so we can get the ideas of all the department instead of working, and I am not commenting on any other thing that my colleagues will do, but what I like to do is discuss with many of our people, once a week usually. We have a Policy Committee, which is the Deputy Minister, the Co-ordinators, the different ADMs and the Chairman of the Commission; we get together and discuss things sometimes in a heated manner and so on to try and prepare the policies that we will recommend to the government

and then also to see the problem area. They are regular members of this Policy Committee but also anybody is invited if somebody down the line has something that he wants to make sure is heard by the Minister, the one that represents the government, these people are invited in. We always have different people that come besides the regulars. I think it is very very important. I think it has served us well and I wouldn't want to change that system, it's the one I like to work with anyway. Eventually we might have the component but in the meantime we are not filling all these positions, we are trying to phase them in gradually.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, does this budgetary reduction and salary reduction reflect itself in the contract expense end of the department? Because I notice, unless I misread the original information that the Minister gave us in his opening statement, and I may have misread it, in the increased staff-man positions which he referred to, the slight increase for this year over last year, there is no reference to any increase of staff of persons having to do with this particular responsibility. So do I conclude from that that there has been nobody added on a staff basis and there have been some cut-backs made in the contract area?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, there is no contracts in this area at all. The staff man years that we have, that is another thing. I have talked about the increase in staff but we purposely try not to fill all the staff man years that we have. So last year we didn't spend all the money that you see here. This is what we asked for. But during the course of the year it was made clear to us by our Premier and the Cabinet that we were going through a rough period and even though the money was there at times we should not spend that money. So this was something that we were phasing in, we were re-organizing the department and we didn't fill the position. Now the staff man years that we have for that are six, last year the same, six this year, but they were not hired last year and they will not be hired, they will be phased in gradually. We didn't spend that money last year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** I'm not quite sure whether I understood the Minister right, whether there was not a reduction of staff over here, whether the money had not been spent and had been allocated last year. —(Interjection)— So there actually was no reduction in staff then. It is just that the money was not spent last year.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'll try to explain again. What we received last year was enough money and enough staff man years to have six people working. We didn't fill all the positions for the reasons I gave you and we don't intend to fill these positions, we will phase them in very gradually. You know, this is for the full year and it might be that we will fill one or two positions sometime in October or December if we have the proper people and depending on the direction that we want to go. We are in no hurry in filling these positions because we are trying to cut down as much as possible and this is an area that we can. We feel that we might suffer a bit, but we can. It is easier to cut there than on actual service and this is what we are doing.

**MR. BROWN:** Does this Policy Committee monitor and evaluate programs, and if it does, I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether there are any professionals, whether there are any doctors on this particular Policy Committee?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I am going to resist the temptation of referring my honourable friend and the members of the Committee to Hansard because we certainly discussed this last year. But to remind you I would like to say that, yes, the Policy Committee of course are members of the senior staff, and as I just mentioned awhile ago, many people are called in. Now there is the Chief Medical Consultant, Dr. Tavener, sits in at all these meetings. Then our Director, Dr. French, is there approximately 50 percent of the time or so, maybe that is a little too much, depending on what we have in front of us on the agenda. You know, we cover a lot of things. Whenever there is any need, of course, there is many doctors; if we were talking about swine flu or something then we might have ten doctors, depending on what is on the agenda. Dr. Eadie and Dr. Snell come in quite often, also our people are often called.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to labour this point, but on this particular item \$158,000 was provided last year and as I understand the Minister, that was to take care of six personnel. He didn't hire six. So this is really just a bookkeeping saving. You didn't spend the money, you told us. So it could have read \$72,000 last year as well as this year.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Yes, I explained why. I mean it wasn't an accident. During the course of last year we decided to cut down — I think you remember the exercise that we were directed to do — there are some areas like that where the money wasn't committed, especially in areas where it wouldn't bring any reduction in services, and especially in staff, and there were memos going through me to all staff. We made different policies in the department re travelling outside the province and so on. We tried to save as much as possible. So it wasn't by accident, it was by design that the positions were not

filled. And I am saying that this year we are keeping the staff man years, we are not asking for the money because we are not going to fill this again. We might phase one or two positions in. — (Interjection)— That is possible. There is a possibility that we needed more money around Swan River and so on that we spent it there, I don't know.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 58(c)(1)—pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought there was another member who was trying to get recognition.

Let me first say that I am not sure I agree with the kind of position taken by the Minister, that if you are going to cut back, this is the area to cut in. I realize that the government benchers were faced with some stringent requests. But it strikes me that one of the critical problems that the Minister and his department now have to face is the whole re-transferring of financing from the Federal Government, which is going to have a very large impact upon all kinds of programs and policies of the department, what kinds of programs, how they are funded and who gets them. So what I am really wondering about is, who is doing that? That is a pretty substantial change in the way in which we are delivering social and health programs in the province. I would have some more confidence if we knew that we were taking this opportunity to do the kind of assessment that is necessary, particularly in light of that changing of the tax points to determine which programs are useful and which are not. Once we escape out from under that cost-sharing arrangement, presumably it would give some freedom to set more directly the priorities in this province according to what the government thinks the priorities are opposed to what the Federal Government is prepared to pay for on their cost-sharing arrangement. It would seem to me that now is the time to be doing that kind of analysis as to exactly which programs are having a significant impact in improving areas and which are not.

I would also say, Mr. Chairman, that in addition to the issue of the funding transfers and the kind of implications it has with the department, I think the general movement towards trying to evolve social programs and health programs more into the preventative area, really requires again some pretty serious and pretty critical analysis of the present existing programs, which in many cases are support programs as opposed to preventative programs. Again, I am wondering who is doing that, that if in fact we are cutting back, closing down, holding the line, in this particular group, who from our past discussions I understood were supposed to be doing that kind of work. I am wondering who is doing it now or if we are not doing it at all? And if we are not doing it at all, it strikes me that we are probably ill-prepared then to face up to some of the decisions that are going to have to be made in the next twelve months or so about the kinds of the programs that we want to provide. I would hope the Minister might be prepared to show where in fact that kind of planning and analysis that is presently going on.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I must repeat that I made it quite clear we have not abandoned the policy, we still think that it is good. But, you know, you don't like to cut anywhere but you have got to start somewhere. I want to reassure my honourable friend many of the areas that he mentioned was not done by these people, this is just a nucleus of people that were co-ordinating and getting some of the information evaluated themselves.

On the large and very important question of negotiating with Ottawa, new legislation from Ottawa, this is done, and the next thing that you will see there is a resource division of the department, the staff would be in there with the senior people also. Every hospital in the province and personal care home is kept aware of what is going on and they must re-evaluate their position and prioritize. So they do some of the work there. The Manitoba Health Services Commission, of course, is very very interested, probably they are more involved than we are, not on the Social Services' side but certainly on the Health side because it is mostly the hospital and personal care beds, Medicare and those programs that are quite expensive.

I must say that besides that we have been fortunate in getting people that have been giving us many many hours of their time, like people from the Department of Finance who are working with our staff and are quite up to date with what is going on in Ottawa — and of course our staff with the constant meetings they are having with senior staff in Ottawa. These people would assist no doubt in planning what to do, how to spend the money wisely, and I think that is what my honourable friend is saying. I don't think it was because we never had it in the department before. I think that it is maybe more of a personal style. The next Minister might say this was lousy and throw it out, I don't know. I certainly am convinced that they can earn their keep. And the fact that we wanted the right kind of people also. We are looking for certain people that are very difficult to get. I wouldn't mind having, if at all possible, a young doctor interested in public health to do exactly what you were saying, preventative work and so on, but I haven't been able to find any and I am not going to fill these positions just to say, "Well, okay, I've got these six positions. Of course, they weren't filled." When the Cabinet saw that they would say, "Well you lived without these positions for so long." You know the way it is. So I had to live a little longer without them. That is the situation.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, if that is the case I wonder if the Minister could be more explicit. What areas of programs explicitly is this group looking at? Are they looking at population changes, are they looking at different kinds of delivery systems — what is it that they are in fact doing? Can he give us the priorities of this particular division of his department in terms of research or analysis or assessment that they plan to undertake over the next year?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** This is a bit difficult because we haven't got and we never had the position. We had maybe one or two positions. And what they have tried — at one time when we were looking at the complete re-organization of the department, I felt that the best way, which I had seen in other areas,

that we would have an Assistant Deputy Minister, and that was one of the positions that wasn't filled. They had one at one time. He would be in charge of all research for the whole department. We studied that quite carefully. The Policy Committee had many meetings. Then it became quite clear that we would miss out if we just tried to group everybody in the policy and take them out of the service, that to really know what is going on they must do a bit of evaluation and they must be some of the people charged with the programs to get the expertise that we're talking about, not just dreamers in an ivory tower somewhere trying to set policies for the government. So this was the idea to bring these people who would work for the Policy Committee. Some of them would be co-ordinators to implement what is being done and then the research they might get in other areas, know where to get the research and so on, and six is not very much. I'm talking about a secretary and then I think there were three co-ordinators and these people would know where to get the information and meet with different groups because there's always meetings going on in different groups that want to study something and one person can't do it, or the Deputy Minister has got so much he can't do it. All of a sudden as I say there is always crisis with PAT and when we have a committee that is working now on the education of the nurses and so on. There's another committee on prenatal care and these things go on and it is to get somebody to co-ordinate the information that we can get, know the information that they want to get, the planning, the evaluation and so on but I can't really tell you what they were doing because we never really got off the ground. We've got as I said, I think there was only one. There were some people acting in that capacity for a period of time, I couldn't get the money to get the office of residential care, which I thought was very very important so we had one person who spent an awful lot of time in that. I think I can justify that, even all this amount of money there if we can set up this thing, because we had no hold on this business of all these facilities with the agencies giving the service but placing people somewhere and so on, the standards and so on, it was very bad. We used the co-ordinator to do an awful lot of that, if there was something I couldn't get, I got it in another way. We finally got it through now and we have an office of residential care with a small staff of three. I hope I'm giving you information. It's quite difficult because the people weren't there.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, in part it sounds like he's talking about the ghost squadron of the Department of Health and Social Development, that they're there but they're not there. And I'm not sure if they're there only kind of passing through somehow but taking that aside that this is kind of ephemeral organization and it probably justifies the cutback that it has. Let me raise with the Minister —(Interjection)— Well no cutback, I know that's right there was money that wasn't spent is now being indicated that it was taken out of the budget. Right. Okay.

What I would want to ask then is that in this area of providing for the medium and long term planning of programs. When we look at Estimates in years past, one of the questions that was raised for example was whether the stated policy of the government going back three years in terms of the establishment of a series of community health clinics was going to be assessed and evaluated. I wonder if this has now been done, if some conclusions have been reached and has the government decided either to abandon the program, stop the program, to freeze the program or to expand the program and if so how? Now again, I don't know if that comes under another item but I believe that that was one of the responsibilities that at this point the policy planning group was supposed to be looking at. I wonder if he can make some report as to what the conclusions of that assessment have been?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I will, Mr. Chairman, but again not here. This is mostly the administration and we are going in these programs. I think if you follow you have on page 29 Child and Family Services, Public Health Nursing, Health and Education, Home Ecs, Continuing Care and you have these medical and rehabilitative service with the proper people here. Dr. Tavener our Chief Psychiatrist will be here. We have the Mental and Rehabilitative Services and so on, so I'm not trying to evade that but I would ask co-operation at this time. This is mostly the administration part. I certainly will make a statement on that because as I said last year we were weak on that, we made certain commitments and I want to at least give you a progressive report.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 58(c)(1) — pass, 58(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$25,000 — pass. We now proceed to the next resolution, Resolution 59 Resources Division (a) Financial Services (1) Salaries \$849,000.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rhineland

**MR. BROWN:** I wonder if the Minister can tell me who is in charge of this program at the present time since the Deputy has been transferred from this Division I understand.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** A very capable person by the name of Peter Schmidt who is sitting here to my left in front of me.

**MR. BROWN:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could have an indication at this time whether there has been an increase in municipal assistance over the past years. Mr. Chairman, if I may, it says over here that it co-ordinates the operation of certain financial assistance programs such as municipal assistance.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** That's right these people are strictly administrators and you will find that under page 32, I think, at 5(c)(3) Municipal Assistance. There is a special amount there. For your information, it's it's gone up \$45,000.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 59(a)(1) The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. BILTON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might enquire of the Minister. Does this item provide for the auditing of the hospital books? —(Interjection)— That belongs to the . . . This is simply for their internal operations right here.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Maybe I could be a little more helpful. Maybe I could read and it might help my honourable friends. This provides for central accounting, payroll, budgetary, revenue and financial planning services to the department. Also administers or coordinates the operation of certain financial assistance programs such as Municipal Assistance and the Social Allowance Health Services Program. I think you have it here, I didn't realize it, you also have it in the book.

**MR. BILTON:** What I'm thinking of, if I may just take it a step further, I'm thinking of the budgets that come down from the hospitals which you people examine, it's not under this item. Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(a)(1)—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures \$237,800—pass; 59(b) External Agencies and Office of Residential Care (1) Salaries, \$307,100. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if my honourable friend would permit me, I might answer some of these questions. There is something new as I said, the residential care, and I'd like to make the following statement. We now come to an appropriation in my department that perhaps is not significant in relative dollar amounts compared to other appropriations but I feel it deserves a few remarks. A significant number of programs funded by the Health and Social Development are carried out by private agencies which are external to departmental operations. This is true of virtually every area including Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Child Welfare, Home Care, Day Care and a host of others. Generally speaking these are two types of services which are offered by agencies and service providers funded by the department.

Firstly, there are those agencies that provide direct personal services to clients such as the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, The Victorian Order of Nurses and countless others.

Secondly, there are those agencies that supply an element of personal care but are primarily in place to provide 24 hours a day living accommodation. In this category there is both agencies and individuals that operate child welfare institutions and group homes, mental retardation community residences, halfway houses in the alcohol and correction systems and special interest housing such as the Wheelchair Housing Centre.

In the past the department has had a single office as a contact point with all external agencies. The function of this office has been to conduct budget services, establish budgets and rates and to work with the various program personnel in the department in the development of criteria and standards on which budget and rate assessments can be based. It is the department's intention going into 1977-78 to split this function into two components. One component will be the administrative centre to liaise and conduct budget services with those agencies which provide direct services to clientele.

Another component which we have called — and this is the new one now — the Office of Residential Care, will be the focal point for dealing with those agencies providing 24 hour a day residential care with the emphasis on deinstitutionalization, and the development of Community Residential Facilities and Programming. We find an increasing demand of a special nature being placed on the department.

In all program areas with central co-ordinating through the Office of Residential Care we will be moving vigorously on (1) Fire, Public Health and Building Safety Standards on which we've been lax up to now, (2) on the development of inspection programs related to those physical standards, (3) on an application and licensing process, (4) on the development of program standards and (5) on the establishment of budgets and rates which accurately reflect the program standards. Right now they've put on their own rates and it might be that some people offer better service with less money, and provide levels of care and treatment constant with the needs of the clientele.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen a vast increase in the residential living concept. In the past five years we have witnessed the development of some 100 group homes in child welfare, 25 community residences in mental retardation, and a substantial discharge of patients from mental hospitals to group living situations. It is past due that we recognize this community residential phenomenon and respond with an appropriate central mechanism to ensure a satisfactory level of physical and program standards and a well reviewed level of funding consistent with the expected standards. I might say that this office could also help in some of the problems, to answer some of the problems that my honourable friend from Fort Rouge has suggested, maybe helping the people in getting the proper accommodation and so on.

It is also my intention to work closely with the City of Winnipeg Committee on the Environment and to co-ordinate with them the necessary inspection services and licensing procedures' not only for those facilities which are funded by my department but also for those facilities designated as guest homes which provide accommodation and service to self-pay elderly persons. Again my honourable friend from Fort Rouge asked a question of me a few weeks ago that caught me by surprise about this home care. Actually if this was well monitored and if there were proper standards and so on, these people in the guest house are being charged for this kind of service and they should get it but it is true that they weren't getting it so, we're looking at the emergency now until we can straighten this thing out.

It is for all of those reasons that our Office of Residential Care will be established as distinct and separate from our external agency component which is more interested with the budget and so on, and it will continue to deal with those external agencies which provide direct services. Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.



**MR. AXWORTHY:** I first would say that I think the introduction of the Office of Residential Care is long overdue or something similar to it because I think there have been a number of pretty serious problems related to the division of services through private care homes. I know that one grouping of problems that has come to my attention as part of the larger context of the Child Care Programs, is in the private treatment centres for juveniles who are detained either for juvenile delinquency reasons or through the CAS and we still sadly lack many of the proper range of options.

What does concern me is that there are a number of private treatment homes which acquire a \$50.00 per diem for each child. Many of the owners have five or six of these homes and absolutely no services are provided. It's 50 bucks found money. They may provide a bed and some meals but it's 50 bucks found money and several of them are in fact paying off — they've acquired some pretty expensive property and they are using federal provincial funds to pay these homes off. I don't know what they do with them then I suppose they sell them and make apartment blocks out of them.

But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that in the provision of a range of options for children who come under the purview of the provincial government either through the route of the courts or the delinquency side or become wards of the child welfare side.

First we have a lack of proper treatment facilities and secondly many of the private facilities that we do provide have no guidelines in terms of what services they are expected to provide. They have very little guidelines in the way of inspection or assessment of what is being provided. I would suggest it is not only a matter of making the kind of critical inspection that is needed in these areas it is also to look at what are the holes are that have to be filled in supplying these kinds of programs.

To give you one example, Mr. Chairman, in many cases because these homes themselves don't have proper treatment facilities for children who have some disturbances the children, in fact must stay in the Youth Treatment Centre or in one of the institutional homes even though sometimes they are still collecting the per diem off the provincial government. , although I could probably document I'm sure the Minister has all the documentation he needs, to indicate that many of these private centres are in fact collection a per diem when in fact a child is in one of the provincial institutional homes. So that fact is it's a double entry on the budget book. So I think from an accounting point of view it hasn't made much sense.

I am also much more concerned I think about the lack of options in these homes, and when it comes time for the courts or the probation officer or the child welfare worker to find a place to put the child there is simple no place to go. I can recite in the last three or four weeks I have had calls from parents in my own riding saying, "My child has been picked up, they're at the Youth Treatment Centre, there is no place to put them." As a result that whole Youth Treatment Centre is being used as sort of a depository, not as a temporary holding place, but in fact had children sitting in there for sometimes four, five, six months simply because there is no place in which they can go where the worker will be satisfied that they'll get proper treatment.

So one of the issues I'd really like to raise, perhaps as a priority for when and if this Office of Residential Care gets into business, is to begin looking at what is happening in these homes, what kind of treatment is available, whether we're getting proper expenditure for our money and exactly what the options might be.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(b)(1) — pass' 59(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$22,500 — pass. Resolution 59(c) Operational Support Services (1) Salaries \$705,000 — pass. Other Expenditures (2) \$122,700. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Before we leave the Operational Support Services, I wonder if the Minister could explain what is in fact happening with the Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee in terms of setting up the operation of that Committee, what it has in fact been doing for the past year. This, I assume, is the group that looks after the establishment of the Drug Registry. . I realize it is still active but I'd like to know exactly what has been performed in terms of the listing of drugs and what kind of activities they have been engaged in.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** You actually wanted to know if there were any new drugs that were. . . gosh, I haven't got this here. When this is done, it is done by an Order-in-Council and I will try to get that. I know that they are constantly reviewing this and when they are ready, there is an Order-in-Council. If this is to be changed, it is done by an Order-in-Council. — (Interjection)— You are not talking about Pharmacare? No. Well, that's what we do, we have to go through an Order-in-Council. Do you want me to try to get you what was done during the year, Order-in-Council and so on, a copy of that?

**MR. AXWORTHY:** The other activity, Mr. Chairman, in this particular section of the department that intrigues me is the responsibility they have for renegotiating fees and services with professional associations. That comes under this department and I would wonder whether the Minister could indicate whether there in fact has been any significant change in standards relating to the professional public health nurses, doctors that may or may not be employed and other forms of professional groups that are involved in this department.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** These contracts are about due and they are being negotiated now. I don't think there are any new ones. There are some that are through the Manitoba Government Employees of course and others. For instance, we are negotiating with the doctors that are employed by the department at this time. I might say, if you remember that last year I explained that we were going to work with management committee on that. We have somebody that is from management that is assigned to work with our department, the Health Services Commission and the department, Mr. Larry Giffin.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate exactly which

professional groups does he have in his department. Is it just the doctors or what other kinds of professional associations are included under this handle.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I have other professional associations — the people that are employed by the department, you are talking about. I think that is the only one, the doctors; the others are all under the Government Employees. Now we might discuss with the pharmacists and with the optometrists and so on for services for our social welfare people, for rates. They do that also.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(c)(2) Other Expenditures — pass. The hour being 4:30 . . . .

**MR. PAULLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I note your presence in the Assembly and I want to suggest to you, Sir, that discussions have taken place with the members of the Assembly as to the advisability of continuing for today the Committee of Supply. It seems that we have unanimous consent accordingly and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we agree to that for today. The honourable members of the Liberal Party have agreed, as has the opposition. Of course the House Leader of the Opposition will speak for the Official Opposition as I am for the government and it appears that this agreement is for today and not to be construed as establishing a precedent. It could happen again but, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that leave be given to suspend the rules of the private members' hour for today in order that the Committees of Supply may continue. (Agreed)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Committee will proceed. Resolution 59 (d) on Page 28, Program Review, (1) Salaries, \$138,900. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the group responsible for Program Review was, as I understand it, established at the end of 1975 within this particular division to undertake the central analysis, research and evaluative functions of the department. That is a lofty objective and no doubt a necessary one and in terms of the overall budget we are not looking at a major appropriation here, \$186,700 representing an increase of only some \$8,000 over last year. I suppose you can't be expected to carry on Program Review in a department of this size and scope or in a division of this size and scope without spending a few tens of thousands of dollars. Would the Minister advise the Committee who is in this group, how many people are in it, and whether this is a fulltime function for the members of the group or whether they double in brass in various other capacities.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There is no increase or decrease. They are still nine and that is their fulltime responsibility. Now they double in this case, that they might be called in to do a certain work, which I think is in line with their duties and their experience and expertise and so on. For instance as I said earlier, the PAT Program which normally might have been done by somebody in the policy committee, the staff of the Policy Committee, but this was done by the director here, it was a difficult situation, who helped me organize and get recommendations for the members of the Committee and who acted as the liaison for the government on this and is preparing the report now that I should have any time. He is also now doing the same thing, helping me set up an advisory committee on family planning and so on, so you know this is within the scope but it is something that I will ask him to do directly, to come and help because of the lack in that policy. If we had the co-ordinators and people that could do it at this stage — some of these things still have to be done and we will get them whenever we can in the department but they would be the type of people that probably would want to work a policy paper or a Cabinet paper in any instance in areas such as I mentioned.

**MR. SHERMAN:** How do they specifically function, Mr. Chairman? Do they initiate programs and policies or do they simply review initiatives undertaken by the Minister and his deputy and his top staff?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, one thing when I came into this department that I did want to see is some people in the department on their own deciding that this is a policy and fire up something that then becomes policy that will be pushed through the same kind of staff, maybe at HESP and so on, that would be policy.

Now the procedure is this: If I get any directive, first of all, number one, from the Cabinet to develop a certain program, fine. They are instructed, this is brought back, we discuss it and they proceed with it. Secondly if it is something that is originated by the Minister or the policy committee and so on, a directive goes down, fine. They are usually in on the talk. Now that doesn't mean that we don't want any ideas of people that are experienced. But before preparing a paper, spending hours and hours developing something that might be contrary to government policy and to make sure that the policies are made by people that were elected to do so, if they have any ideas, we welcome their ideas. It is sent to the chairman of the policy committee who puts it on the agenda and this person will come in before it is all developed and spending hours and hours of time. So then if he gets the green light then there is a committee and I never want these people to work alone. I have seen through experience that some people are all full of ideas but they might not realize and they might push this thing and they might not realize what it will cost us tomorrow, next year and the year after, so there is always somebody on Resources with them. And also we want to make sure that if there is any chance at all that are cost shares on that, we have to have experts on that to work with them. This is the way they work. There is no firing up in an ivory tower of some schemes that look very good on paper or I hope, maybe they are still pulling the wool over my eyes, that there is not going to be end runs and so on. I don't think there is too many of them because we are quite a few that look at that. I think this is the orderly way of doing it.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us: How does one get to be a member of the Program Review group? Are people hired because they had a particular expertise in terms of analysis and assessment of one position as against another or because they wanted to come in and initiate ideas and programs or did they come up through the ranks of the department?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Some of these people have been there over ten years and they probably will be there for another ten to fifteen years. They are people that would have to meet what is requested of them. They are people that would have the expertise in that. Now it's like everything else. I would imagine that if there is a bulletin and a job is open, that they can apply. What their motive is, if it is just to get a fair salary or if it is somebody that is really concerned to push certain programs, I don't know but I think that this is safeguard. We hope that there are people with ambition that are not just looking at a good job with security and so on, but I don't know what motivates all these people. I know that I am very satisfied. I don't know them all by name but the work that comes from there is satisfactory. They are turning out the material pretty fast. I know that there are not that many, like you say, for a large department and they work only in certain areas. You will find, as I said earlier, other people that might be planning and coming in with ideas in different departments also. But these people will assess and they might have certain things referred to them where they will give their evaluation and so on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(d)(1). The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate which programs were reviewed last year? He indicated that some of the members of the committee were there for ten years, so we perhaps have some kind of reports, which programs were reviewed, and can the Minister indicate: Does he get such reports and what do they usually look at? What kind of programs and can he give us some indication?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There is no way that I can give you the list. Any of the programs that we will discuss later on, they have been involved with. And as I say, I don't know what they prepare. If there is something like this, they are usually called when that is going to be on the agenda. Either they have pushed something up or there was a directive from the Cabinet or the department or the policy committee. They are invited. They get the expertise if they need help in the resource division and so on, they get it and they prepare a paper for the policy committee to start with, our own internal policy committee. This is usually done in a way not to duplicate things, in a way that it is ready to go to either HESP which is a subcommittee of Cabinet dealing with that or management. Most of the time it is HESP. There are all kinds of things and as I said, some of them work on the PAT program, on the policy, which is something that we felt uncomfortable with. It wasn't our responsibility. Our responsibility was to fund it but we had nothing to say, not at all, it was after the fact. We were getting the bills and we didn't like that too much. It was discussed in Cabinet and it was agreed that we would have a committee — the committee is not all members of the staff. There was only one member of the staff on that but they co-ordinated that and as I say they are preparing an internal report now that I would hope that we will base ourself on to send up a recommendation to Cabinet. So name it, they have done it. They have done on all these programs, on mental health, especially when we developed policy for the government on mental health, what my honourable friend was talking about, what we will discuss later on in the programs. It could be on anything, on day care, on home care, on anything, but they work with the people that are delivering those particular programs also.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Chairman, it would appear that it is more on a policy than on sort of reviewing the program in itself, say with a complete review of the home care program and recommend the deficiencies in it and what is required and how many people require home care that are not able to get it because of not sufficient staff and so on, or is it more on a policy, because listening to the Minister I am confused because he is saying it is more on policy and they are reviewing all the programs, he says. Well surely in one year it would be pretty difficult to do a complete review in the Estimates.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** There is no need to be confused because of course where do you think the policy comes from? The policy comes after review. The policy might be to keep on going with the program the way it is or change it or modify it, and new programs. But they do exactly what my honourable friend stated, they work with these people, evaluate it and study it and then make their recommendation which might after that be instrumental in having different policies or modifying the policies.

For instance I will give you a good example. We have had this trouble in Selkirk. I am not saying they exactly work on this one but that would be an example where we have had difficulty and one of the reasons for that, there has been concern with the staff and so on that we were going, and we make mistakes, we were going in a policy of trying to phase everybody out of these institutions which was fine. We still have the same policy, although we recognize now that there will always be need for some institutions and also the fact is that we were going too fast and we didn't have the facilities ready to accept these people. So what was going on that the staff was quite concerned, some of them were being transferred to the community after years and years in the hospital. They were concerned, they didn't know, they were worried about their security also and also that resulted in many of these people cluttering up the acute psychiatric beds in the general hospitals and so on. So now that has been modified and these people would work on some of these things which would result in either just abandoning a policy, changing and saying we were wrong, or modifying it or saying, "Well, fine, but we are going to slow down a bit. On paper that looked good but it is not going to work until you have the policies and so on."

**MR. PATRICK:** Would they do such work, Mr. Chairman, as monitoring the length of stay of certain patients in hospitals, the long-term or short-term patient, the length of days and so on? — (Interjection) —

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(d)(1). The Honourable Member for Morris.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Chairman, I rise only on a point of order and I hesitate to do so, but I think it is necessary if the records are going to remain in proper order. The Minister has the habit of

replying from his seat without the microphone being on and when he does that, then his comments which we would wish to record for posterity are not being recorded and I would hope that the Minister would wait until the question has been asked and be given an opportunity to reply so that it can be recorded.

**MR. CHAIAN:** The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

**MR. PATRICK:** Mr. Chairman, I still want to pursue the same area. Who would do, say, the research to find out how many people are awaiting admission for nursing care homes? Would this be an area or do they strictly review the program, or would this be the team?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** The office of Continuing Care would do that. They monitor that every day, they would have proper records on that. —(Interjection)— No.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(d)(1)—pass; (d)(2) Other Expenditures \$47,800—pass. Resolution 59(e) Personnel Management Services: (1) Salaries \$255,100. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, this would be the first appropriation that we have come to in these Estimates on which I must confess to a temptation to clash with the Minister. This is an area which I suggest leaves itself open to "empire building." There are many areas of government administration, many areas in terms of the government's stewardship — any government's stewardship — of the affairs of the province or the community, which are vulnerable to "empire building." That's a fact of life, but in a period of restraint and rational management, it is these areas that we must attempt to identify and use as a base if we can for bringing public expenditures into line.

I fear that this particular field is one that lends itself to that kind of undisciplined growth and possible inefficiency measured in terms of some of the other services which are very necessary in the Department of Health and Social Development. I note, in reading the Annual Report for the Department, that in the field of personnel management services, for example, we have a staff development office which is involved in such activities as the following. I just want to note these for the record for one minute, Mr. Chairman, without prolonging the work of the committee: Participation in inter-departmental work groups which are developing program guidelines for organizational development, management by objectives, communications, first-line and middle management development, clerical, secretarial training, employee orientation, recruitment and selection, classification and the public administration pilot program.

2. Participation in the presentation of organization behaviour and change seminars in concert with Management Committee and external consultants for senior managers from all different departments in the Civil Service.

3. Designing and conducting seminars for departmental staff in such learning areas as developing interpersonal communication skills, how to work with groups in the community, conducting effective meetings, etc.

4. Development of a management development program for senior departmental management.

And the list goes on and on, Mr. Chairman. I put it to the Minister that what we are talking about here is a staff training and upgrading program and that's very necessary and very valuable in almost every activity where resources and revenues and expenditures are involved. But I also put it to him, you could go in the private sector and find enterprises and corporations employing just as many and more personnel as the Minister has under his supervision in this department, who can operate a staff training program for a heck of a lot less than a third-of-a-million dollars a year.

I revert to my original remarks, Mr. Chairman, that if there are some areas where we can zero in on inefficiency and undisciplined growth and "empire building," I think it is our responsibility to try to zero in on them and until persuaded otherwise, off a review of what the branch and what the office is charged with doing and in comparing it in my own mind to what is done in the private sector in these fields and the amount of money that is required to do it quite efficiently in the private sector, I have to suggest to the Minister that a third-of-a-million dollars is too much for what in effect seems to be an exercise in self-justification. I recognize that people have to justify themselves. They sometimes have to justify themselves by dividing like amoebas and adding make-work projects that, you know, they attempt to portray as being vital and necessary, but it's up to the Minister and the Opposition to watchdog that kind of activity and I don't like what I see right here.

**MR. DESJARDIN:** Mr. Chairman, if we're going to clash it's going to be on something else because this is not something that I invented although I will certainly defend it. Now, we have over 4,000 people. I know that nobody else in Manitoba has that kind of staff or people employed. And if 15 people for 4,000, that's what we have, is empire building, God we're not going to have much of an empire with that.

They do education, but that's only part of it. They recruit and that's difficult. We have had an awful time. We're trying to recruit, for instance, psychiatrists for Brandon and Selkirk and you know how much trouble we have had with that. They interview, I don't interfere with selection, the hiring of people and so on. They prepare that. There are some people that have problems on the staff, they are trying to keep them happy. There's the education trying to get them to upgrade themselves. I can't see any waste in there at all and I can't see that this is empire building. I don't know if my honourable friend realized that we are talking only about 15 people here and there hasn't been an increase there — has there been an increase in the last two years? There has been no increase in there but there is increase in staff all the time. That group of 15 has been there for a long time and I can tell you that they are overworked, they are working quite hard.

I disagree, not violently because this is not the service area, but I think it's needed. I think that the

personnel for, as I say, over 4,200 people, a staff of 15 to do all that is not in excess.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's information that it's 15 people who are involved. That was going to be my next question. If it's 15, that's not a great number of people, I concede that, but I think that it might possibly be seven people or eight people if there weren't so many esoteric exercises assigned to them as are illustrated in the Annual Report of the department, a portion of which I just read out a few moments ago.

Going beyond that, let me ask the Minister this, if you look over the entire Resources Division, and here I say again, I think in total the Minister has exercised restraint. I don't find any fault with the minimal increase in the overall appropriation being asked for the Resources Division in total, except that if we are going to find savings somewhere, we've got to find them in these areas that are not directly related to the delivery of service to the people of Manitoba who need health and social development services delivered to them.

So that perhaps holding the line is not quite as successful an exercise as is required at the present time. Perhaps we should be doing a little better than holding the line, we should be reducing the appropriations being voted in this area. Nonetheless, I don't quarrel with his "hold the line" approach but if you look at the overall breakdown of individual branch functions and services in the Resources Division, it seems to me that a number of those services could be co-ordinated, a number of those functions could be co-ordinated and there could be more value, more productivity obtained out of individual functions in the department and persons performing those functions, through a kind of a branch and service co-ordination effort. Now, that may not be possible but my initial examination of the department, not only in this session but in others previous, has always left me with the feeling that services such as Program Review and Personnel Management and possibly even Operational Support, are services that could be co-ordinated a lot more closely than they are and could therefore require a smaller kind of establishment in terms of staff man hours and manpower generally.

The Minister may say that those services are so different that co-ordination among them is impossible, but I feel that there could be some efforts towards co-ordination made and I would like the Minister's opinion on that.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss to understand the concern of my honourable friend who understands how business works, I wish if he is going to read from the Report, that he should read the first paragraph and I think that is more appropriate. The first paragraph, and I'll read it: "The Personnel Management Services Branch provides comprehensive services to the Ministries of Health and Social Development and Corrective and Rehabilitative Services" that's the two, "in areas of staff recruitment and selection," and that's the main function, "and also position classification and evaluation, employee relations and staff training and development."

For instance, in a large department like that, you have somebody, either it's a different personality of a Minister or Deputy Minister or the priorities change and you have somebody that all of a sudden is not doing very much in a certain position. Well, we try, instead of just placing this fellow and putting

him on a shelf or red-circling it and say, "Okay, you're stuck with him," we try to retrain these people and give them something worthwhile to do and I think that is very important. That co-ordination that my honourable friend is talking about, that is done by these people.

And then there's the education part of it. You start a policy like the next thing that we'll have, Community Operation Division, where you work as a team and so on, well, they bring these people in to work with them and to try to get them to work better. They prepare different seminars for them and so on. I don't feel guilty in this at all, with 15 for over 4,000 people, with the work that they do. And as I say, this is something that was in there — I'm not trying to defend anybody, but this was something that was established in this department with three different governments. I know that we have been successful so far in not talking about partisan politics and so on, but this is not something that is dear to my heart or something that I pushed, that I want to defend in that way, but I do think it's a good thing. I know that those people are very, very busy, you should see the stack of applications and so on that I get every week on that and they have to prepare all that, just the paperwork. Maybe one other thing would be to try to cut that paperwork in two, I wish the heck we could. I think they are doing a good service and I think if they could work and get their staff happy and qualified staff and get the right kind of people, I think that 15 is not too much.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, then, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister, what's the function of the Special Studies Group? The Minister says that there are nine people in Program Review and they have a specific role to perform, and there are 15 in Personnel Management and part of their job is this co-ordination that I am talking about. But then we have also got a Special Studies Group which apparently has a staff of 14 consisting of a number of analysts and systems analysts and support staff and their projects apparently consist primarily of informational and operational studies as a tool for senior management in the development of policy formulation.

Somewhere along the line, somebody is duplicating something. They are either duplicating the work of the Program Review Committee or they are duplicating the work of Personnel Management Services, but there is another whole group there functioning, apparently under the directions of the same kind of departmental jargon as constitutes the directions given to the Personnel Management Services group.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** My honourable friend is talking about the Special Studies. I think we have already passed that, passed that group, and this is a group that is looking at something completely different. What we have in front of us is dealing with personnel in the department. When I'm talking about co-ordinating and so on is trying to get the . . . all right, in two words, trying to get the most out of every staff man year that we have. This is the main thing.

If you're talking about different studies, about policies and working with agencies and so on, that's a little different. These people only work with, the programs that they are talking about, is for the benefit of the employees in the department, not policies, dealing with agencies or anything like that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister says we have already passed it but there is no such thing as Special Studies, we're not voting any appropriation specifically related to a Special Studies group, but the Special Studies group is included in the Resources Division of the department and the Special Studies group's terms of reference are to perform a service function available to all divisions, branches or sections of the department or its funded agencies on a request basis.

Is the Minister saying to me that when we were looking at External Agencies and Office of Residential Care that we were dealing with a Special Studies group, because if so it's not differentiated that way in the Report of the department? They are separate items in the departmental report relating to those different groups.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the Special Review would be on Page 27, Resources Division, 2(c), Operational Support Services.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Special Studies comes under the Operational Support Services?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Right.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I won't belabour the point, Mr. Chairman, but that just goes back to my original position that I felt that Operational Support Services and Personal Management Services, it seemed to me, provided two areas which could offer an opportunity for a much closer co-ordination of work effort and input than appears to be the case. The Minister says that isn't so, they are doing two different functions. The departmental jargon in the report doesn't make any difference in function very clear to me, but if it is there, it's there.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, maybe it is unfortunate that the Annual Report doesn't follow this format.

Now this is all in the same shop, these people work together. This is all under the same Director, the same ADM and so on, that are working in this area. There is 40 in this group that you are talking about. There were forty people. They are doing something else. But then there is no doubt — they are talking about cars, for instance — that they will get together. You know it is the same shop, the same building and everything, but they have a little more specific responsibility. These 15 people — what they would do that the other group will not do — first of all, they will try to recruit personnel. They will sit on committees, on interviews and interview people. They will prepare, if you were going to put ads and so on, they do that. They prepare all the applications before they have the right to advertise, to go to the Commission and say, "Okay, this is the staff man years, we have that." They will help prepare the job description and so on. Then they will work with the people in their areas at times that they are re-classified. It might be that it is not exactly the same work that they were doing. There is all kinds of problems constantly — they will prepare that and send this to Management. Then they will also try to help the people in educating themselves.

I fail to really understand — you know it is not something very popular and it is something that would be easy as far as I am concerned to say, "Okay, there will only be seven people". It is not something that is going to help but I think that we would — well they couldn't do it, they just couldn't do it. For instance, do you realize that we have about 150 different locations and offices in Manitoba, and we have a fleet of 500 cars in our department, and as I say over 4,200 people — you know, that is a big operation.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, it is a big operation, I concede that, Mr. Chairman, and that's the problem. It's a big operation and it is a hard one to keep the handle on. I simply raise it as a concern of mine, because if the Minister is going to save money anywhere, it's pretty hard to save it in the delivery area. If he is going to save it anywhere he has got to save it somewhere in the bureaucracy. All I am saying is that in the private sector, and the Minister has been in it a lot longer than I have, you can find major corporations with just as many employees who do the same thing with one recruiting officer, one personnel officer, one training officer and one secretary. —(Interjections)—

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Resolution 59(b). The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I should say to my honourable friend that, you know, I would go along with what he says in a way. But normally with the increase of staff and so on, you probably would have an increase of staff there. We have been keeping them at this level and in fact I think that over the last year they have in the total one position less, not the 15 — that is with the 40 and the 15, that's the total division. It might not be much but they usually come in with a request for three or four or five or six different additional staff man years. Maybe we are not going fast and far enough.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I have some questions for the Minister which I would like to raise. I will preface it though by saying that in part the last discussion, the last twenty minutes is probably more appropriate in a chartered accountancy firm than in the discussion of the Estimates of Health and Social Development. I find that this kind of analysis really is pretty irrelevant. You can only start determining efficiencies when you start looking at the end product that comes at the end, but to try to make arbitrary judgments about how many people are too many, simply doesn't apply when you are delivering a human service or a social service. I guess it comes back to one of the difficulties in trying to deal with Estimates according to this formula, that you can't relate people to product in any way.

That is one of the concerns I have, I guess, in the budget cutting emphasis we have been engaged in over the past year or so in all levels of government. It is not related to any goals or objectives — simply across-the-board cuts which don't have any relationship to the priorities that we are trying to deal with. I think that when the Member for Fort Garry even suggests that he would like to see the budget of this department cut back, I find that a fairly hard position to swallow because I think that if the money was here, then, Mr. Chairman, we should be doing a lot more, not a lot less. Unfortunately, in this day and age there are far too many needs that go unmet. Obviously we have to provide some restraints because we don't have the public money available. But to make a suggestion, maybe it goes back to a discussion we had a few weeks back about whether Charles Dickens wouldn't be a more appropriate chronicle of what is going on in the Manitoba Legislature than those that we have, but I am not so sure.

Mr. Chairman, one of the questions that I have in specific for the Minister is to deal with the Probation Services that were transferred from the Attorney-General's Department a few years back, which are now under his jurisdiction and have been separated. It seems that there is some indication that both the management and development of the Probation Services are, I think, in a fairly weakened position. It seems that the professional standards are being downgraded, that the positions are being reclassified into lower order, that there is not any money available for program development or professional development in these areas.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, can I inform my honourable friend that this is under my friend, the Minister of Corrections, Mr. Boyce.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, one of the difficulties when we have in a sense a department within a department, my reading of his report, is that the Personnel Management Service provides these services for the total department, including Corrections. I know he is at a disadvantage not

having his colleague here to answer here for him. But the fact is that the question I am raising is not necessarily about the activities of the Probation Service, but more about the personnel management of it, and that as a division of one group of people within a department, again I am prepared to, I suppose, wait. But it is really primarily a personnel matter that the activity of the Probation Service is being affected by management approach, which is succeeding, I believe, in downgrading the ability of that service to perform its functions. Not only are there certain limits on its activity but also that the lack of any professional development and certainly the lack of any — and I guess this would be the answer that the personnel people should supply, is whether the jobs in probation are being reclassified into a lower order of officer and whether in fact the standards of education and professional training that are required have been diminished in some way.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I can't answer that. I am not aware of any downgrading. I know it is a complicated thing when there is two Ministers responsible, but I think that that could have easily been discussed with the Minister, either on his salary or when he starts the program, because he is responsible to make sure that the people that are working for him are well qualified. It is unfortunate that he is not here, but I would be guessing and I would be bluffing if I tried to answer this at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(e)(1)—pass; 59(e)(2) Other Expenditures - \$50,100—pass; 59(f) Vital Statistics (1) Salaries - \$386,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures - \$37,900—pass; (g) Medical Supplies and Home Care Equipment (1) Salaries \$231,800.00.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

**MR. BROWN:** This provides for the medical equipment to facilitate the care patients in the home and central purchase and distribution of certain other medical supplies, wheelchairs, home oxygen and so on.

I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many wheelchairs are in operation at the present time? I wonder if he could tell us who is keeping track of where these wheelchairs go and to see that they get back into the department again at such a time as when they are not in use?

There seems to be quite a shortage of some of the items, and needed in the care of some of our elderly the shortage

consists of such things as raised toilet seats, bath boards, grab bars for bath tubs, bath seats, over-arm toilet bars, etc. Now all these items, Mr. Chairman, they are of extreme importance to elderly people who have arthritis or weakness of the limbs and it certainly provides for their safety and independence. I understand that there are many instances where nurses could possibly be eliminated going into the home if there was a larger supply of some of these basic items.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to make the following statement, but I believe my honourable friend now is making another general statement, because there is no area in the whole department where I get more letters from people that are surprised and very satisfied with what is being provided. Our study doesn't indicate that there is a shortage. You know they are all on loan and I can give you some of the figures. Of course, there is a staff that is looking after that, my honourable friend wanted to know who is responsible — the staff.

The regular wheelchairs — there are 3,169 in use, 430 new ones in 1976, so I think that is pretty good. They are provided on a needs basis and operate in conjunction with the Society of Crippled Children and Adults. Then my honourable friend, remember that just two years ago I think we started the motorized wheelchair, it was something brand new, and those are very costly. It was always stated that gradually there would be an amount put in every year to build up, but you don't come in and buy 6,000 wheelchairs — 50 in use to selected quadriplegic patients, 24 new users in 1976. There is a committee that operates in conjunction with the Society for Crippled Children that screen the

applications and so on. In that area, if you are talking about motorized wheelchairs, which I say is a new program, we have enough money to build up a stock, that's possible. But all in all I think that this program is very very generous and this is something that is very well accepted by the people of Manitoba.

**MR. BROWN:** I certainly was not criticizing the program as such. There very definitely is a need for wheelchairs and I am pleased that these wheelchairs are provided at no cost. I also recognize the need for the motorized wheelchairs. But I was just going to point out some of the shortages that seem to exist within the department and draw it to the Minister's attention and hopefully he is going to check and see whether this in fact is the case.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am ready to accept that, but the only way that it is going to be meaningful and that I will check is if I get specifics. If I get examples or documentation I will, but I mean just a general statement and my honourable friend knows that nearly everything, especially where we're starting in programs, that he can get up or anybody in this House can get up, including the Minister, and say, "In this, that's not enough, we should do more." I agree. You know we haven't got that kind of money, we are spending more than one-third of the total budget now. I would agree and I expect that while we are talking about certain programs certain members will say, "Well, definitely this is a high priority." This is what this exercise is all about. This is one that I haven't had

any complaints at all. If my honourable friend wants to be more specific it might be that there is misunderstanding somewhere. People don't know where to get their chairs or, you know, they may be sometimes not ready. But I am not going to check and find nothing to check on because all the reports are that this is a program that is working quite well. There is very little, if any, complaints at all. I will be glad to check if you give me more specifics.

**MR. BROWN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't really know how to be more specific than naming raised toilet seats, bath boards, grab bars and bath tubs and bath seats and arm toilet bars. I mean these are the items that there seems to be a shortage of. They are not expensive items, but it is something that apparently has been provided for by the department and there is a shortage of these.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** All right. Can my honourable friend give me the names of the people that were refused these things? Because we purchase them, we install them and we maintain it and if this is being prescribed for people we do it. So the only way and when I am asking you to be more specific — sorry Mr. Chairman, through you — but I am asking the member to be more specific if he has complaints. He has complaints apparently — give me the names of the people and we will check into it to see what the reason is.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I have one question for the Minister. If I recall correctly in the Throne Speech there was an announcement that the department was going to be extending its program of Kidney Dialysis making it available. Now is this something that comes under this particular program. If so, does the Minister indicate the appropriate expenditure item which would indicate where that new program is coming from and whether it is being delivered under this department?

**MR. DESJARDINS:** It will be mentioned later, Mr. Chairman. It comes through the hospital budget because I think these areas, if it is at the hospital, are cost-shared. The staff will come under home care staff and we can discuss that program later.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 59(g)(1)—pass; 59(g)(2) Other Expenditures - \$668,500—pass. Resolution 59: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,061,000 for Health and Social Development—pass.

Resolution 60 Community Operations Division, (a) Divisional Administration, (1) Salaries - \$217,400—pass.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, this is a division of the department which gives me some real interest because it seems to me that we are in a stage where the delivery of health and social services, where there is a requirement to decentralize them much more radically down into the community and neighbourhood levels. The Minister brought a Bill in to this effect, I believe it's now a year ago, perhaps two years ago. The bill itself was proclaimed with some degree of rhetoric about the way in which it would work in terms of providing a high degree of community control and responsibility. I can recall with some interest that there were negotiations went on in my own constituency, the Fort Rouge area, about that happening. Since then we have heard almost literally nothing about it and yet it's increasingly apparent that one of the major difficulties in the delivery of these services is that they are so segregated according to a whole range and variety of services each being delivered by its own relatively centralized administration.

What does give me some real concern, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not in any way making progress in bringing both an integration of services at the community level and at the same time providing for the kind of community control of those services so there can be a much higher degree of involvement in the planning, in the delivery and in the application of those programs on the community level. To give one example, in my own riding which surrounds this building, there's a strong need for community level medical care services and for a variety of social care services and yet when you look at them, they are each being delivered by a separate division, a separate department and a separate agency. As a result, many of the necessary concerns are not being responded to.

When you're an older person, what you really need in many cases is transportation to get someone from your apartment to the doctor's office or to the medical clinic, otherwise having a medical clinic or a doctor's office is almost unavailable because many of them can't afford it. That kind of thing can only come about when you do planning at the community level but we have no opportunity or capacity to do planning.



Now, it's my understanding that the program was initiated — in some cases it's designed for rural areas primarily. But I really think it's time that we got an assessment exactly of what is this whole community decentralization attempting to do and when we may expect to have the opportunity of forming community level organizations within the city itself, to begin discussing how we can decentralize and localize many of these services so that residents in the area can have some real hand in the control and planning of them rather than being simply dependent upon someone in this building or some other building deciding what they are going to receive.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** I hesitate to rise and I feel this thing as difficult as my honourable friend, but this is the administration and what my honourable friend is talking about now would be covered on Page 30(j) Community Field Services. I'm very sorry that I have to keep on referring them, but . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 60(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister does not quite understand what I'm getting at, that it's not simply a community field service operation we're talking about, it's really a major restructuring of the delivery of services all of which are provided under this division: Public Health, Child and Family Services, Nursing Services, Education, Libraries, Home Ec, Continuing Care and Dental Services.

These are programs which in fact should be delivered from a community level centre and not delivered in terms of a line agency that runs up a hierarchy back into the ADMs, I think it is somewhere in the Norquay Building.

That is not a community field service operation, it's a basic reorganization of the delivery of many of these major services which have community-related clientele. What I'm really saying is that I'm making a statement that I felt that when that Bill was brought in, there was an opportunity to at least initiate the planning and development of that kind of community centred delivery of services of all these kinds, run not only in terms of a local geographical centre, but also having a local planning operation involving community residents and all the organizations involved, all the medical people, the social service people who are involved.

Now, that's not taken place and I really think it should be taking place because you would get much better use of your money, but secondly I think you would also get a much better delivery of services that are finely tuned to the tremendous number and variety of neighbourhoods and communities that we have in the province.

I think that one of the major problems in my own area, a downtown urban area, is that the services are centralized and are not localized and as a result there are many gaps in the services because they are not attuned or responding to the kind of planning direction that they can only get if the local residents are involved in actually developing those services. I point out that what we really desperately need is a kind of a package of programs for senior citizens that includes home care, includes transportation systems, includes some maintenance services which could be provided if they were given some real control over even the budgetary items that are delivered in the area, as opposed to have an arbitrary standard set somewhere distantly removed from it and being delivered by an individual worker on that level.

I would really like to know if there is any assessment being made of reorganizing those departments and what use we are making of the Bill to bring that about.

**MR. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it is complicated. I think that my honourable friend is talking about clinics and about reorganization and about new programs. We will come back to clinics later on. I might say that in the City of Winnipeg there's the Mount Carmel Clinic and there is money being spent there to improve that; there's the Klinik K on Broadway and Citizens Health Action which are fairly recent.

Yes, I must say in all honesty that the department was moving in the direction of reorganizing the districts. We are satisfied with the six districts, I think, that we had in the rural area. The intention was to, instead of having one district in the city that is sub-divided into two, to work in the possibility of another — well, there were a lot of suggestions and I think at one time they were talking about six new districts. This is something that I'll be very, very honest with my honourable friend, because of the restraint, we had to abandon. We couldn't get the required staff man years. This is something that we are getting ready and we hope that this will be done in the near future.

Now, my honourable friend has covered a multitude of areas and now I think my honourable friend is advocating new programs, for instance, in certain areas on transportation and so on, that there has been no policy. But I have no funds for that and that might come but it would have to come — we have to prioritize. We are spending an awful lot of money, more money than we thought we would have to in home care. I think that we probably have the best Home Care Program in Canada, in the country. We are going in that direction and we are doing a lot of these things. We just covered about wheelchairs and equipment.

I agree with my honourable friend and we are experimenting with day care for the elderly, for instance. We did find out that with all the good intentions in the world — and we have pilot projects going on — if we didn't provide for help to transport these people there, the people wouldn't use them, they would be empty. Maybe I'm exaggerating but this is a need and we are constantly looking at all these things but as I say, we add to this gradually. This is what I meant when I publicly stated that we couldn't look just at the Day Care Program in isolation to increase that at the expense of maybe other programs such as my honourable friend is mentioning. We certainly will keep on looking at that.

My friend certainly has the right to chastize us, telling us we are not putting in enough programs and so on, but the decision, I guess the government has to stand by it, united with the rest of the Members of the Cabinet, that we had to slow down new programs. We are trying to emphasize certain things like the Office of Residential Care that I think there was a lot of wastage of money. If we can save some money there that will be fine. We are bringing in other new programs also but I'm sorry at this time we haven't prioritized all these different programs.

Again we did bring legislation; the people have had to understand it, there has not been any new districts even in the rural area but there's a few of them that made application, there are some that are getting ready now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Committee rise and report.

**ESTIMATES — RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, D. James Walding (St. Vital):** Order please. We have a quorum, gentlemen. The committee will come to order. I direct the attention of honourable members to Page 53 in their Estimates Books, to Renewable Resources and Transportation Services, Resolution 103(a) Ministerial, (1) Minister's Compensation. The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I would intend to make my opening remarks brief. I would prefer to make further comments on each section as it comes up in the Estimates. As you will note in the Estimates Outline, the department is broken down into various components of renewable resource management and in each case I would like to comment on what activities are involved in each section and the highlights of each, if that is acceptable.

I would just, by way of opening statement, Mr. Chairman, indicate that we have had over the past year-and-a-half some reorganization in the department. We have reinstated a branch system by establishing a fisheries and wildlife branch and a lands and forest branch, each with a director, and these are responsible for recommending policy for the design of programs, to institute policy objectives, for monitoring program implementation and effectiveness and for budget control. The field regions, we have the four main field regions, are responsible for delivering programs to the public. They are the front line troops, if you will, of the department in carrying out the program delivery for the entire department.

Some of the confusion that may have been evident in the previous organization which we hope to correct was in our opinion inadequate statement of job responsibilities in some areas. This has been corrected and we believe that we have the division of work and responsibilities well spelled out. Without this kind of organization, it was not as easy to hold people accountable for their performance. The way in which the department is organized now, we believe that we have very good accountability for performance.

Just by way of some further information on this, we have redeployed some senior people within the department. We are now concentrating on ensuring that middle management staff and field officers are properly deployed. For example, we have instituted a more aggressive development of resources' thrust within the department and to this end we have tried to redeploy people so as to have the best ones fitting the roles for which we wish them to carry forward the work. We believe that the development program we have put in place and the reorganization that has been a part of it has established a very good working relationship within the department.

We are now in the second year of a process in which all managers are required to outline their projects for the fiscal year well in advance. Each project is then approved through the middle management system of the department and a great deal of attention is paid to output and the ability to measure that output and to maintain accountability. Progress reports are completed quarterly on each project and reviewed by a senior management group in the department. In this way I believe we are able to keep better control on the expenditures and the work which is under way in this department. Each manager is accountable for the staff and money he has been allocated for each project and I believe we are ensuring, Mr. Chairman, that in this department we are certainly getting our money's worth.

Department staff, I might add, have responded very well to the changes we are asking them to make. The idea of being more aggressive in developing for our resources and assisting people to take advantage of the resource harvesting possibilities in the area in which they live, that is in the renewable resource possibilities, has been working out well and we have had a lot of activity, a lot of new things happening, in spite of the fact that we have not had any increases in staff resources or financial resources for this department. In other words, Mr. Chairman, through a very sincere and serious effort, we have been able to get more things done with the same amount of people and resources. It is my impression that morale is high in this department and it has been certainly a pleasure to me to have been working with people who are in the department. We have a very professional group of staff who are very responsible in carrying out their activities.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I would be open to any questions on the part of any members and would hope to be able to, as I say, make further comments on each section as we come to it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 103 (a)(2), Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. DAVID BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is refreshing to learn of the reorganization that the Minister has just informed us of in his opening remarks. It would appear that this has been done with an eye to putting the department on more of a business-like — if that's the right term — to use operation, and it would appear that if the accomplishments are in fact proven, it would seem if he is able to accomplish this with the same number of people and the same budget, that things were not well in past operations, that there could have been some changes maybe effected long before this, but it is refreshing to learn of the changes and hopefully that what the Minister is trying to accomplish will be possible.

I think we can agree that the best way for us to seek information and get answers to some of our questions will be to go through the items and ask our questions and receive our answers and hopefully we can move through the Estimates in reasonably good order.

He mentioned making the people reporting to a middle management group and also that they were required to make progress reports, and that is very encouraging. I hope during our review of the Estimates that we can get possibly some progress reports from the Minister on how some of the programs that he has instituted so far are working out, if they are working out as well as has been expected.

So with those remarks, Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to go on down the Estimates unless some of the other members have further questions under Salaries and Wages.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE:** Would the Minister advise the Committee how many he has on staff at the present time?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** In total in the department, Mr. Chairman? Is it in total in the department, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. McKENZIE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BOSTROM:** In the total department, that includes both divisions of the department, that is, Renewable Resources and the Transportation Services side, 835 SMY. We have 665 within the division that we are considering now, that is the Renewable Resources division of the department. We divide it into two divisions, each headed up by an Associate Deputy Minister. The Associate Deputy Minister of this division under consideration at this time, Renewable Resources, is Mr. Allan Murray, who is on my left, and Transportation Services is headed up by John MacDonald, who is not here at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. DAVID BLAKE:** Yes, I just wondered while we are on staff, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister might make us acquainted with the members of his staff that are here in order that we may know what areas of responsibility they share in the department.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I would then ask each member of the staff who is here, besides Al Murray whom I have already identified, to please stand and indicate their name and their responsibility within the department, starting here. (Inaudible.) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 103(a)(2) — pass. (a)(3) Other Expenditures — pass. Resolution 103(b) Administrative and Support Services, (1) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I assume that that is just the general salaries paid to his staff which is a normal thing. There is nothing unusual in this amount. The increase is normal.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The increase here is general salary increases of \$41,800; increments, \$5,400; other price increases, \$11,500, for the increase that is indicated.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 103(b)(1) — pass. (b)(2) Other Expenditures — pass. (b) — pass. Resolution 104, Renewable Resources Management, (a) Resources Administration, (1) Executive, (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, I wonder if the Minister might just elaborate on this particular item, just what it covers. Is it instructional personnel or strictly administrative?

**MR. BOSTROM:** The item under discussion here, Mr. Chairman, is the Executive. This is the portion of the budget that relates to the salaries and expenses of the Associate Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources division of the department. This consists of the Associate Deputy and his staff, including a development co-ordinator and extension consultant, administrative assistant and three support staff.

**MR. BLAKE:** This all has to do with the operation of that particular department, there is nothing new with the actual instruction though of work in training?

**MR. BOSTROM:** No, this is essentially the Associate Deputy Minister and his support staff.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(a)(1)(a) — pass? (1)(b) Other Expenditures — pass. (1) — pass. Resolution 104 2.(a)(2) Planning and Management, (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** I think the setting of hunting seasons comes under this section, if my memory serves me correctly. I wonder if you or the staff can explain how come we got so balled up, the hunters last fall, some who had this general licence and some who had the restricted license. Somehow I couldn't get through to the department; I started at the local conservation officer, went from there to Dauphin, and then directed the information in to your office and it finally did come through but it never came out as a formal announcement on a radio or anything, so the hunters started to hunt and those with general licences were in these restricted zones and it was one heck of a mess. And I just wonder why it takes so long to get from the conservation officer through your office to get a directive to come out to clarify that very difficult situation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I seem to recall a letter from the honourable member to myself indicating that there was a problem and I believe he got a satisfactory reply from my office. There was an administrative problem there as I understand it, although I don't believe there were that many cases of actual difficulties in the field. It may have been much more heat than light in this case.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is entitled to his own opinion on whether there was heat or light. I happen to be the MLA in the area and I was getting the heat from these hunters who were arriving in there with a general licence in their pocket and moving into these restricted zones and the ones in the restricted zones were very unhappy and anxious. I went to see the local conservation officer and he says that the staff tell him there is nothing wrong. I drove to Dauphin and your staff in Dauphin, a couple of girls, tells me there is nothing wrong, everything is in order and all you had to do was read the regulations, you could find there was something wrong. And then to go back and tell the hunters there was nothing wrong is beyond my comprehension. And what finally did

happen was that when the hunters finally found that the conservation officers were handing out tickets and the Minister's department still hadn't reacted, then I became most Order-in-Council, concerned. I think the Cabinet passed an something on the Thursday or the Friday, and why you didn't publicize it on the radio or through the newspapers so that those hunters that are in the field could have had some knowledge of what was going on in the department, I just can't understand, because they never found out until the conservation officer came and handed these tickets out while they were hunting. I daresay there were some hunters that had general licences that did shoot, whether they shot at animals in the restricted zones, it certainly was a very severe problem and of course once these tickets were started to be handed out to these hunters, then the thing corrected itself but there was some anxious moments there for awhile.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as I recall there was a mistake in the original regulation which was written up by the department. And when it was discovered that there was a mistake, the hunting season had already been under way, as the honourable member indicates, and there was really no authority for the department to prosecute people who were disobeying in a sense the intent but not the written effect of the regulations, so that while we were going through the process of amending the regulation and having it passed through Cabinet, I believe there were COs in the field who were passing out warnings to hunters indicating that the intent was that the general licence people were not to hunt in the special areas. That is where the confusion was in and it was a mistake, granted, in the writing of the regulation and it was corrected, although there may have been some confusion, as the honourable member indicates there was, and I would say that given the experience we did have with that last year, that it certainly won't happen again.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I thank the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, and would suggest again that a problem such as that nature, if you use the radio, most hunters during the hunt there, they are listening to the radios and you could have corrected it just like that — an announcement over Dauphin radio which covers that whole region pretty thoroughly would have solved the problem pretty quick, at least for the majority of hunters.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member has a good suggestion and I would make note to the department that they should follow that kind of procedure if in fact this is a problem in the future or a similar problem in the future.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I have another question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I suspect that predator control comes under this which includes beavers, or does that come later?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe we could discuss most issues related to wildlife under the section Wildlife Management which is on Page 55.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I am just reading your annual report. It says Predator Control comes under that section, but that is fine. Wildlife Management.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** I was just going to mention that, Mr. Chairman, because I know a lot of members of the Committee are going to have questions on deer seasons and whatnot and I had felt we might save them until we get under there, but if the Minister wanted to take them now, fine. It is nice to hear the Minister admit that they make a booboo in the department once in awhile instead of getting a halfhour speech telling us how wonderful they are. So I think we can maybe leave that until we get under Wildlife unless it is the wish of the Committee to proceed with it under this particular item.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I indicated earlier that we have good staff in the department. We are not perfect but we are good.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the forestry and cutting rights in the Duck Mountains comes under this section?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the forestry questions could probably best be addressed under the Forestry Management section which is on Page 54.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(a)(2)(a) — pass? The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, how many are involved in the salaries of that particular item, Resource Planning Salaries and Wages?

**MR. BOSTROM:** The Planning and Management? Mr. Chairman' there's 32 SMY there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(a)(2)(a)—pass; (2)(b) Other Expenditures—pass;(2)—pass; Resolution 104(a)(3) Operations (a) Salaries and Wages—pass; (b) Other Expenditures—pass; (3)—pass; Resolution 104(a)(4) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement' (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** It's the next one. Pass that one, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Pass. (4)(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa..

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, I wonder if the Minister might tell us if this is a shared program with the majority of it going to Northern Affairs? I notice there is some recoverable from Canada, a large portion of it. I wonder if he might just elaborate on agreement to some degree.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, under the Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement various departments have programs which are cost-shared through the general agreement between the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government. In this case this is one which is within my department. It's a project that's covered and carried out by staff in the department. It's a Resource

Development Feasibility Study section and it's a cost-shared program with recoveries from Canada indicated on the Estimates page here, \$68,500.00. And the project we have here which is to carry out feasibility studies regarding economic development primarily to promote employment opportunities related to renewable resource development for remote communities and settlements in Manitoba.

Examples of activities which we have completed in the past include studies on wild rice development, wildlife studies regarding community wildlife areas, fisheries allocation studies in the north, various forestry studies of a specific nature related to developments that are possible in forested areas which relate to communities which require employment opportunities.

**MR. BLAKE:** Anything to do with the studies on moose ranching?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, under this section, we have done some preliminary work on that — not very exhaustive or extensive studies but there has been some look at the literature that's available and some discussion with communities regarding the idea and concept of moose domestication. Moose Lake, for example — a rather appropriate place I suppose — is indicating a desire at the present time to investigate this further. They are approaching Indian Affairs for some funding on this I understand. The community leaders there are looking at the possibility of allocating an area close to the community with the approval of the Crown Lands branch of this department to try out a pilot project, a moose domestication proposal, moose ranching it's more appropriately called. There seems to be a fair amount of interest in that community and a fair amount of support from that particular community for this concept.

**MR. BLAKE:** Have you considered having one on Hecla Island because I understand that's where all the moose are now?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a pretty short distance if the honourable member is aware between Hecla Island and the mainland. If Hecla Island becomes overpopulated with moose I think common sense would indicate that they would shortly find their way to further habitat. :

**MR. BLAKE:** I hope they don't all track over the golf course getting there though.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

**MR. HENRY J. EINARSON:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister was talking about domesticating moose. I'm wondering, could the Minister elaborate a little bit on how they profess to do this. This to me is rather intriguing, one who is familiar with the farming business and raising cattle. I wonder if this is sort of a cattalo thing that they are trying out and could the Minister elaborate a little more when he talks about domesticating moose.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not up on all the technical matters associated with this but I understand in some areas of the world they have been experimenting with the concept of , moose domestication. In fact, I understand, in the Soviet Union they have three different kinds of domesticated moose, one for milk and one for meat and one for transportation. I don't know if Manitoba would ever achieve that kind of sophistication in moose domestication. The idea that has been discussed in the north is more related to the natural habitat of the moose and with the idea that with some control over the habitat and some control over hunting and poaching and so on that the numbers of moose per square mile of their natural habitat could be increased so that in the long run the community participating in such an experiment could get a greater harvest of what is essentially a natural resource. It is not so much the care and feeding of the animals on a very intensive basis as you would do in a feedlot for example, that's really not the concept that has been discussed.

**MR. EINARSON:** Well, Mr. Chairman, this sounds very interesting but I wonder, is the Minister going to get any repercussions from those who are ardent hunters of wild moose. Also I wonder what about our native population, whether they are not going to have t something to say on this. Are they going to be in agreement with the Minister on this?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member may have missed my earlier comment when I indicated we are proceeding on the basis that this kind of experiment, if it does go forward, should commence as a result of initiatives from a community. In this case the community of Moose Lake has made a proposal and asked for assistance from my department to follow this up and to look at the possibility of trying a pilot project in their area. We have indicated that we will be willing to assist them in any way possible by way of technical assistance. We have no funds within the department itself for this kind of thing but we would perhaps even be able to assist them on the financial side if it proves to be something that's feasible. At the present time there is just simply discussions going on and it is my opinion that the community would have to indicate a fairly complete acceptance of this kind of concept before we could proceed because there has to be the social order necessary to prevent poaching and unnecessary hunting and so on so as to carry out a successful experiment like this.

**MR. EINARSON:** Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated earlier three reasons why they want to domesticate the moose. I think the first one was the use of milk. Has any milk been taken from a moose to test it out as to how it qualifies and compares with cows milk? —(Interjection)— The Minister made these comments, I'm merely asking questions.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I didn't indicate that that was the desire of the department or in fact even a goal that we were proceeding toward. I was commenting on some reports that we had that there are other nations in the world, particularly in the area of the Soviet Union where they have developed that sophistication in moose domestication, that they : have a strain of moose that is acceptable for production of milk. The only kind of moose milk that I'm familiar with is not the kind that you'd feed to babies.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister can help us come to terms with what really constitutes the Northlands Agreement. I choose this opportunity to ask the Minister about it because it appears repeatedly throughout the Estimates. I'm aware of course that it's an agreement that involves both the federal and provincial governments but has the Minister and can the department tell the members of the committee the scope of the Northlands Agreement as it applies to his department. Can he tell us, for instance, in terms of this budget, this year's Estimates in front of us, what dollar figures we are talking about that are being covered under the Northlands Agreement? Can he break that down for instance into the percentages of the federal and provincial moneys Really, Mr. Chairman, what I'm after is to find out from the Minister and the department: Does the department have under this agreement specific objectives, specific goals both in the social and in the physical tangible nature of that area? I refer the Minister to a program that I think he is also familiar with that is now just concluding in the Interlake area known as the FRED Interlake Agreement. That particular program had very specific objectives like the clearing of half a million acres of land, the doubling of cattle numbers in that area, the bringing into place a whole new consolidated school system, the development of roads and so forth. What I'm really asking in this Northlands Agreement — I appreciate that we are only seeing part of it here. is an overlapping of course in the Department of Northern Affairs and generally throughout the north. I'm seeking from the Minister, Mr. Chairman, some concept of what the department, in co-operation with the federal authorities is attempting to achieve under this agreement. I would like, with the help of his staff, Mr. Chairman, to be able to have the Minister inform us if he can, the number of dollars involved and how that breaks down in terms of what moneys are required for administrating the program as compared to what dollars are being set aside for studies and various consulting efforts and works; and what dollars are actually put into physical and actual projects of one kind or another, whether they are the building of certain things or the improvement of certain crops or the management of certain wildlife species in the fur industry, whatever.

Mr. Chairman, I'm asking the Minister to, in his own eloquent way way, elaborate for us what he intends to do for the people in the north under this Northlands Agreement.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the answer to his question will have to come out next week in sixteen volumes but to just give him some idea of what I understand about the agreement. I would think the detailed questions of the administration of the agreement, as to how much is spent in administration, how the provincial government goes about the negotiation with the federal authorities and so on, should be directed at the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs because his department is responsible for the general discussions with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in this case to co-ordinate the proposals that come forward from the various government departments, to come to an agreement on a package which is known as the Northlands Agreement. My understanding is that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, essentially, are setting the terms of reference. They're putting up 60 percent of the dollars that are spent within the confines of this agreement and quite frankly are establishing the criteria for spending the money basically along the principles that guide the spending of money through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion federally.

My department has attempted to obtain cost-shared funding through this general agreement for those things that seem to fall into the general area of resource development because one of the principles of the agreement is that there should be a combined effort of the federal and provincial governments to assist northern communities that this agreement applies to, to further develop their possibilities for employment; in this case through renewable development, resource through the development of the natural resources that are available to them. There are other areas of the agreement that I am familiar with that are not connected to my department but I may point out for the members information that there are areas in the agreement related to roads and other forms of transportation, air strips, manpower development training, that kind of thing. It is an entire package which is related to development, total development of various northern communities primarily those that are resource based and remote native, metis isolated communities. They have agreed to fund, in this department, approximately \$977.9 in our current budget. As I indicated 60 percent of that would be federal. . . —(Interjection) — \$977,900 this is 60 percent federal moneys, 40 percent provincial. In each case in my Estimates here we have indicated the amounts recoverable from the Government of Canada.

In the one under discussion here, it is related to Resource Development Feasibility Studies. This is the reason we got into the area of discussion of moose domestication, wild rice development and so on. It is a general area that we've agreed on cost-sharing. My department carries out the function. There is a general agreement as to the funding of resource development feasibility studies. My department essentially chooses the kind of work that should be done. There is an agreement on the scope of the work. The incidental decision on specific projects are the determination of my department with the agreement of course of the federal authorities.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister only underlines my concern about what's happening in this area. He outlined the techniques and the method and the way in which his department is involved in this agreement. You know, Mr. Chairman, there is a reason for concern. There is no question in the minds of many people that there isn't a great deal of money being spent in the north and that there isn't a great deal of consulting and studying going on in the north but in my occasional visits to the north there is a feeling among the people of the north that very little of this somehow lasts in a tangible way with improvements in their communities or with a lasting change in their economic status. I did not get from the Minister in his short reply and I appreciate that I am asking general

questions. I did not get from him the kind of specific goals that he sees for his department's work under this agreement. We know, for instance, that we have some severe difficulties in the north. We know for instance that our fisheries industry, generally, is in shambles in the north. So that the help and the assistance, a considerable inflow of new funds, both provincial and federal, hasn't in that particular instance improved a great deal, never mind keeping it stable.

When you talk about retraining, talk about the Manpower programs, and you talk about resource development, I would like, from the department, to know numbers of people that were retraining, what are we retraining them in, if it's successful or if it isn't? I would like to know, if he's talking about resource management, whether it's in the field of moose or wild rice or what have you, and I remember the Minister talking about wild rice a few Estimates ago. What is being done? What measures of success are we having in the field of wild rice, for instance, if that's one of the resource areas that he has a responsibility for and that I know that he's concerned about?

What are the kind of specific objectives of this agreement? I haven't been able to visualize that and I must say that the same applies to the general agreement which the Minister correctly indicated was the Minister of Northern Affairs, as such.

But I again remind the Honourable Minister, and I will be persistent on this later on in the House, that when we move into areas like this, whether the funds are federal and shared with provincial, whether they, as they do, call upon and overlap many different departments of governments, both federal and provincial, all the more necessary for knowing precisely where you want to go with that kind of money, Mr. Chairman.

And I remind the Honourable Minister then, I ask him to look back at the records, I'll send him the records of the signing, for instance, of the FRED agreement in the Interlake. We stated at that time the kind of money we were going to spend for the next 10 years, \$85 million. We said what we were going to do with it. We said how many schools we were going to build, how many roads we were going to build, how much land we were going to clear, how many people we hoped to retrain. We set up furniture plants in Selkirk, we set up fishing schools in Gimli, we set up recreational centres, counselling centres in different places but we knew, and the people knew — whether they always agreed with it or not, certainly they didn't — we knew that X number of dollars, 18 percent of that \$85 million was going to be put directly into educational facilities. We knew that another percentage figure was going to be put directly into improving the infrastructure of the region, roads, drainage. We knew that another 18 or 20 percent was going to be put into agricultural development in that area.

I'm not asking the Minister to cross every "t" and dot every "i" for me here. I would like to hear from the northern Minister, and I refer to him as being one of the northern Ministers in this instance, have you laid it out for yourselves the kind of objectives that you would like to achieve over the next number of years, if for no other reasons so that once those number of years have gone by, you have some benchmark to measure your success by? You have some way of evaluating how that money was spent and perhaps if it's not being spent as best it can, a record for others to learn how to spend it otherwise.

For instance, is the Northlands Agreement a fixed agreement for over a fixed period of years, five years, eight years, ten years? Is there a fixed amount of money talked about in that Northlands Agreement that was signed by your colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs? Can the Minister answer me those two questions.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure where to start. Again the honourable member has covered the waterfront in his comments so if I am to reply to every question and every suggestion of a question in his comments, I would be here all day at it.

**A MEMBER:** We've got time.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The implication that he makes that there is very little happening in the north, I believe is indicative of the statement that he makes that he only infrequently visits the north. Because if he were to look at the various communities that I am familiar with in northern Manitoba and the progress that has been made in the last six, seven, eight years of the New Democratic Government, he would not even be able to recognize some of the communities for the fact that there has been so much, so many changes and it is certainly evident to me and all of those who live in the north that many many changes have been made of a physical nature, a local government nature, the opportunity for development nature.

If you were even to look at the South Indian Lake community which I'm sure he is only too familiar with previous to the election in 1969, that community has been completely if not totally changed and developed, as compared to what it was previous to 1969.

So it's just simply one example of the kind of things that have been happening, the development of schools, local infrastructure, local government, the development of the opportunity for people to enter into the workplace, to have some local jobs as part of the Stay Option of this government.

To get back to the specific of the Northlands Agreement and the questions that he directed to me on that, the Northlands Agreement has as its general objective the further development of northern communities, as I indicated. And it has various components of that, only some of which relate to this department. There is a section, a fairly large section, which relates to transportation, that is related to airstrip development, to road development, Roads to Resources opportunities — there's approximately \$8 million in that section.

The section that relates to this department is not that significant, as I said there is only approximately \$1 million that the Federal Government have agreed to share of the priorities that this government has set. We are somewhat at the mercy of the DREE officials in the sense that they have the dollars and we are trying to negotiate with them for things which we believe are priorities.



He, for example, mentioned the fishing industry in northern Manitoba. Well, the Federal Government has consistently refused to assist in any way and that is any department of the Federal Government that I have approached, the Fisheries Department, Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Indian Affairs, you name them. They have consistently refused to assist in any way with the fishery development of northern Manitoba. So it has been left on the shoulders of the Provincial Government and to the extent that we have been able to assist by way of transportation subsidy and grants to fishermen to assist them in upgrading their fishing facilities on the lakes and loans to fishermen to assist them in obtaining better equipment, all of these things we have done without any assistance from the Federal Government.

So there are a number of specific things that we are trying to do within the resources of the Provincial Government. In this area here, with the item under discussion, we are attempting to identify and to help the communities identify those areas of economic opportunity that are related to the natural resource bases that happen to be adjacent to their communities.

You talk about the wild rice resource and I'm very familiar with the wild rice resource. There is a very significant wild rice resource available on the east side of Lake Winnipeg which the native people previously never really had an opportunity to take advantage of. We are now leasing the lake's wild rice areas directly to the communities. We are assisting them to develop these wild rice areas to their full potential. We are helping them with water control of lakes to increase the production; we are helping them with seeding; we are helping them with even assisting in the organization to achieve a maximum harvest of the resource. This year we have a program to assist them further in establishing processing facilities which would be locally based, cottage industry kind of processing facilities which are related directly to that wild rice resource.

In the community of Paungassi in Little Grand Rapids on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, for example, they have access through these measures that we have taken to hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of income which would be based on the natural resources that are in their area, from the natural resources of the wild rice. We're helping them to take full advantage of those natural resources.

I can share some concern with the honourable member's comments that often the approach of governments, and both Federal and Provincial Governments have been guilty of this in the past — the approach is to accept studies before the actual doing of things and I, for one, am very reluctant to proceed with a lot of money on studies. I like to see action. I don't like to see a lot of money spent on studies which seem to only result in the need for more studies. That is why, in these areas here where we're talking about resource feasibility, my direction is that they be very specific, that they be related to things which the communities can implement, that they can look at, they can make a decision, "Yes, this is possible, let's do it." So that the study is immediately followed by action, not by further studies and if you will look through my Estimates you will see that there is not very much money, if any money, available for consultants. We are trimming our budget and making more money available for doing things rather than for studying things.

**MR. ENNS:** I knew if I prodded the Minister he would begin to tell us about some of the things he is doing up there; I'm sure he is. I just have one further comment then on this particular matter. I note, just in perusal of the Estimates, that : in general the amounts of dollars allocated under the Northlands Agreement are less for this year than the previous year. Is that any phasing out on the part of the Federal authorities or yourself? Just in general, if you go through those items where the Northlands Agreement is mentioned in the Estimates, there is a 20 or a 15 or a 25 percent reduction in the dollars, in some cases as high as 50 percent and my colleague from La Verendrye says 100 percent. I think you can see that yourself, Mr. Minister, has there been some pulling back . . .

**MR. BOSTROM:** It's an indication of the priorities that have been established by my department and we don't intend to take direction from the Federal Government in which areas we spend money in. In the particular section under discussion here, Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement, the reduction is related to reduction in fees which were available for consultants. We cut \$80,000 off of this appropriation . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Should I ask if the consultant was Chief Courchene or, no, I shouldn't ask the Minister that.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The amount of money that was available in the agreement with the Federal Government was \$80,000 which we cut out and it's further to the statements I have already made which I indicated that we are not planning to spend a lot of money on long studies which only come up with recommendations for further studies. We're getting down to very specific things and these kinds of studies can be done by people in my department who have a knowledge about resources and what can be done with resources.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could advise the committee, with regard to the commercial companies that are right now operating in the field of wild rice, I note that the Eastman Development Corporation got involved in some of that, has the department done a study as to the viability and have they been following these companies fairly closely?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are a number of individuals or groups of individuals who have been involved in the wild rice industry for years, many of them are still involved in the wild rice industry. We have signed long-term lease commitments with several individuals and groups who have made a commitment to develop natural lakes and paddies for harvesting. Where someone has presented the department with a plan, a proposal in which they have clearly spelled out what they

intend to spend by way of development of a lake and where they intend to make a serious effort to invest in developing a lake, we have signed a long-term agreement with them so that they can have the security to get an adequate and sufficient return from their investment.

**MR. BANMAN:** I wonder if the Minister could inform the committee how the companies are doing and again I note specifically east of Lake Winnipeg, we did have several running all through eastern Manitoba, we had several companies that were trying to get involved in the rice business and from what I can understand, they haven't been too successful. Has this been the same experience that the department and the Minister has had?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Unless the member can be more specific, Mr. Chairman, I don't know how I can answer that question. The individuals that I know who are involved in the wild rice industry and who are harvesting a natural stance have all been doing fairly well. I think the individuals and groups who have been trying to experiment with paddy production have largely failed, from what I have heard.

Paddy production in Manitoba has not been very successful for some reason.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if the Minister could show me in the Annual Report where the Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement is mentioned or where some one-liners or one paragraph as to what is going on with the program.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, I am not the Minister responsible for the Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement and it is probably the reason why it is not highlighted in my Annual Report. If you look at the total budget of my department, approximately \$1 million of the total of \$15.3 million is related to Manitoba Northlands and it's sort of incidental in that we receive funding through the Agreement but are not the negotiators of the Agreement so that it's not related in my report but I'm sure he could address any questions on details to the Minister of Northern Affairs who is responsible for the Agreement.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, just again, I feel that the Minister and the committee, I think it would only be fair for the taxpayers of the province and for people like ourselves, for the department to put in one or two lines in the Annual Report regarding the Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement because unless they had the Estimates to find out, then they wouldn't even know that it existed if you read the Annual Report.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, it's a matter of opinion whether it should be in the Annual Report or not. We're certainly not required to put it in the report. The Annual Report, in fact, is not required by any Act of the Legislature, it happens to be a document of the department which highlights some of the activities of the department and certainly some of the activities, as I indicated, are cost-shared by Manitoba Northlands but as you may notice in the Annual Report, there is no details of funding in any of the sections, to my knowledge, and we're not indicating funding, we're not indicating source of funding either.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, maybe I misunderstood the Minister. Is the Minister telling us that by the statutes of the province it is not compulsory to file an annual report to the Legislature each year?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Not the annual report as is in total which he has in front of him. We are required to submit a report on Crown lands which is included in that annual report. That is what we are required to submit, not the total document which he sees in front of him.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I wonder, is there any special reason? Is it because it is a new department because all the other departments of government must file their annual reports with the members of the Legislature within fifteen days, is it, after the House opens?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there is no Act as such establishing this department. The Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management files a report which contains a number of documents which are related to their responsibilities for filing reports. In the case of the Acts which come under my responsibility, the only Acts which require a filing of report are The Crown Lands Act and the Manitoba Government Air Services and both Acts of which I have filed and one is in that report and one is filed separately.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(a) and 4(b) — pass. 4 — pass. (a) — pass. Resolution 104(b) Lands Management, (1) Crown Lands Management, (a) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Minister may be able to make some remarks here that will maybe answer some of the questions that we will be posing to him, but there seems to be some confusion under Crown lands. We just would like him to clarify who is administering Crown lands such as grazing lands. The leases seem to come out of the Department of Agriculture and he could maybe clarify that point for us just who is in charge of Crown lands and maybe also at the same time, just give us some idea of the purchasing program that his department is using for wetlands and game management areas?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member may not be aware, but the transfer of actual administration of agricultural leasing, that is, agricultural Crown land leasing, was effected in 1973, therefore the administration of all Crown lands that are related to agricultural purposes are under the Crown Lands section of the Department of Agriculture. The Crown lands section of this

department maintains all of the central records, central registry, and so on for Crown lands within the province. The actual administration of those lands which are agricultural in purpose are in the hands of the Department of Agriculture. Where lands are identified through a process which we have established to classify Crown lands, where lands have been identified as being agricultural in nature, they are also transferred to the Department of Agriculture for their administrative purposes.

We have a process which has been underway for the past year-and-a-half, I believe, where we are classifying Crown lands in an effort to try to free up more lands available for agricultural purposes. There is a committee which has been struck at the instructions of the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture and myself which has representatives from my department and the Department of Agriculture where they are actively looking at the Crown lands that are wooded or otherwise not now available to straight agricultural leasing and attempting to bring out those lands which are available or which should be available for agricultural purposes.

**MR. BLAKE:** Well, there is a considerable amount of land in my particular area that would be classed as agricultural land. It is probably grazing land to a large degree but it would also be very important to, say, a wildlife management area, to the management of wildlife. I am referring to the periphery around Riding Mountain National Park. That would all be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Does this hinder your operation of wildlife management in any way? Do you have complete access to this land?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, our Crown lands section in this department are not directly involved with wildlife management although we are in charge of those lands which are non-agricultural in nature with the exception of those that have been designated for parks which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, or those lands which are set aside as intensive recreation areas where they have been developed for cottaging and have therefore also been transferred to the Parks branch.

I don't believe that this system of administration has resulted in any deletion of wildlife management or dilution of wildlife management. We have certainly still had all of those lands under the jurisdiction of this department, which has also the wildlife managers, so that there has been a good opportunity for co-ordination and interdepartmental administration of those lands which are related to wildlife, wetlands and so on.

**MR. BLAKE:** Would this be the correct item, Mr. Chairman, to have the Minister tell us what lands have been purchased for wildlife management areas in the past year?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I believe I certainly could answer that question and it probably, as I say, should be coming under this section of the department. I believe I have already answered by way of a report to the Legislature, the total land that has been purchased since and including 1969, by way of an Order for Return. And I have a detailed listing here of lands purchased for each year and I believe it is up to date.

The land purchase programs, which if I could just outline them here. There is the Fred Interlake Federal-Provincial Cost Share Program; there is the Alternate Land Use Program which is also federal-provincial cost-shared; there is the Resources for Tomorrow Program which is a totally provincial funded program, and there is the Urban Periphery Program which is also totally provincially funded. And the total acreage purchased since, including 1969, 134,930.10 acres.

I have a breakdown here of the areas where they were purchased, when they were purchased, and so on, 1969 and 1970 right through to 1976. If you would like me to go through the list? I could make it available to you, if you like.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, that would be fine. Also, Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned the Resources for Tomorrow Program. I wonder if he might just go into a little more detail on that. I understand that his department is acquiring or has acquired or is attempting to acquire land along the Assiniboine River in the area of the Glenboro - Cypress River and I wonder if he might elaborate on that program a little for us.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The Resources for Tomorrow Program was instituted by the former Minister of this department with the idea that there were lands that should be protected that didn't fall under the jurisdiction or criteria which guided the other land purchase programs, so the Resources for Tomorrow Program was established. It became effective in terms of purchasing lands in the 1974-1975 fiscal year. The main areas where land was purchased include the Delta for the Delta Marsh Project, the Assiniboine River, the Pembina Valley, the Criddle property here which is in the Shilo area, Brandon Hills, Fort Dufferin and St. Jean and there was a total of all those areas of 3,148 acres purchased in that fiscal year.

The following fiscal year, 1975-1976, of the RFT Program purchased lands in the Assiniboine River between Brandon and the Spruce Woods Park, Pembina Valley, Stonewall, Portage, Sand Hills, Brandon Hills and Delta Marsh, a total acquisition of 4,137 acres.

In the 1976-1977 fiscal year, the main areas purchased were the Delta, Pembina Valley, Portage, Sand Hills, Assiniboine Valley, the Lauder area in southwest Manitoba, a total of 5,950 acres purchased.

**MR. BLAKE:** Will these lands be leased back to the farmers in that area or will they be held strictly for park and recreational use?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Depending on the nature of the lands and the best use of the lands, the department is guided by land use criteria in that those lands that are purchased which may have

areas of them which are still best suited to agriculture, although it may have been necessary in order to purchase some land along the river, to purchase some of the agricultural land at the same time. Those areas that are still suitable, where their best use is agricultural, they could be leased back to farmers in the area and often are. In some cases where it is a piece of land which is used for wildlife habitat and which is considered to be not therefore good to allow cattle to graze on the land because it apparently destroys the undergrowth which is necessary for wildlife habitat, they still allow in many cases the controlled cutting of hay. So in many of these areas there is still some agricultural uses which can be compatible with the protection of important ecological areas of Manitoba.

**MR. BLAKE:** Just a further point on the land that has been acquired. I assume that it is in the report; I recall seeing figures on the amount of land in lure crops. Is this a continuing program? Are you continuing to enlarge the lure crop program or has consideration been given to compensating farmers for leaving some of the crop as a lure crop, especially around some of the better waterfowl areas?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there has not necessarily been any expansion of the program. The wildlife managers each year have a fund from which they operate to pay for lure crops as well as compensation to farmers for areas that are damaged. They in most cases use their best judgement as the guide to determine which crops should be purchased and in which areas they should be purchased, depending on the nature of the fall, if it is a wet fall or a dry fall or whatever, the wildlife managers use their best judgement in these cases.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

**MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON:** It's okay, Mr. Chairman, my questions have been asked by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister several questions with regard to the administration and the leasing of Crown lands on behalf of his department. I realize that there must be a conflict in the department very often because of the Stay Option Program that the Minister mentioned and also the problems of providing proper wildlife habitat for the wildlife of Manitoba. Being a hunter myself, I can see that particular problem. I would probably be even one of those guys that was out there hunting those baby seals. I wouldn't have too much problem with that.

But I am wondering, we have a real problem in the eastern end of Manitoba that goes through my riding, it goes through the Member of Emerson's riding, and that is one of the stay options that the Minister mentioned. A lot of the farmers in that particular area do need extra grazing land and are finding it very difficult to try and get a proper agreement from the different departments involved and I appreciate it that it is not just the Minister's department that they are dealing with, they are also dealing with the Department of Agriculture. But I am glad to hear that the Minister has struck a committee which will be looking into the matter because there are certain areas where the soil conditions are such and the maps are available and I think the people in the area know the areas that could possibly be turned into grazing lands and could be turned into agricultural lands.

The result of this not happening is that the school divisions are faced with a lot of assessment problems, there are certain drainage problems that are developing which the municipalities or the particular authorities, local government districts, cannot tackle adequately because of the tax base just not being there, and it is really stifling the growth of that eastern region of Manitoba. So I would encourage the Minister to make sure that the committee forges ahead and brings down some kind of decision with regards to making sure that the people that want to live in eastern Manitoba can continue to stay there and that there is a chance of growth and that . . . for instance, I had a case the other day where a son wants to farm with his father but since they are you might call it land-locked, they have only got the one farm there. A couple of quarter-sections are on them that could be farmed but they just aren't allowed the opportunity of leasing that land, or even I would go so far as to purchasing the land, and as a result the son might have to leave and move into Winnipeg. So it is causing real problems in southeastern Manitoba and I would encourage the Minister to move in that type of direction.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly recognize the honourable member's concern here and it was in response to that kind of concern and the particular weather conditions in fact contributed further to that concern. In late 1975 when the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture and myself established the interdepartmental committee of five which is made up of two staff members from Agriculture, two from my department, and one from Municipal Affairs.

This committee was charged with the task of classifying Crown lands as to their best use and with the specific instruction that they were to try to identify in particular those lands that are not now in agricultural use which could be brought into agricultural use. This classification committee has in fact worked well. I believe there have been no complaints to my knowledge from the agricultural representatives on that committee who tend to be advocates of agriculture and farming and in fact in the past have been in conflict with my department because I believe this department is recognized as the advocate of the particular group that tend to want to preserve wildlife habitat in Manitoba, the interest group of Manitobans who want to preserve our wildlife heritage. So I think the committee that we struck has tended to reduce that conflict and has brought greater understanding to bear about what lands should be used for agriculture and which should be left in wildlife habitat. So I have been pleased with the output from that committee to date and I'm certainly encouraging them to continue and to forge forward to find better allocation of land use.

**MR. BANMAN:** I wonder if the Minister could inform us, in light of the change of policy of the Department of Agriculture with regards to their land lease program, is the department considering

selling any of the lands currently being leased by farmers to the farmers that are leasing them.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the change in policy was with respect to those lands which were purchased from private individuals and brought under the program that was administered by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation which is separate from the administration of ongoing crown lands which have been in the name of the crown for some time and I believe there has been a policy of no sale of these crown lands and there is no indication of any change in that policy as far as I am aware.

**MR. BANMAN:** Then I just draw another problem to the Minister's attention and that is that when somebody does lease some of this land if they intend to do substantial local improvements on it, namely to do some bush clearing in that, if they do lease them for a five or ten year period, if the capital cost of that particular local improvement is fairly substantial, I think very often the job isn't done and the farmer is hampered in that way. I would recommend to the Minister that we have a serious look at possibly selling some of this land that are currently being leased to the farmers so they can farm it properly and further the stay option program that this government wants to implement.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there has been a policy of this government which I'm sure the honourable member is aware and it is a policy which has been followed in this province I believe throughout the years of the Conservative administration as well, that crown land should not be sold and that there should be a policy in the case of agricultural land that it be leased. The present government has made leasing of grazing lands in particular very fair, I believe, in that in those years when the farm prices had been down for cattle that the grazing fees had been reduced to zero. And I believe that this policy will continue regardless of the government in power because the people of Manitoba demand that this policy be followed. I believe it's the majority opinion of Manitobans that crown land should not be sold.

There is a further program. It's not within my area of jurisdiction but I will bring it to the members attention because I am aware of it, that is that the Department of Agriculture I believe does have a program which assists farmers in clearing crown land. I know that farmers in my area have taken advantage of this program and are pleased with the help and financial assistance that this program has offered them to make themselves more productive farmers and in fact enhance their ability to stay on the land. And it's consistent with the policy of this government to help people stay where they wish to stay.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. GEORGE HENDERSON:** Thanks, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask some questions in connection with lure crop for wildlife. How much an acre do you pay for damage done by wildlife? What's the maximum allowance that you pay?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I believe it's \$25.00 an acre. I stand to be corrected if it's not correct but I would believe that it's \$25.00.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, that's the figure you gave me last year but after our discussion I thought possibly you might have upped that a little bit because with the price land is selling and we talk about a 10 percent interest rate. If he paid \$200 a acre for his land, he hasn't got enough to cover the interest on his investment if he just gets \$25.00. Besides that he has all his cost of production in there. So I'm not against people who like shooting ducks and all the rest of it but I think there should be better damages paid when a farmer has a crop and then the ducks come out and damage it and eat it all up you might say.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I am in agreement with the honourable member that there should be more money available for compensation and in fact we have been involved in discussions with the Province of Saskatchewan. We have come to a common position on this issue and we are negotiating with the Federal Government to try to bring in a program which would offer a more full compensation for farmers for this purpose and I certainly agree with the honourable member that there should be more adequate compensation. I think that this is as much as the province can afford at this time so therefore we are attempting to get further funding from the Federal Government. I have further instructed my department that where the department is going to be promoting and developing wildlife and wetlands in the future where there is going to be greater concentrations of waterfowl which could cause damage to farm crops that the potential damage to farm crops be estimated and that it be considered a part of the expense of developing that wetland in perpetuity. That is that all those involved, the Federal Government, Ducks Unlimited and the Provincial Government, take that into account, budget for it and be prepared to pay it.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I'm very glad to hear that you are moving in that direction. What do you pay for the lure crops. When you pay for a lure crop what do you pay per acre? — (Interjection)— No, they buy these and then they have to leave the crop standing. They're for the ducks. This is the crop I'm talking about.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have that detailed information here. If the honourable member is willing, I'll take the question as notice and provide him with an answer later.

**MR. HENDERSON:** Does it ever go up to \$50, \$60, \$70 an acre because if it is a good grain crop it could be that high.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes I believe it does. It's an actual purchase program so it has to be. . . It in fact is in an agreement between the department and the farmer so he has to agree that the price we pay him is a just and fair price.

**MR. HENDERSON:** It just goes to emphasize the point that I made. You're paying \$75 an acre possibly for a lure crop and yet the man who had his crop completely wiped out by the ducks would only get \$25.00.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The idea of paying for a lure crop is to save that other expense. If we can lure the ducks to a particular area where they will feed and leave the other farmers alone then we feel that that is a good investment. That's why I say in answer to a former member's question that the departmental representatives do this on their best judgement basis.

**MR. HENDERSON:** When somebody goes to sell land to the crown like that, are they contacted by the crown or do they have to offer to sell it to the crown. Several were purchased in the Pembina Valley area and I just wondered how it worked.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, it works both ways. In some cases people write to me as Minister and say, "I have this piece of land. We would like to sell it." I would pass that on to the land staff. In some cases they phone somebody in the department and they are directed to the proper source and in some cases if there's land in a particular area that the department has identified as prime wildlife land or land which has certain ecological features which they feel should be protected they may approach the land owner and ask him if he's interested in selling. It's done in different ways. It's a common sense kind of approach which usually results — in all cases where there is a sale it results from an agreement between the land owner and the department as to the price and terms.

**MR. HENDERSON:** That's all. Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. James.

**MR. GEORGE MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister can advise us if there has been an unexpected increase in the number of employees in this particular division in the past year.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Unexpected increase? Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure what the honourable member is asking. I indicated at the beginning of the Estimates processed today how many employees there are in the department and I could relate that to how many there were last year.

**MR. MINAKER:** I'm talking about the Crown Lands Management Division.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Oh, you're talking about this specific. . .

**MR. MINAKER:** The specific item we are dealing with.

**MR. BOSTROM:** We have that information here too if the honourable member will just wait one minute. There were 19 SMY's last year for example in the Canada — we're talking about the specific item we're on right now — there were 22 SMY's last year in the Crown Lands Management area and we're requesting the same number this coming year.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, was there an unexpected increase in salaries in that division?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, I don't believe that there were any increases in salaries during the year that were unexpected other than perhaps retirement or something which may have caused some severance pay to be paid out which is a normal procedure.

**MR. MINAKER:** Why I raised the question is that in our Estimates when we dealt with this particular division last year the Honourable Minister presented the budget figure of something like \$266,700 for that particular responsibility of Crown Lands Management and I think detailed something like \$196,100 for salaries and now we're looking at, reported in this year's particular Estimates that in actual fact it was \$269,900 for salaries, which is roughly a 37 percent increase above what the Minister asked for last year at this time. So I'm wondering has there been an unexpected increase in staff or an unexpected increase in salaries to warrant this 37 percent increase which we have shown here now.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The Associate Deputy Minister has just indicated to me that in this particular section there were some people that last year were working on contract who were brought on permanent staff and therefore the salaries and wages portion of the item here would have been increased.

**MR. MINAKER:** I wonder if the Honourable Minister could identify the contract workers that have gone on permanent staff.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I would have to take that as notice, Mr. Chairman, and send the information back to committee.

**MR. MINAKER:** Now the next thing is, where would these contract wages have been shown on last year's estimate?

**MR. BOSTROM:** It would have been shown in the Other Expenditures portion of that section.

**MR. MINAKER:** Then, why, Mr. Chairman, is it last year's Estimates that the Other Expenditures agrees with \$7,600 as shown? I believe I'm correct in that.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I don't have the other figures available. . .

**MR. MINAKER:** The other figures were shown last year for salaries and wages was \$196,100. This is what you were seeking approval on and Other Expenditures were \$70,600. Now the figures shown in our book as representative of last year's budget estimates is \$269,900 instead of \$196,100, but under Other Expenditures as the Minister has indicated would have the contract salaries in or other fees is \$70,600. So we still haven't got our answer that we are seeking, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the member is bringing up the detail here which I don't have in front of me and I'm certainly prepared to answer and I will obtain the necessary detail and bring it back to committee. I'm sure there's a perfectly logical and proper explanation for the question that he is putting before the Committee and I would suggest that he not go into suggestions that there is something wrong here before we have an opportunity to provide the proper information.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, and I hope and I respect the Honourable Minister's answer that he will get us the information because it does not occur just in this one particular department. If the Minister would be prepared to answer other questions later on because as we go through each department, in example the wildlife management areas, last year's figures shows. . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think it is not proper to jump from item to item in the questioning procedure and when we get to the item that he has the other questions about I will deal with them at that time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside on the same point of order.

**MR. ENNS:** On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is quite correct that we are dealing with the items as they appear but it is certainly not out of order to use as for example any aspects of the Estimates to have an honourable member make his point.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If the Honourable Member for St. James is indicating something that he will be questioning later on and is giving the Minister due notice the Chair will allow the question.

**MR. MINAKER:** What I was attempting to answer the Honourable Minister on was that he sort of implied that if I was saying there's something wrong here that I should make a point of pointing out why I believe it's wrong. What I was attempting to do before the Honourable Minister interrupted me was to say that the reason I raise this particular item is that as we go through the Honourable Minister's Estimates as I've reviewed them and compared them to last year's Estimates that he sought approval on and got approval on, this is not the only area where there is a discrepancy of 37 percent but there are many other areas and I was citing an example under Wildlife Management that he sought \$2 million approval and in the book it shows that he spent \$2,279,000 in that area. So there seems to be discrepancies. This is why I'm raising it. It's not alone and if you look at the final total, he sought \$15,923,600 last year for approval and we show here in actual fact as being sought for approval \$18 million plus. This is why we are concerned.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, there are items that are included in the total figure in this book which are in addition to those that were approved in the actual Estimates Book of last year and there are items such as those related to Forest Fire Protection and so on where there were increases during the year. They were duly noted and proper authority allocated for them. Some perhaps were also approved through supplementary Estimates which would also appear then as a correction to the printed Estimate Book of last year. In each case where the member has a question about that I will bring the detailed information to him. I can assure him that we will provide the detailed, accurate and proper information on each one of the questions.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I hope the Honourable Minister will provide us with the information that he has indicated. Particularly, we would be interested in knowing the increase in the staff in this one department and the contract employees there and possibly where he has changed from contract employees to permanent employees in the various departments, I think it would be interesting to the Committee.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that in the total department, as I indicated in the Renewable Resources Division, the amount of permanent staff man years that are requested in the 1977-78 fiscal year that is before us, 665.11 SMY. The total for last year was 670.37. So we in effect are requesting fewer SMY's than we requested last year.

**MR. MINAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise another matter having to do with Crown lands at this time. Last year the Legislative Committee dealing with land, among other places, visited the community of Thompson. It became very evident to us, to all members of the Committee, with some degree of irony, that up in our large north country there is a continuing concern by citizens of Manitoba for the availability of land. That complaint came to us as a Committee repeatedly in terms of land for residential purposes, in terms of land for establishing commercial and business enterprises, and, of course, also in terms of land for recreational purposes. It seems somewhat difficult, particularly for persons from southern Manitoba, to understand the difficulty in providing that kind of commodity to our northern residents in a more generous supply. There seems to be — again it is not immediately within your jurisdiction but you are involved in terms of your administration of Crown lands. In the area of recreation just recently — I will cite an example — I understand some additional recreational land was made available in or on about the Thompson area in the way of cottage lots. Some 25 or 30 lots were put on the market with a lineup of 60 or 70 people waiting for them. The concern, of course, in terms of land and the ability to own land becomes a little bit more important even than in the recreational sense, where I think generally we accept the concept of leasing this kind of land. But in the commercial and I would suspect in the residential area, the business of having ownership to that land becomes very important. The manner and way in which our mortgages, our private lending institutions, whether it's banks or otherwise, operate, they require very often the person who is applying for a loan to develop a business in the north, he requires the base of that land to be part and parcel of the security that is being offered to the money lender, the bank or credit union or other private source of money, on which to receive the necessary funding or the money to establish, in fact, his business.

I understand that there have been changes and moves made by the department, particularly where local governments and councils have been established where, you know, some moves in this direction have been made by the Crown Lands Division in the last number of years.

But, I must indicate to you Mr. Minister, through the Chair, that certainly as one member of that Land Committee and I am sure that you would — I think you were a member of that Land Committee as well, Mr. Minister — that that was made apparent to all of us that sat on that Committee that day in Thompson. Among other complaints that northerners have, one was one of land hunger and that surely has to have a touch of irony to it, that that should be the case.

Mr. Chairman, I would request the Minister whether the department, particularly this division of his department, is actively pursuing that problem in trying to make land more readily available to northern citizens; (a) for residential purposes, (b) for commercial and business purposes and (c) with the co-operation of the other department involved, for recreational purposes?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to report to the honourable member that his concern has been well taken care of. The Lands Branch of this department, following the policy laid down by the government, has been making land available, that is Crown land available for sale to permanent residents for housing purposes, for housing lots.

This is the one exception I perhaps should have mentioned earlier when I said the policy of the government was not to sell Crown land. But in the case of housing it was certainly brought home loud and clear that certainly the desire was there for the residents to own the lot on which they have their permanent home and that concern was recognized by the government.

The other concern was that many of the lending agencies, as you point out, were not prepared to make long term mortgage money available for housing if there was not a title to the lot. So quite a number of lots have been made available over the last few years to the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, which has in turn made arrangements to sell these lots through mortgage programs to the individual residents of the homes that are on the lots.

I have a report here which is perhaps not completely up to date, but between 1974 and 1976, 262 lots were made available through the MHRC housing delivery program and in the last few years through the rural and native housing program, through RANCOM and NACC, an additional 233 lots were made available. So the total reserved and/or sold through these programs total 495 Crown lots. In the case of commercial developments, there is still a policy of no sale of Crown land, although it has not been brought to our attention by anyone who is in business or proposing to go into business, that they have had any difficulty getting financing as a result of obtaining land through a lease basis. My own family has been in business in the north for many years. My brother, in fact, is located on a Crown lot himself with his business and did not have difficulty obtaining financing because of his being located on a Crown lot. I know many other businessmen in the north who are located on Crown lots. They have a long-term lease which is designed to, in fact facilitate, their being able to get financing. The term of their lease is adjusted according to the needs of that individual businessman or a company to obtain the financing they require. In all cases that have been brought to my attention the lease arrangements have been satisfactory.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Just for clarification I assume that in the case of residences, it is possible for a resident who is not necessarily in any way tied up with say Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation but has been a long term resident of the north and owns his home, wishes to purchase the lot that house has been on, that it is possible for him to do so.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We have policy where a permanent resident of a community can apply to and purchase a surveyed lot for his own purpose, for his own residence.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, one final question again just for clarification. You do not at this point extend that same privilege to a business organization or a commercial organization.

**MR. BOSTROM:** That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Not to my knowledge has there been any Crown land sold for primary business purpose. In almost every case, as I mentioned, there has been no problem to my knowledge of anyone obtaining financing because he is on leased property. In fact we adjust the lease, as I said, to accommodate the individual where it's necessary so that he can obtain long enough term of lease in order to satisfy his financial needs.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, my first question to the Minister: Is the department switching over to the metric system for measurement of land?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, along with the standard program where we are co-operating with the federal government — the provincial government has announced as such that we are co-operating — this department' along with every other department agency of government, has switched to metric.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** A second question, can the Minister give me advice or information on when that federal act is going to be passed? —(Interjection)— It is like fun!

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have this information.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I'll leave that till another time, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, on land use, like Crown land use, does your department look after the protection of the environment or is it just the habitat?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the use of the land is normally in the hands of the manager of the land. In the case of the Department of Agriculture, for example, we have transferred the administration of the agricultural use of that land to the Department of Agriculture, that is, they handle the land from the land use basis. In the case of parks, we've transferred the Crown land to the Department of Parks for them to administer the use of that land for that purpose. In the case of wildlife management areas, their use is managed through the wildlife people in the department. Where there's a multi-use situation, where there's ordinary Crown land back in the bush somewhere, I mean, where no one has put any particular claim to its use then it does not have a specific management plan attached to it, it's simply Crown land which is registered in the department and is in fact, in a sense, available for someone from the government or from the citizenry to make a proposal as to the use of that land. Generally its use could probably be described as being in the wild or in the wildlife use.



**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll give the Minister say two examples or three. The east periphery of the Duck Mountains or the Whitemud watershed area on the east side of the Riding Mountains, which again is an environment problem but yet there's valuable habitat in the area and I'm wondering, for the department what their intentions are. Is your intention to go in and acquire a lot of that land that you don't already own, which is becoming badly eroded and it's of very little use for farm land, or is it going to be the Minister of Mines and Resources and Environmental Management that's going to make some hard nose decision or is it the Department of Agriculture? The thing that concerned me a moment ago in this committee, I don't hear, at least I didn't think I heard the Minister say that there was people from the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management on that committee that's doing this study because the problem is a serious one and it's getting worse every year. I'm just wondering if the Minister is now prepared to go in and acquire some of that land and maybe seed it down or take it out of production, because it's just deteriorating year after year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, this must be a first for the honourable member to be encouraging government to buy up land.

**MR. McKENZIE:** No. I spoke on this one several years.

**MR. BOSTROM:** My apologies. The land in question, if the honourable member has, you know, specific requests to make, I would encourage him to make them directly to the department or through my office as to the specific land areas that he's talking about because it would sound logically like it would come under the program which we call the Alternate Land Use Program. And to the extent that we are able to comply with the honourable member's request through the funding that we have and the agreement we have with the Federal Government as to areas in which this program should apply, we will try to accommodate your request.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, I would ask the Minister then has he knowledge of it, have you studied the problem, have you looked at it or has it not been brought to your attention before?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Associate Deputy indicates that yes, in fact the department has been looking at it. Not in all cases can we reach agreement however on lands that we identify as being problem areas because the program that I'm talking about has certain dollar limits as to how much we can pay for land and it also is a voluntary sale concept where the owner has to agree on the price. So there may be problems associated with price or willingness on the part of the present owners to come to an agreement.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, yes. When the beavers were being managed in that general area the farmers, in most cases, were able to manage not that bad but since there's no management now whatsoever, the beaver population, they're just growing and growing and they're building more and more dams and more of this land is becoming flooded and eroded every year. I've had long discussions with the Minister of Mines on it and he hasn't given me any assurance that they're going to do anything, he figures that the beavers are going to stay there. On the other hand, I deal with beaver problems with the Federal Government and immediately they'll have their boys in there, remove the beaver and take them away and everybody's happy, but you can't get that response from this government.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the indication the honourable member gives of the fast action on the part of the Federal Government, I don't believe has been experienced by the staff of this department, where we have made appeals to them about the beaver in the Riding Mountain Park to no avail as far as I know. The areas around the periphery of these parks have been a concern to the department. In fact this last summer and fall I was up in the Swan River area talking to the reeve and councillors and farmers in that area and we were discussing the problem and I think we have come to some agreement as to how it should be handled. The municipality has to co-operate with the department on these matters as well. We don't have enough staff to go out and handle every beaver problem. In the case where there are dams to be removed, there is a jurisdictional problem because if the department were to blow the dam without the approval of the municipality, without the okay from the municipality, there could be some problems with municipal roads being washed out and lawsuits by the municipality and/or farmers downstream whose land is flooded, coming back to the department saying what are you doing here.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, there was a time since I've been an MLA that the policy of the government was that they remove the beavers and remove the dam and went in and offered the farmer all the co-operation he could possibly ask for and cleared up the problem. Now that's not the case now but I have tried on several occasions, because part of my constituency, the periphery of the Riding Mountain Park is part of Roblin constituency, and on all occasions when I have drawn the attention of the federal people to the beavers, they were there within a few hours, removed the beavers, cleaned up the dam and the farmer was happy. And what's happening on the east periphery of the Riding Mountains, that land being flooded consistently year after year now, from spring until fall, mainly due to beavers? Either the farmers are going to have to move out of there or else the department is going to have to clean the beavers up. It is a serious problem. I spent I daresay half of my time during the course of the year trying to assist the farm people in that area with this very serious problem.

**MR. BOSTROM:** In the meeting that I attended with a municipality, we had come to an agreement I believe whereby there would be a buffer zone established whereby all of the beavers would be removed, that we would make arrangements with local trappers through the department to remove all the

beavers within a certain buffer zone. That seemed to be acceptable and a fairly good arrangement. This is a different area than I believe you are talking about.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I am talking about the Local Government District of Park or Mountain rather.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, if the Federal Government in this case where you are talking about the Riding Mountain National Park would agree to such a procedure whereby a buffer zone could be established and the beaver in that area removed completely, perhaps that would be the long-range answer to this problem. I would certainly encourage the honourable member to make his appeal to the Federal Government directly because they seem to have ignored ours so far. We have so far not been able to get any kind of co-operation from them to allow trappers to take some of the surplus of the beaver population within the park itself which would have helped to alleviate the problem.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government has no jurisdiction over the Duck Mountains at all. That is where my most serious problem is, on the east side of the Duck Mountain, and I don't think the feds have any jurisdiction.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I thought you were talking about the Riding Mountain.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Well, I do, but the problems that I have had with the Riding Mountain Lake, which would be the north periphery of the Riding Mountains, I have had no problems with the Federal Government whatsoever. They have resolved them on all occasions. But on the east side especially, because all the water flows from the east side of the Duck Mountains over to Lake Winnipegosis, that is the course where all that water must go and that is where the heavy beaver population is. The other problem of course is the Local Government District of Mountain covers a vast area. They have no financial resources, basically speaking, to handle problems like that, nor do they have staff that can deal with that problem. So it is basically left to the farmer and the average farmer doesn't have the ability and the resources to deal with the beavers. It is professional people such as you have on your staff who are the ones who are able. The problem was resolved at one time but now it is being mismanaged and let go. So I just wonder if the department is not prepared to go in and deal with the beaver, then you better go in and buy the land and tell those farmers you are not going to deal with the problem and let them move out.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I will certainly take the honourable member's suggestions to heart and see if something can be done. I certainly can't guarantee anything, however, because the staff of this department I know are working flat out in that area and certainly cannot in all cases be spared to handle individual beaver problems. I think some kind of long-term solution will have to be worked out of the nature that we discussed with another local government in that area, and perhaps similar arrangements could be made in that area where we would encourage trappers to go in and remove the beaver and therefore remove the problem.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Maybe we can get it later on when we get into the Wildlife section. I was just wondering, are there certain cycles where the beaver population escalates more than other periods? We can get them from you when we get to the Wildlife section. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. BLAKE:** Back on the sale of Crown lands, I wonder if the Minister could give us some idea of price. He indicated to the Member for Lakeside that a residence that had been considered a permanent home, the surveyed lot could be purchased. Would that pertain to an all-year home at a resort area? And the first question, could he give us some idea of the price that the government is selling the land for?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, this applies to permanent residents and the definition of permanent resident I suppose could be the one used in The Election Act. The question of price is determined by the cost to the government of making the land available. That is, the cost of the survey because the land has to be surveyed before it can be either leased or sold, plus any other associated costs of development which are a part of making the land available. In other words, it is not a subsidy program nor is it a profit-making program. It is a straight cost recovery.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. A. R. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to follow up on the questions of land in the north. Would this land be under legal subdivisions that these lots are sold and approved by the municipal board or are they just sold anywhere? You must have some legal planning here as well as in other parts of the province?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, in the cases that I am aware of where land has been sold under this arrangement, there have been subdivisions laid out through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation with the co-operation and assistance of Northern Affairs planners and the Crown Lands Branch, the Surveys Branch of my department that have gone out and actually done the on-site survey in most cases, so that the land is selected by the local government and/or approved at least by the local government after it has been selected for this purpose. And the subdivision, once it is formal, goes through the normal subdivision approval process through the Northern Affairs Department in this case. If it were a subdivision in an area that does not come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Northern Affairs, it would have to go through the local government for approval, plus through the municipal board as I understand it.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, this is not a new program. This has been ongoing now for what, two or three years? Providing legal subdivisions?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, it has been going on at least since 1974. The information I have here is between 1974 and 1976, 262 lots were made available through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation.

**MR. ADAM:** On the land that is leased back to the farmers that your department purchases from periphery or for Resources for Tomorrow and leases back to the farmer, who administers the leases, your department or Agriculture?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Where the land use is identified to be primarily agricultural, then that land is transferred to the Department of Agriculture for their administration of the use of that land.

**MR. ADAM:** Even if it is for the Resources for Tomorrow?

**MR. BOSTROM:** If it is strictly agricultural, it would be handled by transferring the land to the Department of Agriculture who would in turn administer it for that use. If it is a multi-use piece of property or piece of land which may be used as part of a wildlife management area but where it is determined that there could still be, say, a hay crop taken off it, well then this department would administer that particular use of it since it is only one of many uses, the other uses being those related to wildlife.

**MR. ADAM:** Have you any idea how many acres are involved in it in the particular way of multi-use for agricultural purposes?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I don't know offhand. I could take the question as notice and try to get an estimate for the honourable member.

**MR. ADAM:** What is the criteria for when you purchase land? What criteria do you use for arriving at a price for the land? Would you use agriculture as a base to purchase land whether it is for wildlife

**MR. BOSTROM:** It is appraised by the appraisal people within the government and where it is purchased under the Resources for Tomorrow Program I believe it goes through the Land Value Appraisal Commission for the final determination as to whether that is a fair price for the government to pay for the land, that it is not too high a price. And then of course the owner has to be in agreement with that price before a final sale can be made.

**MR. ADAM:** Is the criteria, like for appraisal, is it agriculture that sets the criteria as for appraisal?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I can't say. I think that would be a technical question that the Land Value Appraisal people would have to answer because I don't know what all factors they take into consideration when they estimate the value of a piece of property. The indication is that where there is primarily an agricultural use of the land, if it's presently in agricultural use, they would look at it from that value, they would say, "Well, this land is such-and-such a quality, it is \$50 an acre or \$100 an acre or whatever." If it is forestry land, primarily under forest cover, they would look at it from that perspective.

**MR. ADAM:** The Member for La Verendrye was asking about the sale of Crown land in the southeastern part of the province. Would you say that the farmer who is leasing land would have more security of tenure than if it was set up for tender in a free-for-all to purchase these lands, that the lessee now would have more security of tenure than if it was set up for tender for sale?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is asking my personal opinion and I believe that if it were made available for tender with no preference clauses or anything, that it could very well go to somebody who is not resident in the area and in fact is not even resident of the country if indications of the sale of land over the past few years in Manitoba is any guide to that.

**MR. ADAM:** Then there would be no guarantee that the lessee would end up with that land if it was up for sale?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, if it were thrown open for open tender, I am sure it would go to the highest bidder and that very well might not be the person who is presently on the land. It could very well go to somebody who is not even a resident of the area.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(b). The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** I wonder if the Minister would advise, what moneys do you gain back from like, on the Duck Mountain? The CBC has a tower there, a television tower, the other station has a television tower, and I believe there are some communication towers. Are they leased or just on a flat rental basis or what kind of return do you get from those communication systems?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, we have consummated major easement agreements with the Manitoba Telephone System, Manitoba Hydro, with pipelines and other people who have sites on land throughout Manitoba. Sites on Crown land throughout the north for example were made available for MTS micro-wave tower sites and in some cases there is an easement agreement. In some cases where they require a long-term use of the land, there may be a lease agreement with them or even a sale in some cases.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Well, can you give me a definite answer? I am speaking now of the Duck Mountain. CBC has a tower there, CTV has a tower there. If you don't have it today, I could have it another time, or maybe there is no moneys. I have been asked that question many times by many people and I was just wondering if that information was available.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, I assume we would have that information. I will take the question as notice.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** One other question. My understanding is that the farm areas of the Local Government District of Mountain and the Local Government District of Park are leased and administered by your department and the taxes are collected, is that correct, or is that under Northern Affairs?

**MR. BOSTROM:** The non-agricultural areas?

**MR. MCKENZIE:** These are some agricultural areas. It is a mixed bag of everything.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, if they are agricultural in use as I indicated earlier, these would be under the administration of the Department of Agriculture. If they are non-agricultural in use and

they are not in any intensive recreational use where they would have been transferred to Parks, then they would be under the jurisdiction of this department, yes.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Supposing they are all under the Crown Land Act? Then it is your responsibility.

**MR. BOSTROM:** They are all under the Crown Land Act in that the surface of those lands are still under the jurisdiction of the Crown lands section of this department. The administration of the use of those lands is transferred for administrative purposes to either the Department of Agriculture where it is agricultural use, or the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs where it is a recreational use. But the central registry and the surface responsibility of the land is still within the Crown Lands Branch of this department.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Then may I ask the Minister, what do you charge the Local Government District of Mountain to administer the collection of the taxes, the leases, ta da, ta da?

**MR. BOSTROM:** I am not exactly sure what the honourable member is asking. Where it is Crown land and it is in agricultural use . . . .

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Let's just look at the Local Government District of Mountain and it is basically a lot of Crown land. Would you go in there and administer the leases or the revenues from those Crown lands and then charge the LGD "x" numbers of dollars for those services? I am wondering what the fee is.

**MR. BOSTROM:** I think the honourable member, Mr. Chairman, is referring to a separate type of land which is the LGD vested lands. Is that what you are referring to?

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Yes.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Lands which the LGD formerly in fact owned and were transferred to the Department of Lands for their administration. They are held separately and they are administered as per an agreement between the LGDs and the Crown Lands Branch many years ago. We are presently discussing with some of the LGDs at this time, in fact most of them, the return of those lands to them because they are really not Crown lands, they are not government Crown lands. They are owned by the LGDs and they are administered by the Crown Lands Branch on their behalf.

There is apparently a \$14,000 flat fee for all the LGD lands that are administered by the department which is part of that former agreement. Many of the LGDs for example, the ones down in the southeast that were mentioned earlier, are discussing with us the process by which those lands can be returned to them because they want to take them back under their wing for either administration or whatever they may wish to do with them because they are really their lands.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Are there any negotiations going on between you and the LGDs at the present time for them to buy them back? How are you going to negotiate it?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, they don't have to buy them back as such because they belong to them. They were lands that were in private hands that went for tax sale which the LGDs could not administer and which were transferred to the Crown Lands section for their administration. Now some of these lands since have been put into various uses and where in fact they are in some use which is important to the Provincial Government and where the Provincial Government may wish to hang on to those lands, they would have to negotiate with the LGD in question to purchase those lands from them. For example, there may be LGD vested land which may be in agricultural use right now and leased to a farmer and he may even have a long term commitment from the Provincial Government. In discussions that I've had with them I've suggested that in a case like that, the Provincial Government has a commitment to that farmer and there is no way that we could turn the lands back to the LGD and then have the LGD kick the farmer off the land. There'd have to be an understanding that that lease, that agreement between the province and the farmer would either continue or there would be an agreement made which would be of mutual satisfaction to the farmer and the LGD.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Just one last question. Then all local government district lands are held in trust by the province.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Exactly. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, I just wanted to ask one or two more questions on the problem that the Member for Roblin raised on the matter of beavers. Do you not issue permits to farmers to trap them out?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, where beaver are a problem on the farmer's land the department will issue the farmer a permit to remove any and all beaver that are causing the problem. In some cases as I've mentioned we will even, if the farmer requests it, encourage trappers to go in there and remove the beaver and take the fur for harvest.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, we're having similar problems on the east side of Riding Mountain and it's a federal park, a national park and there the busy beavers are busy damming up their little ponds and the Parks Branch will not allow any disturbance of these beaver. What happens is, when you have such as we've had in the last couple of years or so, heavy rainfall and heavy excessive flooding of land, this excessive amount of water takes the beavers and the dams and everything and brings it down onto provincial lands and it then becomes a problem of the province and this has caused a great deal of problem.

I am just wondering if — well I believe you did mention that we're not getting anywhere as far as coming to some agreement on the trapping of these beavers in the periphery.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that is my knowledge of the situation that we have made inquiries of the federal government. We've made certain suggestions to them and so far our suggestion of being able to go in there and trap the beavers out before they become a problem has

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not been one which they can agree to or will agree to.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 104(b)(1)(a)—pass;(1)(b) Other Expenditures—pass; (l) pass. Order please. The time being almost 5:30 Committee rise and report.

*The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.*

**IN SESSION**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAM JENKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose that the report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried,** and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Thursday.